

Objections on National Mineral Policy

3417. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mineral rich States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Karnataka have voiced serious concern over the finalisation of the new National Mineral Policy, changes in the laws on mines and minerals, royalty issues and the strategy for capacity addition in the generation of power; and

(b) if so, the response of Government and the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers of mineral rich States have submitted a joint memorandum to the Central Government in which they have raised issues of giving preference to value adders in grant of mineral concession, grant of large areas under reconnaissance and prospecting licence, export of iron ore, reservation of mining areas for State PSUs and royalty rates on ad-valorem basis on minerals. The issues raised in the memorandum are under consideration of the Government.

Illegal mining activities

3418. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal mining of Iron Ore in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to stop these illegal activities;

(c) if so, how many such complaints has been registered by the Mining Department during last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per available information, some instances of illegal mining of iron ore in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa have come to the notice of Government.

(b) The State Government of Orissa has enacted the Orissa Minerals (Prevention of Theft, Smuggling and other Unlawful Activities) Act 1989 and Orissa Minerals (Prevention of Theft, Smuggling and other Unlawful Activities) Rules, 1990. State level Task Force/Flying Squads as well as District level Task Forces have been constituted by Govt. of Orissa to curb illegal mining.

(c) and (d) During the last three years (upto December, 2006) 12 cases of illegal mining of iron ore have been detected in the Mayurbhanj district by the Mining Department, Govt. of Orissa. 450.940 Metric Tonnes of iron ore has been seized and a penalty amount of Rs. 3,75,000 has been realised.

Survey of Minerals in Chhattisgarh

†3419. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the organisations which have been given permission to conduct aerial survey and survey by other means to find out reserves of gold, diamond, iron and bauxite in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the date on which this order was issued;

(c) the date on which the survey reports were received; and

(d) the location-wise details regarding quantum of reserves of the said minerals found in Jashpur, Sarguja and Raigarh districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) The details of prior approval of Government of India for grant of Reconnaissance Permits (RP), which involve aerial survey and survey by other means, for gold, diamond, iron ore etc. in Chhattisgarh conveyed to the State Government and dates of receipt of annual reports submitted by the RP holders to the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) are given in the enclosed statement (See below). As per available information, no prior approval for grant of RP for bauxite in Chhattisgarh has been given. Since RP is granted for assessment of mineral resources and mineral reserves can be established only after further detailed exploration, no quantum of mineral reserves have been reported in the State of Chhattisgarh by the RP holders in their reports to the IBM.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.