

[22 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The production of bauxite in Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 was of the order of 638,237 tonnes, 6,51,796 tonnes and 7,37,129 tonnes respectively. Bharat Aluminium Company limited (BALCO), which is the only public sector company having operations in Madhya Pradesh has purchased the following quantity of Bauxite from outside Madhya Pradesh during the last three years:—

Year	Quantity in Tonnes
1996-97	109451
1997-98	59641
1998-99	12260

(d) Out of 38 mines reporting production in 1998-99 from Madhya Pradesh, 8 mines are under public sector and 30 mines are under private sector.

CBI raids on BALCO CMD's Residence

2231. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has recently carried out a series of raids at the residence of CMD of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.; and

(b) if so, what are the details of incriminating documents recovered, as a result of such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) A search was conducted by CBI at the residence of Shri S.K. Ghosh, former Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO) in connection with a regular case registered by CBI during November, 1999. Various documents seized during the search are under scrutiny by the CBI.

Amendments to Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act

2232. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, to delegate more powers to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amending Bill would be framed and introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.11.99. The Bill has since been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and has become an Act (38 of 1999) with effect from 20.12.99.