

Foreign Investment in the Mining Sector

2365. SHRI MENTAY :
PADMANABHAM :
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have actively sought foreign investment in the mining sector;

(b) if so, what success has been registered in attracting foreign investment; and

(c) the details of proposals under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy placed before this House on 5-3-93 liberalises further the conditions pertaining to foreign investment in the mining sector. Effect of these will show after consequential amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 have been made.

Licence issued to 'Star Lite Project'

2366. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have licensed 'Star Lite Project' for processing and manufacture of copper in District Ratnagiri in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that this plant is likely to create environmental hazards for the surrounding area; and

(c) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No licence is required for processing and manufacture of copper in terms of Department of Industrial Development Notification No. 477 (E), dated 25th July, 1991. However, as required in the aforesaid Notification, M/s. Sterlite Industries India Limited, Bombay has filed Part (A) of Industrial Entrep-encus Memorandum on 21-2-1992 for setting up of a unit at Village Zadgaon/Shirgaon, District Ralnagiri for processing and manufacture of copper.

(b) and (c) The manufacture of copper is a polluting industry. However, the impact of pollution cannot be assessed before the project starts its operations.

Granite Processing Units in Maharashtra

2367. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the statewide availability of Granite deposits in the country;

(b) what is the number of Granite processing units in the state of Maharashtra; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the last three years on export of granite ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The reserves of granites so far estimated by the respective State Governments are as follows:—

State	Estimated reserves	Remarks
(Figures in Million Cub. Mts.)		
1. Andhra Pradesh	3.0	This represents estimation of reserves in a few areas. Estimation work is going on. at present to have a more comprehensive assessment of reserves.
2. Assam	43.5	
3. Bihar	19.0	
4. Karnataka	55.7	
5. Rajasthan	0.08	
6. Tamil Nadu	15.9	This represents estimation of reserves of black granites. There is no estimation of reserves of coloured granite yet.
7. West Bengal	7.0	
8. Orissa	—	Estimation of reserves not yet. taken up.

(b) As per the records available with IBM, there are about 17 granite processing units in organised sector in Maharashtra.

(c) The foreign exchange earned during the last three years is as follows;—

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1990-91	227.00
1991-92	418.35*
1992-93	463.64

*(Revised Estimate)

Development and Exploration of Minerals in Rajasthan and Orissa

2368. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL. Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial assistance from any international agencies had been sought recently by Government of India for the development and exploration of minerals in Rajasthan and Orissa during 1993-94 as well as during the Eighth Five Year Plan,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have also received suggestions from State Government of Rajasthan and Orissa for automatic and time-bound revision of royalty rate once for all and certain urgent amendments in Mines and Minerals Regulation and Development Act, 1957; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the hurdles coming in the way of Union Government in bringing forward suitable legislation during the Monsoon Session of Parliament as already promised by the Minister several times on the floor of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No suggestion has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan and Orissa for automatic and time bound revision of royalty rates once for all. However, in a joint memorandum submitted by the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh to the Prime Minister, it was suggested that the Sarkaria Commission's recommendation to reduce the period specified in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 between two revisions of royalty rates should be accepted and powers to revise the

royalty rates of major minerals should vest with the State Government rather than the Central Government.

Action for amending the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 is in hand,

Selling of Joint Ventures for Mining with France

2369. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI KAMAL MORARAKA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and France have agreed to facilitate the setting up of joint ventures in their territories and 3rd countries in the field of mining and mining consultancy;

(b) what are the sectors and areas of operation likely to be thrown open for the ventures;

(c) whether the agreement includes transfer of technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The protocol signed between the two countries anticipates possibilities of taking up projects which are economically viable at international prices and conditions such as projects for base metals, nickel, gold and fertiliser minerals. Both sides agreed to avail the varied and extensive opportunities for pooling up the expertise, experience and resources of both the countries to set up joint ventures in India and France and third countries on mutually beneficial terms.

Monsoon Session Abnormally Delayed

2370. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monsoon Session this year is abnormally delayed than the usual date as convening the Monsoon Session; and

(b) if so, what are reasons attributed to this delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.