

Bureau of Mines (IBM), at present, is in respect of ensuring systematic and scientific mining of major minerals (excluding fuel minerals).

However, considering the fact that several State Governments have not been able to improve their governance at State level, the IBM has constituted Special Task Force, which has so far conducted 454 inspections in states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat and has suspended 155 mines, and recommended termination in case of 8 mines.

Separately the Central Government has set up a committee in the Ministry to review and restructure the role of IBM. The Central Government has amended Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 and made it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockist, exporters and end-users to register with IBM and report their transaction in minerals on monthly and annual basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals. As on 19.3.2012, out of 9390 mining leases in the country, 7896 mining leases are registered online with the IBM. Simultaneously, integration of the system with existing databases of State Governments, and other related Ministries/Departments such as Railways, Ports, Customs and Directorate General of Foreign Trade has been initiated.

The Central Government has also introduced a draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 (MMDR Bill) in the Lok Sabha on 12th Dec., 2011 which has been referred to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel. The draft MMDR Bill, 2011 provides for preventing illegal mining by the following measures:

- Minimum lease size increased to 10 hectares (for major minerals) and 5 hectares (for minor minerals) making it easier to detect and demarcate.
- Registration of person in mining or dealing with minerals to help track ore movement.
- Ineligibility for all leases on conviction for violation of lease conditions.

The draft MMDR Bill, 2011 also provides for penalties for illegal mining which include:

- Fine extending to 10 times the value of mineral mined 3 years imprisonment or both;
- Debarment for obtaining future concessions
- Cancellation of mineral concessions held by the convicted person

(c) The steps taken by Central Government would facilitate effectiveness in curbing illegal mining.

Iron ore mining proposals from Assam

1343. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of proposals have been received from the Assam

Government seeking approval for allocation of iron-ore mines during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details and status thereof including the number of such proposals pending with Government along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan for exploration and exploitation of iron ore available in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last three years and the current year (till date), the Ministry of Mines had received only one proposal dated 1.4.2009 for grant of Prospecting Licence for iron ore over an area of 3.72 sq.km. in Chandardiga Hill, Dibrugarh in favour of M/s. Shyam Century Ferrous Ltd. The said proposal was examined and prior approval of the Central Government was conveyed to the State Government on 8.7.2009.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Field Season Programme (FSP) 2011-12, Geological Survey of India (GSI) is assisting the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam in iron ore investigation in Kamrup District, Assam. GSI's FSP 2012-13 will include an additional item for iron ore investigation in Goalpara District, Assam.

Economic interests of mineral producing States

1344. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mineral bearing States get a fair share of the value of the minerals extracted from the boundary of the States concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue earned by some of the mineral producing States like Jharkhand are considerably less than the national average;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to protect the economic interests of the mineral bearing States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), all mining lease holders are required to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the lease area. The entire royalty amount accrues to the concerned State Governments. The rates of royalty for minerals (other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals) are given in Second Schedule to the MMDR Act, which the Central Government may enhance once in a period of three years. The last revision of rates of royalty was