

examined the proposals of Jhillingburu-I, Jhillingburu-II and Topailore leases of Gua iron ore mines of SAIL in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on 24.01.2012 for issuance of Term of Reference (ToR) for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)/Environment Management Plan (EMP) reports. The EAC has observed that these leases are located in the West Singhbhum District, an area identified as severely polluted in terms of the respirable suspended particulate matter exceeding the prescribed levels. The EAC has therefore, deferred and kept the proposals in abeyance till appropriate control measures are implemented in the said area. The proposal is still pending with MoEF for approval. The shortfall in the supplies of iron ore as a result of the closure of mines is being met from other operating mines as a short term measure.

(d) Ministry of Steel has taken up the matter on several occasions with MoEF to expedite the grant of forest and environment clearances in respect of pending leases of iron ore mines including Gua.

Fund allocated to Assam for tourism

3070. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Assam for development of tourism sector in last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that in view of the importance of tourism, the Centre would consider to declare these areas as special tourism zones for its full development; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the States/Union Territories. Proposals which are complete in all respects as per guidelines, are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 50.54 crore during the last three years to the Government of Assam for various tourism projects (upto 31st December, 2011).