

(d) the reasons for not debarring such allottees and reallocoting them to those who use it for captive purposes?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) States are the owners of the minerals located within their respective boundaries. Allotment and operationalisation of mines come within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Central Government accords prior approval under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957 in respect of the minerals specified in Part (B) and (C) of the First Schedule to the Act. As such, the information asked for is not centrally maintained.

(c) As per Rule 28 of the Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 1960, subject to the conditions laid down therein, where mining operations are not commenced within a period of two years from the date of execution of the lease, or is discontinued for a continuous period of two years after commencement of such operations, the State Government shall, by an order, declare the mining lease as lapsed and communicate the declaration to the lessee.

Ownership of mineral resources

†1910. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States have ownership on minerals and State Government has right of mining;

(b) if so, the reasons why condition of the Central Government's prior permission on approval of mineral concession on minerals like iron-ore, manganese, bauxite, etc. is not being done away with; and

(c) whether Government would consider doing away with this condition?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) State Governments are the owners of the minerals and mineral rights vest in the State Government. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only in respect of grant of mineral concessions for minerals mentioned in the First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Government has enunciated National Mineral Policy 2008 which seeks to streamline, simplify and increase transparency in the procedures for grant of mineral concessions. The Government has drafted suitable legislation in order to give effect to the National Mineral Policy, 2008.

Chromite ore deposits

1911. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposit of chromite ore in the country especially in Odisha;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.