

proposal for expanding capacity of its existing smelter at Khetri Copper Complex from 31,000 tpa to 1 lakh tpa. For this purpose, the company has commissioned a detailed feasibility study.

Amendment to mines and minerals act, 1957

3424. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating an overhaul of the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957;

(b) whether the Federation of India Mineral Industries, New Delhi, have demanded simplification of the procedure, renewal and transfer of leases with a view to provide greater flexibility to the private mine owners to feed the domestic industry poised for greater growth in not too distant a future; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard particularly regarding the demand for period of all minerals the mining lease should be granted for 20 years and also an early legislation of amendment of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is considering amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 taking into account the suggestions received from various State Governments/Union Territory Federation of Mining Associations and the Mining Industry and in the wake of Statement on Industrial Policy, 1991 and the National Mineral Policy, 1993. As per Section (8) of the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 Mining Leases can be granted for a period not exceeding 20 years.

Gold Mines in Bihar

3425. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some gold mines have been found in the State of Bihar in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have started mining in these mines; and

(d) if not, why when mining activities are likely to be started in these gold mines of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) in Porojharna block, Kunderkocha area, Singhbhum District, Bihar have established a possible reserve of 7741 tonnes of gold ore, of which 3223 tonnes of gold with an average grade of 4.19 g/t gold and 4518 tonnes with an average grade of 19.49 g/t gold. The ore bodies are highly erratic in size, shape and grade.

Exploration so far carried out by State Government of Bihar in Sono Block, Karmatiya village, Munger district have indicated low gold values between less than 0.1-1.8 g/t gold. The data obtained so far are not sufficient to establish reserves.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The exploration data obtained so far are not sufficient to arrive at conclusion regarding economic viability of the deposits.

Application recommended by Karnataka for mining lease

3426. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Centre for approval, the mining lease application

of a private sector firm for Iron ore mining at Ramanadurga for captve consumption at their Mangalore Steel making facility; and

(b) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The State government of Kama' taka has recommended a proposal for grant of mining lease for iron ore and manganese ore over an area of 6.5 Sq.Kms. in Village Ramanadurga of Bt.'L'ry district in favour of M/s. Jaiprakash Engineering and Steel Co. Ltd. in November, 1992. Certain clarifications necessary under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, were sought from the State Government of Karnataka.

गुजरात में प्राकृतिक संसाधन

3427. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गुजरात राज्य में प्राकृतिक संसाधन प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध हैं, जिनका देश के विकास हेतु प्रयोग किया जा सकता है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार की गुजरात में उपलब्ध बहुमूल्य खनिजों और तेल का उपयोग करने की योजनाएँ हैं ; और

(ग) उन स्थानों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं, जहाँ पर पिछले एक वर्ष के दौरान प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के नये भंडारों का पता चला है और ये संसाधन क्या-क्या हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क)

जी हाँ । धात्विक और गैर-धात्विक खनिज संसाधनों के अलावा, जो प्राकृतिक स्रोत उपलब्ध हैं, उनमें जीवाश्म, ईंधन जैसे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस तथा भू-जल और हाइड्रो-पावर भी शामिल हैं।

(ख) गुजरात राज्य सरकार की कृच्छ में लिग्नाइट का प्रयोग करके एक गैस आधारित विद्युत संयंत्र स्थापित करने की योजना है । इसके अलावा, गुजरात के तेल और गैस भंडारों का क्रमबद्ध तरीके से विकास और विदोहन किया गया है ।

(ग) पिछले एक वर्ष के दौरान तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग (ओ०एन० जी०सी०) द्वारा किये गये सर्वेक्षण के फलस्वरूप, गुजरात के खम्बेल क्षेत्र में तेल निकला है । इसी प्रकार, भारतीय भू-वैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जी०एस०आई०) द्वारा किये गये सर्वेक्षण के फलस्वरूप गुजरात के भड़ूच क्षेत्र में लिग्नाइट स्रोतों का पता लगाया गया है ।

गुजरात में खनिजों का पता लगाने हेतु सर्वेक्षण किया जाना

3428. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार गुजरात में खनिजों का पता लगाने हेतु एक सर्वेक्षण कराने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या केन्द्र सरकार ने इस संबंध में गुजरात तथा अन्य राज्यों के के लिये कोई योजना बनाई है ; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा क्या है ?