

Prior approval for Bauxite mining to GMDCL

4087. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has recommended in September, 2009 to the Central Government for prior approval on the application of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL) for Bauxite mineral over an area of 539.98 acres in Mota, Ratadia, Nana Ratadia, Nagrecha villages in District Kutch; and

(b) if so, by when the prior approval is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mineral concession proposals recommended by the State Governments for prior approval of the Central Government are examined in the light of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the rules and guidelines framed there under and where necessary, in consultation with the State Governments and other agencies concerned. As such, no time-frame for disposal of the proposals can be indicated.

Stake of locals in mining projects

4088. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a new set of conditions for the mining sector and also proposes to provide locals a greater stake in the projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the changes in the existing Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act would help in curbing illegal mining activity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy 2008 includes development of a Sustainable Development Framework to, as para 7.11 of the Policy states : 'incorporate models of stakeholder interest for indigenous (tribal) populations in the mining operation, especially in situations where the weaker sections like the local tribal populations are likely to be deprived of their means of livelihood as a result of the mining intervention. In areas in which minerals occur and which are inhabited by tribal communities and weaker sections it is imperative to recognize resettlement and rehabilitation issues as intrinsic to the development process of the affected zone. Thus all measures proposed to be taken will be formulated with the active participation

of the affected persons, rather than externally imposed. A careful assessment of the economic, environmental and social impact on the affected persons will be made. A mechanism will be evolved which would actually improve the living standards of the affected population and ensure for them a sustainable income above the poverty line. For this purpose, all the provisions of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy or any revised Policy or Statute that may come into operation, will be followed.*

(c) and (d) The National Mineral Policy 2008 provides that the States shall be adjusted to overcome the problem of illegal mining through operational and financial package with the Indian Bureau of Mines. In order to ensure systematic and scientific mining, Indian Bureau of Mines and the State Directorates shall be suitably strengthened through capacity building measures. Regulation of conditionalities for mining of small deposits shall be tightened so as to control and prevent the growth of illegal mining.

The draft legislation pursuant to the Policy is based on the aforementioned guidelines.

Illegal mining in Orissa

4089. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to illegal mining, several mining operations and mining transport by Road and Railways has been stopped in Barbil area of Keonjhar district in Orissa and as a result of which 25,000 workers are sitting idle; and

(b) whether it is a fact that even Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC) mining operation have also been stopped even if it is a public sector mine?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per available information, 7746 numbers of employees are affected in 164 mines suspended in the State of Orissa in various districts of the State. Mining operations has also been stopped in the Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC).

Minority communities in Jammu and Kashmir

4090. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: