

(c) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has informed that the number of labourers engaged by various contractors working in various offices/installations, as on 31.10.2011, is as under :

Unit/Office	Smelter	CPP	Refinery	Mines	Port Facilities	Corporate & other offices*	Total
Number of contract labourers	4609	2258	3542	440	74	294	11217

* Other offices- Marketing offices and Regional offices

(d) NALCO is not in a position to comment regarding continuation of work by any labour of the contractors for more than ten years since the company is awarding the work to the Contractors and they are getting the work done by their labourers. NALCO does not have any control over the same.

Optimum exploitation of mineral resources

†713. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE :

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Government has urged the State Governments for reassessment of the reserved mineral deposits and to ensure optimum exploitation of minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States in this regard;
- (c) whether some new companies have shown interest in mining sector and sought the mining leases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) and (b) In exercise of the powers under Rule 27(3) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the Central

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has directed all the State Governments to impose a special condition in all mining leases for major minerals (excluding coal minerals) and covering reserved areas also where mining leases would be granted in future, requiring the owner of mining lease to ensure completion of detailed prospecting in a timely manner. The State Governments have agreed for imposition of the condition in review meetings.

(c) to (e) As per the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, all applications for grant of mining leases are filed with the State Governments. Prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of Mineral Concession for minerals in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Details of applications pending with the State Government are not maintained in Central Government. However as per available information, Central Government has conveyed 22 approvals for grant of mining lease, 31 for prospecting licenses and 23 for Reconnaissance Permit in the year 2010-11. Further the Government in this Cabinet has approved a draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill 2011 which seeks to streamline the procedures for grant of mineral concession and provide suitable environment for exploration and mining.

Re-opening of abandoned mines

714. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that companies are planning to re-open mines that were abandoned for various reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much gold has been extracted during the last fiscal year in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per available information, 24 abandoned mine sites have become operational again for techno economic reasons including improved market conditions, and availability technology for beneficiation and ore recovery. Details of these are given below: