

(b) if so, whether expertise, latest technology, adequate financial resources, etc. would be available with such bodies to undertake complete mining activities; and

(c) whether private sector would also be given chance for mining to ensure healthy competition?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. The National Mineral Policy, 2008 states that mining activities will be so undertaken that special care is paid to protect the interest of host and indigenous (tribal) population through developing models of stakeholder interest based on international best practice.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. The mining sector was liberalised with the enunciation of the National Mineral Policy-1993, which allowed private sector investment in mining. There is no change in this policy approach in the current National Mineral Policy enunciated in 2008. The National Mineral Policy 2008 is available on website of Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.gov.in>).

Monitoring of illegal mining

3316. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought the help of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) to combat the menace of illegal mining in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the new monitoring strategy formulated by his Ministry has borne any fruitful results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The assistance of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and other remote sensing agencies have been sought to obtain satellite imagery on areas of mining in some States like Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, etc. This imagery is used to correlate with the mining lease coordinates for assessing the extent of violations by lease holders. In a particular instance in Orissa, the Indian Bureau of Mines detected illegal mining in Keonjhar district using the satellite imagery and based on this, the State Government was able to initiate action against illegal miners.

(c) and (d) The Central Government had amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to empower the State Governments to take action against illegal mining by giving them powers to enter and inspect any mine, penalize transportation and storage of illegal mined minerals, confiscate illegally mined minerals, tools, equipment and vehicles, and frame separate Rules under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for curbing illegal mining. This was followed by regular monitoring by Central Government of the action taken by the State Governments. Recently, all the State Governments have been,

requested to prepare an Action Plan using modern technology to curb illegal mining. Further, a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been set up to ensure elimination of delays in grant of mineral concessions. A draft Model State Mineral Policy has also been circulated to all the State Governments.

Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) conducted a total of 1978 inspections (till February, 2010) in the year 2009-10 and prosecution cases launched in 23 cases and six mines suspended. Further a Task Force was constituted in the IBM which conducted inspection in 106 mines in Orissa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and has suspended mining operations in 60 mines for deviation in approved Mining Plan in respect of production, location of pit, overburden production and non-submission of Mining Plan/Mining Scheme, and violation notices have been issued to 28 mines. The State Governments have stopped issuing transport permit (royalty pass) for suspended mines.

During the year, 2009, the State Governments have detected 58294 cases of illegal mining of major/minor minerals involving an area of 8267.469 Hect. 1409 FIRs have been lodged. 7306 nos. of court cases have been filed, out of which 5759 cases have been decided and a total of Rs. 105.06 crores has been realized as fine, in view of regular monitoring and review on prevention of illegal mining by the Central Government.

Disinvestment in Hindustan Copper Ltd.

3317. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to sell off 20 per cent share in Hindustan Copper Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance (Department of Disinvestment) has issued policy framework for disinvesting its equity in CPSEs. As per said policy framework, Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) has been listed for disinvestment of Government equity for meeting the mandatory requirement of 10% public shareholding. The Board of HCL have also recommended further public offer of 10% equity through issue of fresh shares to meet the investment requirement of the Company for future growth.

Illegal mining in Jharkhand

3318. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation (JSMDC) *vis-a-vis* NMDC and private miners in Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is a fact that illegal mining is a menace in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the State and the Centre to curb illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per available information, NMDC does not have any mining lease in Jharkhand. Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation (JSMDC) operates 53 mines and private miners hold 408 mines in Jharkhand.