

Approvals for mining leases

†2404. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from Madhya Pradesh for reconnaissance permit, survey and mining leases for exploration of minerals pending with Government for approval, at present;

(b) the reasons for the delay in granting approval to these applications; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to grant approval to these applications at the earliest with a view to develop mineral sector in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) At present, the Ministry of Mines has 09 proposals for reconnaissance permits, 107 for prospecting licences and 21 for mining leases, recommended by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for prior approval of the Central Government under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

(b) The mineral concession proposals are examined by the Ministry of Mines in the light of provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the Rules and the guidelines framed thereunder and where required, in consultation with the State Government and specialized agencies like Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and Department of Atomic Energy. This may take time in processing the proposals.

(c) Preliminary scrutiny of all mineral concession proposals is undertaken immediately after receipt of proposals from the State Government. Special efforts are made for minimizing the number of proposals, which are over six months old. The Ministry also regularly takes up the matter with the State Government and other agencies through meetings and written communications in order to expedite processing of the proposals.

Skill development of minority women

2405. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.