

during interrogation of accused persons. However, the Union Government has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, emphasising that the police personnel should conduct themselves in a humane manner and that cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. Human Rights as a subject has also been included in the training curricula of police personnel.

Privatisation of Balco

†1453. SHRI LAKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to privatise the Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Korba;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the said company is running in loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended that 51% of Government equity in BALCO may be disinvested in favour of a strategic buyer along with transfer of management control. The recommendation has been accepted by the Government. BALCO is a profit making company.

Diamond Mines in the Country

†1454. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of diamond mines in the country;
- (b) the State-wise quantity of diamonds received from these mines during the last three years;
- (c) the places in the country where new diamond-reserve areas have been found; and
- (d) the details of time and States in which mining has started in these new diamond areas alongwith quantity and value of diamonds mined from such mines?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.