

(c) Government's plan to supply iron ore after exhausting the existing reserves?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per available information, the total iron ore reserves in the country is 7.06 billion tonnes and the total resources of iron ore are estimated at 25.25 billion tonnes as on 01.04.2005. The level of steel production and the grade of iron ore, taken for purposes of calculating the resources, are important parameters for determining how many years the iron ore deposits will last. The estimated figures can be between 150 to over 200 years depending on the assumptions made.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India has ample resources of Iron Ore, which can suitably cater the future requirements. The resources of iron ore are dynamic in nature and bound to increase with further exploration.

Mining lease to Arcelor Mittal

2708. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Jharkhand granted mining lease over an area of 500 hectares to Arcelor Mittal for iron ore and associated minerals in Meghahatubura-Karmapada RF, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper procedure for allotment was followed in this regard;

(d) if so, the amount invested on the project so far; and

(e) whether some irregularities and favour have been noticed in the above allotment and if so, the details in this regard and the action taken against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Jharkhand, after issue of Central Government's prior approval *vide* letter No. 5/17/2008-M.IV dated 5th June, 2008 under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957 for grant of mining lease for iron ore and manganese ore over an area of 500 acres in favour of M/s. Arcelor Mittal India Limited in Meghahatubura-Karmapada RF, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, the Company was directed, by the State Government to submit statutory forest clearance and environment clearance which has not been received so far. Therefore, mining lease deed has not yet been executed.

(c) The provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 have been followed.

(d) M/s Arcelor Mittal India Limited has deposited an amount of Rs. 12.39 crore with the State Government against transfer of Government land measuring 1025.31 acres in addition to other investments in coal projects etc.

(e) No, Sir.