

(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