

(c) whether National Environmental Engineering Research Institute has investigated and found that this large scale mining has caused serious erosion in the health standards and significant loss of forests?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) State Government being the owners of minerals grant mining leases, prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory in case of minerals in the First Schedule of Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. 17 prior approvals for grant of mining lease for iron ore and manganese have been granted in Bellary District of Karnataka after the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) gave its recommendations.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. However, in view of the recommendations of NEERI to ensure scientific mining along with environmental protection measures to mitigate the problems of over-burden disposal, the Ministry of Mines accords prior approval for grant of mining leases for only those proposals which have an approved mining plan.

National Mineral Policy

†36. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State had announced in Orissa recently that Government will announce a National Mineral Policy within next two months;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether this will diminish the rights of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The Minister of State had stated in the Conference that the High Level Committee, constituted to *inter alia* review the National Mineral Policy, is submitting its report shortly to the Government.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise. Control of Iron Ore Mining by few individuals.

Control of Iron Ore mining by few individuals

37. SHRI M.V. MYSURAREDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that only few individual miners are controlling the iron ore mining in the country;

(b) the total earning of these private individuals from iron ore mining vis-a-vis the royalty paid to Government;

(c) the export earnings of these individuals;

(d) whether it is a fact that the revenue which is supposed to come to Government, kity is going into the pockets of few private individuals; and

(e) if so, the measures Government are proposing to ensure that this revenue comes to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Figures pertaining to earnings of the private individuals and royalty paid to the concerned State Government are not maintained centrally.

(c) Does not arise in viesw of (b) above. However, as per available information iron ore valued at 3655.15 crores, 7042.08 crores and 13650.48 crores has been exported during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(d) and (e) As per Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, the holder of a mining lease shall pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed by him or by his agent, manager, employee, contractor or sub-lessee from the leased area at the prescribed rate. Royalty on minerals is collected by the concerned State Government.

Growth of Mining Sector

38. **SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mining sector recorded a growth rate of a meagre 0.9% in 2005-06 as compared to 5.8% in 2004-05;

(b) if so, the legal, administrative and structural reforms that Government are considering to bring in so as to boost the mining activity in the country; and

(c) the reasons for such a dismal performance during 2005-06 ?