

(b) if so, the terms of reference of GoM and whether these include the re-examination of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act and by when the GoM is likely to submit its recommendations to Government; and

(c) the details of any other steps Government proposes to bring for transparency in the mining sector?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to consider various view points on the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2010, and give its recommendation to the Government. No time limit has been specified for the Group of Ministers to submit its recommendations.

(c) The Government has enunciated National Mineral Policy, 2008 which seeks to streamline, simplify and increase transparency in the procedures for grant of mineral concessions. A Central Empowered-cum-Coordination Committee has been meeting six monthly to discuss various issues relating to the mining sector. The Ministry of Mines has been issuing various guidelines and suggestions on the issue and monitors progress through the Central Committee. As per information received, 10 State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have set up Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee. Other States have been requested to ensure setting up of similar Committees at the earliest. A draft Model State Mineral Policy has also been circulated to all the State Governments.

Difference over mining legislation

800. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are differences over the proposed mining legislation;

(b) if so, the details of differences noticed by Government thereon;

(c) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) has deliberated on various proposals on the proposed mining legislation; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to consider various view points on the draft Mines and Minerals

(Development and Regulation) Bill, 2010, and give its recommendation to the Government. No time limit has been specified for the Group of Ministers to submit its recommendations.

Reclassification of minor minerals

801. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ministry is planning to reclassify minor minerals;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry is also working on revamping the guidelines for mineral sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to streamline the process of grant of mineral concessions in light of the principles enunciated in the National Mineral Policy, 2008 the Government has issued two guidelines dated 24.6.2009 and 09.2.2010 to the State Governments. Details are available on website of Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.gov.in>)

Assessment of environmental impact on illegal mining

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

- (a) whether the issue of illegal mining in Karnataka has been examined from the perspective of loss of bio-diversity and forest cover and if so, the estimation of such losses; and
- (b) whether the Central Government has appropriate systems to arrest the growth of such illegal mining and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Government has enunciated National Mineral Policy, 2008, which stipulates sustainable development of mineral resources, while protecting the forest, environment and ecology. However, data on loss of bio-diversity and forest cover due to illegal mining are not centrally maintained.

(b) State Governments are the owners of minerals and they grant mineral concessions including mining leases. Only in case of minerals listed in the First Schedule to the Mines and