

- (ii) Three cases of corruption have so far been considered by the present Chief Justice of India.
- (iii) Of the three cases, two cases are pending for enquiry and the third case has been referred to the Government.
- (f) Government is taking steps to set up a National Judicial Council to deal with complaints against Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.

Grant of mining leases

233. SHRI JAI PARKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of steel companies have entered into MoUs with State Governments for mineral explorations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of companies which have been granted mining leases; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure security of raw material supplies like iron-ore, to the newly established steel companies, to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Details on Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) signed by steel companies with State Governments for mineral exploration are not centrally maintained. However, as per the information available in the Ministry of Mines, the State Governments of Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have signed MoUs with steel companies to set up steel plants in the respective States and such companies have applied to the respective State Government for grant of mineral concessions.

(c) The details of prior approval conveyed by Ministry of Mines to the State Governments in the last ten years for grant of mining leases are available on the website of Ministry of Mines i.e. www.mines.nic.in.

(d) The Government has enunciated a National Mineral Policy which encourages user industry to develop long term linkages with the mineral producing units, including equity participation in mining companies.

Lease of forest land for mining

234. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has leased the forest land for mining activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the total areas of forest land so leased out for mining, alongwith the terms and conditions, State-wise;
- (c) whether mining agencies are following the terms and conditions satisfactorily; and