

Pending mining proposals

3503. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for pre-approval under Section 5(1) of MMDR Act, 1957 for Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation is under Government's consideration;
- (b) whether a similar proposal from Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited is also under consideration for pre-approval under the above Act; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and by when the above proposals are likely to be cleared/approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) The Government of Jharkhand has recommended a proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 5(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMD & R) Act, 1957 for prospecting licence (PL) in favour of a joint venture of M/s National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and M/s. Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation (JSMDC).

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) The mineral concession proposals recommended by the State Governments for prior approval of the Central Government are examined in the light of the provisions of the MMD & R Act, 1957 and Rules and guidelines framed thereunder, and if necessary, in consultation with the State Government and other agencies concerned. As such, no timeframe for their disposal can be indicated.

Assessment of impact of new MMDR bill

3504. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011;
- (b) if so, whether if implemented, the mining affected district population would get more than Rs.400 crore as profit share; and
- (c) if so, the details of profit likely to accumulate to the affected population of these districts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Steps to meet iron ore shortage

3505. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of iron ore in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has considered bidding for mining iron ore blocks in Afghanistan or other countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of pros and cons of undertaking such an investment; and
- (f) the steps proposed by Government to fulfil domestic iron ore shortages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) There is no shortage of iron ore in the country and as on 1.4.2005, the total resources of iron ore in the country was 25.25 billion tonnes which is likely to increase further with further exploration and due to the reduction of the threshold value of iron ore from 55% Fe to 45%Fe.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f) The Government of Afghanistan had invited offers for commercial exploitation of Hajigak Iron Ore Deposit through the process of competitive bidding. The Ministry of Mines convened a meeting of Indian mining companies, both private and public sector, on 06.01.2011 and requested them to participate in the Expression of Interest (EOI). The Ministry of Steel thereafter held a series of meetings to address the concerns expressed by the companies. The last date for bidding is 4th September, 2011. The final decision of participation in the competitive bidding process, is a commercial decision of the individual companies. Obtaining assets abroad is a measure that would ensure that the country's future raw material interests are secure in the long run.