

As regards housing, it has not been possible to ensure housing facilities to all of its regular employees. The Company does not have any policy for extending housing facility to the contractors' labourers. However, the Company has specifically identified areas for housing of the contractors' labourers with provision of infrastructural facilities of roads, electricity and water.

On the social security front all the statutory benefits like PF, ESI etc. are ensured in respect of the contractors' labourers. Besides, in the event of death of any contractors' labourer while on duty, a lump sum amount of Rs.2 lakhs is given to the dependants over and above the statutory compensation and benefits. The said amount has been made applicable w.e.f. 15.11.2011 by revising the earlier sum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs. A gift coupon amount of Rs.2000/-has also been recently declared for all contractor's workers who were working with them on dates 31.03.2010, 31.03.2011 as well as on the date of distribution.

The Company, at present, does not have any further plan for enhancement of these facilities since, the facilities and benefits have been enhanced recently w.e.f. 15.11.2011.

#### **Mining in Fifth Scheduled Area**

2100. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of sanctions given for mining during the last three years in Fifth Scheduled Areas, State-wise;
- (b) the area of land involved;
- (c) the number of families affected; and
- (d) whether Gram Sabhas were consulted in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) States as the owners of minerals, grant mineral concessions, including mining lease. Prior approval of the Central Government is necessary only in the case of minerals listed in First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. While a large part of mineral bearing areas in the country lie in Fifth Schedule areas, prior approval is granted by the Central Government on basis of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, which does not provide any separate consideration for classification of

areas listed in the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Accordingly, no separate data regarding Fifth Schedule areas or number of persons affected due to mining project are maintained centrally. However, in all mining leases granted for an area more than 5 hectares, Environment clearance is mandatory, involving a process of public hearing.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Approvals for iron ore mines**

2101. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government proposes to unravel and reverse its approvals given for various iron ore mines in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka in a hasty manner during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has a well established revisionary process to receive complaints and process them carefully and judiciously;

(c) the number of such Revisionary Tribunals set up to receive complaints;

(d) whether such Tribunals hesitate to reverse favours or approvals given to giant mining companies; and

(e) the steps proposed to use the revisionary process to revoke all bogus and fraudulent approvals during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) All mineral concession proposals recommended by the State Governments are examined by the Ministry of Mines in the light of the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the Rules and guidelines framed thereunder, and prior approvals are given in only such proposals, which are in accordance with these provisions. The proposals, which are not in accordance with provisions of Act, Rules and the guidelines, are rejected and returned to the State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir. Section 30 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to revise any order of the State Government under the Act, in respect of major minerals.

(c) Presently Four, Sir.

(d) and (e) Revision Applications are decided by Revisionary Authorities as per provisions of