

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. HANDIQUÉ): (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;