

(c) The following mine owners have set-up beneficiation plants to upgrade iron ore fines: M/s Sesa Goa Ltd., M/s D.B. Bandothkar & Sons Pvt. Ltd., M/s Sociedade Fomento Industrial Ltd., M/s Damodar Mangalji & Co. Ltd., M/s Chowgule & Co. Ltd., M/s Dempo Mining Corp, M/s V.M. Salgaocar & Bro Ltd., M/s R.V.S. Velingkar, M/s Minería Nacional Ltd., Smt. Ahilabai Sardesai, M/s SOVA, Smt. K.R. Gharse, M/s V.S. Dempo & Co, Sri Badruddin H. Mavani, M/s Bandekar Bros Pvt. Ltd., M/s Salgaocar Mining Industries, M/s Doddanavar Bros., M/s SAIL, M/s Tata Steel Ltd., M/s OMC Ltd., M/s Rungta Mines Ltd., M/s Sarda Mines Ltd., M/s Bonai Industrial Co. Ltd., M/s NMDC, M/s Mineral Sales Pvt. Ltd., M/s Bharat Mines and Minerals, Mineral Enterprises Ltd., M/s Bhilai Steel Plant.

Illegal sand mining

1718. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt and increase in illegal sand mining in the recent past;

(b) if so, the States/Union Territories which are predominantly subject to this kind of illegal mining or malpractices or both; and

(c) the details of ill-effects of illegal sand mining in rivers and the measures taken or being taken to avert these kind of activities?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): (a) to (c) As sand is a minor mineral, for which powers to regulate are delegated to the State Governments, details of cases of illegal sand mining are not centrally maintained, However, the State Governments are empowered to frame rules for curbing illegal mining. Further, the State Governments have been asked to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation, etc., and constitute Task Forces at State/District Level.

Coordination between Central and State Governments on mineral issues

1719. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) by when a separate forum would be constituted for better coordination between Central and State Governments in order to sort out the problem related to coal and other minerals;

(b) the measures adopted for proper exploration of available minerals wealth in the States;

(c) whether the State Governments are bearing heavy losses of revenue and registration charges from coal companies and what are the measures being taken in this regard;

(d) whether the above said provision would also be applicable on coal companies for sanctioned coal mining under MMRD Act, 1957; and

(e) if so, by when it would be enforced?