

[22 August, 2005]

RAJYASABHA

by involving investors in mineral based industries is getting delayed because of non-clearance of mining leases by Government;

(b) whether according to the Jharkhand Mines and Geology Department claims that 24 proposals worth Rs. 12,000 crores are awaiting Government's nod; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing these projects and by when a final decision by Government would be taken to implement the proposals of Rs. 12,000 crores by the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The applications for grant of mining leases are received and processed by the State Governments. Mining leases are granted by the State Government concerned in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder which prescribe detailed procedure and conditions for grant of mineral concessions. Only for a select number of minerals specified in the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments. Even in cases of prior approval, the grant of mining lease and execution of lease deed with the lease-holder is done by the concerned State Government as per the laid down procedure under the Act and the Rules framed thereunder. At present, 16 proposals for grant of mining lease received from State Government of Jharkhand are pending for prior approval with the Central Government. Out of these, additional information/clarification is awaited from the State Government in respect of 14 cases and remaining 2 cases are under process in the Ministry. Thus, in majority of the cases, the proposals are pending with the Central Government for want of additional information/clarification from the State Government of Jharkhand.

Disinvestment of NALCO

† 2759. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for disinvestment of the National Aluminium Co. (NALCO) has been submitted to his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and his Ministry's response thereto? –

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Disinvestment had sent a proposal to this Ministry in April, 2005, for sale of 20% equity of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and requested for the comments. This Ministry has sent its comments to the Department of Disinvestment favouring 10% disinvestment in NALCO. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Demand for a share from the income of bauxite mining

2760. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY;
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribals of Visakha and East Godavari agency areas have demanded a rightful share of the income to be accrued from bauxite mining;

(b) if so, the demands made by the tribals and whether Government have considered these suggestions; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed that no such demand has been made by the tribals of Visakha and East Godavari agency areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Central aid to destitutes

† 2761. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing full amount as additional Central aid to all those destitute beneficiaries who are of 65 years and above and getting pension; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.