

suspended, 10 mines have reported compliance. The Special Task Force conducted second round of inspections from 17.4.2010 to 27.4.2010 in Karnataka. It inspected 67 mines and found serious violations in 18 mines, which were suspended. Similarly, less serious violations were found in 16 mines, which have been issued violation notices for compliance.

Bauxite mining in Andhra Pradesh

798. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two private companies, in association with a Government company, have signed an MoU to carry out bauxite mining in Vishakapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has received any complaints from the claimants under the Forest Rights Act who are being denied of their legitimate rights in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per information received from Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) Limited, State Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s. Jindal South West Holdings Limited (JSWHL) and another MoU with Government of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates for establishment of alumina refinery and aluminium smelter in non-tribal areas. The salient feature of the MoUs is that APMDC, a State Government Public Sector Undertaking, shall only undertake mining and supply bauxite to the said Companies for their value added plants, as the bauxite mines are located in scheduled areas.

(b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs have informed that they have not received any complaint from the claimants under the Forest Rights Act who have been denied of their legitimate rights in the concerned areas in Vishakapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh.

Group of Ministers on mineral concessions

799. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of stiff inter-Ministerial differences on the grant of mineral concessions, Government has recently constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to iron out the relevant details;

(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