

expenditure under the scheme is shared equally by the Central Government and the States

Workers Engaged in Shipbreaking Industry

1285. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no facility like medical, insurance, pension for over 40,000 workers engaged in shipbreaking industry Alang in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when labour laws are proposed to be made applicable for those workers whose living conditions are pathetic with leprosy and AIDS cases reported in large number

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The workers engaged in shipbreaking industry in Alang in Gujarat are eligible for Provident Fund, Pension and Deposit — Linked Insurance benefits as per provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. In the case of death /disablement due to employment injury, these workers are also eligible for Payment of Compensation as provided under the Workmen's compensation Act, 1923. The provisions of Labour Laws including provision of medical care are being mainly administered by the State Governments. Any complaint about non-enforcement of Labour Laws in shipbreaking industry as and when received are forwarded to the State Government for taking appropriate remedial measures.

Discovery of New Gold Reserve Areas

1286. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has recently discovered some new gold reserve area in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such new gold reserve area has been detected in 1997-98 in the State of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Geological Survey of India (GSI) has established gold ore reserves in the following areas during 1994—97.

KARNATAKA

Hira Buddini (Raichur district), Chinmulgund and Nagavi (Dharwar district), Ajjanahalli west and G.R. Halli South Block (Chitradurga district).

ANDHRA PRADESH

Dona Temple (Kurnool district) and Kudithanapallc (Chittoor district).

RAJASTHAN

Anandpuri-Bhukia (Banswara district)

MADHYA PRADESH

Gurharpahar West (Sidhi district).

MAHARASHTRA

Parsori West Block and Kitari Block (Nagpur district).

KERALA

Kappil (Malappuram district).

(c) No. Sir. No new gold ore reserves have been established in Orissa during 1997-98.

(d) The question does not arise

Chrome-Ore Mines on Lease to Industrial Units

1287. SHRI NARENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Orissa to give on lease to industrial units chrome-ore mines;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the said proposal; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to issue guidelines to the State Government to ensure that mining is done by the industrial units granted lease only for use in their own units and not for any other purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The State Govt, of Orissa has sent a proposal dated 24.6.97 recommending grant of mining lease for chrome ore in Sukhinda Valley of Orissa over 50% of the balance area of 855.476 hec. which has become available for grant after the 11th renewal of the mining lease of TISCO for reduced area, in favour of four parties i.e. Indian Metal and Ferro Alloys (IMFA)/Indian Charge Chrome Ltd. (ICCL), Ispat Alloys, Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR) and Jindal Strips. The proposal was for grant of only 50% of the area of 855.476 hec. whereas the Central Govt's order dated 17.8.95 had requested the State Govt, to send the proposal for grant of mining lease in favour of aforesaid four parties for the total area of 855.476 hec.

While the aforesaid proposal of the State Govt, dated 24.6.97 was under examination, Shri M.C. Mahapatra, the then Joint Secretary in this Ministry who was handling the matter, died on 27.9.1997, allegedly as a result of jumping from the office building to Shastri Bhawan. The police took up the investigations of the circumstances relating to the death of Shri Mahapatra. Initially the matter was being investigated by the Delhi Police and subsequently by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. Later on, the investigations were entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The entire original records in respect of the proposal for grant of mining lease of Sukhinda Chrome ore mines have been taken over by the CBI and any further action in the matter regarding consideration of the aforesaid proposal for grant of mining lease can be taken up

only after return of the original records by the CBI who are still investigating the matter.

(c) No separate guidelines are being issued by the Central Govt, as the National Mineral Policy announced by Central Govt, in 1993 it self envisages that in case of ores whose known reserves are not abundant, preference will be given to those who propose to take up their mining for captive use.

Prospecting and Exploration in the Mineral Sector

1288. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved some proposals received from international mining companies for prospecting and exploration in the mineral sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Prospecting and mining rights are granted by the concerned State Government in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder. As per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, prospecting and mining rights can be granted only to an Indian national or to a company registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 also provides that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule of the Act, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

The Government of India had, on 30.10.96, issued guidelines for grant of