

Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for grant of Mining Lease for Bauxite over an area of 539.98 Acres in Villages-Mota Ratadia, Nana Ratadia and Nagrecha, District-Kutch, Gujarat in favour of M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) for 30 years. Mineral concession proposals recommended by the State Governments are examined by the Ministry of Mines in the light of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules and guidelines framed thereunder, and where necessary in consultation with the State Governments and other agencies concerned. As such, no timeframe for disposal of the proposals can be indicated.

Lok Adalats for settlement of minor disputes

*249. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to organize more and more Lok Adalats in the courts all over the country to provide an opportunity to settle disputes in a short period;

(b) whether it is a fact that people are facing legal hardships due to long trial period in minor civil cases like cheque bouncing, traffic challans, marital discords, petty crimes and accidental disputes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that settling these cases through Lok Adalats would reduce the burden of courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. In order to give relief to the people who were facing legal hardships due to long trial period, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) through the State Legal Services Authorities/ District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committee is organizing Lok Adalats in the courts all over the country since the year 1995. The aim of organizing Lok Adalats is to settle disputes within a short period. The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/directions by the NALSA to organise more and more Lok Adalats for disposal of cases speedily so that the burden of court may be reduced. National Plan of Action 2010-11 of NALSA has been circulated to all State Legal Services Authorities directing them to widen the network of the Lok Adalats also. NALSA has notified guidelines for conducting Lok Adalat viz. "NALSA" (Lok Adalat) Regulations 2009 published in the Gazette dated 20-10-2009.

The Department of Expenditure (Finance Commission Division, Ministry of Finance), Government of India has issued guidelines with regard to organizing more and more Lok Adalats for disposal of cases speedily. The Thirteenth Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 5,000 crore for the period 2010-15, through the following initiatives amongst other:

- (i) Enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts
- (ii) Promoting the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve part of the disputes outside the court system.

As regard Lok Adalats, the 13th Finance Commission has proposed to allot funds with the guidelines that a component of the justice delivery grant is to be used to enable States to hold about ten mega Lok Adalats per High Court per year and about five Lok Adalats for each of the 1500 court locations per year, during 2010-15. The Lok Adalats are expected to reduce pendency of cases in courts so as to dispose 15 lakh cases each year, and 75 lakh cases during 2010-15.

Power distribution under PPP mode

*250. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has stressed the need to implement the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in the power distribution sector;
- (b) if so, the details of the modalities worked out to promote the power distribution segment under PPP mode;
- (c) whether the State Governments have agreed to implement this mode in power distribution; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has recognized the need of Private Participation in Power Distribution Sector as stated in the National Electricity Policy. The Government has also made enabling provisions to promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) as per details given below:

Under Section 14 of Electricity Act, 2003, the Appropriate Commission may, on an application made to it under Section 15, grant any person licence to distribute electricity as a distribution licensee.

Under Section 13 of Electricity Act, 2003, Appropriate Commission may, on the recommendation of Appropriate Government, in accordance with the National Policy formulated under Section-5 and in public interest, direct, by notification to dispense with the requirement of licence for distribution of Electricity in the case of local authority, panchayat institutions, users associations, cooperative society, non-governmental organizations or franchisees.

Provisio-7 of the Section-14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that in a case where a distribution licensee proposes to undertake distribution of electricity for a specified area within his area of supply through another person, that person shall not be required to obtain any