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				On this order from Hon'ble Bombay High Court. The programme came to an end in January, 2011.
29. Colors	29.12.2010	Telecast of a tele-serial 'Rishto Se Badi Pratha' - denigrating women and not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.		Final Order under issue.
30. Imagine TV	30.12.2010	Telecast of tele-serial 'Armaan Ka Balidaan - Arakshan'		An Advisory dated 23.02.2011 was issued to the channel.
31. News Live	12.01.2011	Telecast of a news item defaming an individual.		The reply from the channel to the Show Cause Notice is awaited.
32. Ten Cricket	25.01.2011	The Channel violated Rule 7(10) of Advertising Code while showing live telecast of cricket match between South Africa and India		The matter is under consideration.
33. Bindass	22.02.2011	Telecast of the programme 'Emotional Atyachar - Season 2' containing obscene visuals and indecent and vulgar language.		The reply from the channel to the Show Cause Notice is awaited.

#### Setting up of beneficiation plants

\*246. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of iron ore fines are generated during the course of mining, in some cases to the extent of 60 per cent of iron ore mines, which are not fit for use in blast furnaces without beneficiation;

(b) if so, whether in large number of mines, owners are reluctant to set up beneficiation plants to save capital expenditure and dump these fines as waste resulting in loss of natural resources;

(c) if so, the steps being taken for making it compulsory for mine owners to set up beneficiation plants; and

(d) how many mine owners in the country have already set up beneficiation plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir. Fines are naturally produced as part of the process of mining of iron ore. Due to variations in quality of ore and operating practices, percentage of Fines varies from State to State. The percentage of fines in different States is: Goa - 76%, Karnataka - 62%, Jharkhand - 60%, Chhattisgarh - 56%, and Orissa - 48%. Fines cannot be used in blast furnaces currently without agglomeration (*i.e.* sintering or pelletisation). The Indian capacities for agglomeration are far below our production of Fines, being:

Sintering	-	39 million tonnes (actual production is 31 million tonnes)
Pelletisation	-	28.8 million tonnes (actual production 11.5 million tonnes)

Thus while annual production of fines is about 126 million tonnes, agglomeration capacity is only 68 million tonnes.

(b) and (d) Sintering of fines is done at the site of the steel plant, since sintered fines cannot be transported. As such mine owners can not be expected to set up sintering facility unless the mine is captive for a Blast furnace. The pelletisation capacity in the country is as follows:

(i)	Essar Steel Ltd., AP	:	8 MT
(ii)	KIOCL, Karnataka	:	3.5 MT
(iii)	Mandovi Pellets Ltd., Goa	:	1.8 MT
(iv)	JSW Steel Ltd., Karnataka	:	4.2 MT
(v)	JSPL, Orissa	:	4.5 MT
(vi)	Aryan Ispat, Orissa	:	1.2 MT
(vii)	BMM Ispat, Karnataka	:	1.2 MT
(viii)	Brahmani River Pellets, Orissa	:	4 MT

Pelletisation requires significant capital expenditure in setting up of the plant and conversion of fines to pellets costs about Rs.1000 per metric tonne. The National Mineral Policy, 2008 encourages mineral sectoral value addition through latest techniques of beneficiation,

calibration, blending, sizing, concentration, pelletisation, purification and general customization of the product. To promote such value addition, the Government, have recently removed the export duty on pellets in order to increase value addition in fines meant for exports.

In addition to agglomeration, beneficiation of low grade fines is also encouraged, particularly of those grades which are suitable for exports. The following is the position regarding beneficiation plants in the country:

Sl.No.	State	No. of beneficiation plants set up
1.	Orissa	08
2.	Goa	24
3.	Karnataka	10
4.	Jharkhand	04
5.	Chhattisgarh	06
TOTAL :		52

Keeping in view current international prices for iron ore fines, there is a good potential for export of fines that cannot be used up within the country through beneficiation or agglomeration, and to the extent that such exports take place it will not be necessary to stack these fines separately as being 'non-salable' in terms of Rule 16 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR);

(c) In view of the economy of scale, it is not possible to make it compulsory for all mine owners to set up pelletisation plants. However, efforts are being made to investigate the viability of small capacity pellet plants using Chinese technology in the Indian context.

#### **Scientific expedition to Antarctica**

\*247. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research proposes to undertake 31st scientific expedition to Antarctica;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes and preparations made therefor;

(c) whether climate change is going to be the thrust of the expedition; and

(d) if so, the details of various aspects of climate change that the expedition proposes to undertake for research?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The preparations for the 31st Antarctic expedition scheduled to be launched in November, 2011 have been initiated. Research proposals have been invited for the 31st Indian Scientific