

Providing data to Indian users at affordable price as a "public good service"; (viii) setting up of International Ground stations to receive IRS data by global customer; and (ix) promotion and sale of products to international customers.

Launching of GSAT-12

1989. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether GSAT-12 is to be launched;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The GSAT-12 satellite was launched on 15th July, 2011 aboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC), Sriharikota.

(c) the objectives of GSAT-12 satellite carrying 12 Transponders in Extended C-band frequencies, are to augment the transponder capacity and also to provide continuity to Societal Services like Tele-medicine, Tele-education, Village Resource Centres, Disaster Management Support, etc.

Iron ore mining in Kudremukh National Park

1990. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of reviving iron ore mining in Kudremukh National Park, located in the ecologically sensitive area of the Western Ghats in Karnataka;

(b) whether Kudremukh Iron Ore Cooperation Ltd. (KIOCL) has given any request to Government for permission to restart the mining operations in the land leased to the company; and

(c) whether Government would take any steps to hand over the leased land of 5000 hectares area now under the control of Kudremukh Iron Ore Cooperation Ltd., back to the forest department for amalgamation into the Kudremukh National Park?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. Government have no proposal so far, to reopen the iron ore mine in the area of Kudremukh National Park. However, a part of the loose secondary weathered ore lying in the already broken up area, is posing environmental and ecological threat to the surroundings, particularly to river Bhadra. To protect from the possible ecological damage, the Government has filed an IA No. 3087/2011 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court for allowing KIOCL Ltd. for removing approximately 20 million tonnes of loose secondary weathered ore without any drill or blasting.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) KIOCL Ltd. is not in the possession of any forest land falling in the Kudremukh National Park. Even the part of forest land which was under lease for mining to KIOCL Ltd. has been handed over to Forest Department of Government of Karnataka in compliance with the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Subsequently, Government of Karnataka had included an area of 3703.55 ha of forest land into the Kudremukh National Park *vide* its Gazette Notification dated 09.01.2007.

Steel production from Bhilai steel plant

†1991. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present production capacity of Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) is 4.5 million tonnes which needs about 9.5 million tonnes iron-ore per year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that iron-ore reserve in Dalli-Rajhara mines is at the verge of end and Bhilai Steel Plant commenced Rawghat project keeping in view of it;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the lease of 2028.79 hectare, in deposit of Rawghat has been provided to Bhilai Steel Plant and remaining deposit has been provided to private steel manufacturers by ignoring future requirements of Bhilai Steel Plant; and

(d) if so, the step being taken by Government to improve this situation?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.