

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.

(a) whether there has been any assessment of skill development scheme for minority women by Government;

(b) if so, the achievements made under the said scheme in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the said scheme could not achieve the expected results;

(d) if so, the success rate of scheme in terms of percentage; and

(e) the number of minority women became skilled, in order to make this scheme successful, during the current year and the number of women likely to become skilled during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, implements a promotional scheme of Vocational Training for skill development for minority beneficiaries including women, through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). An evaluation of this promotional scheme was carried out for NMDFC by M/s. HARDICON, a consultancy firm in the year 2008. The study highlighted that the trainings-were well received among the Muslim community and 63% of the trained candidates could achieve wage employment or engaged in self employment.

(b) The number of women beneficiaries belonging to minority communities, assisted under Vocational Training Scheme during last three years and current year is as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	No. of women beneficiaries belonging to minority communities
1.	2009-10	784
2.	2010-11	1019
3.	2011-12	204
4.	2012-13 (as on 28.8.2012)	0

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The proposals submitted by SCAs for skill development are demand based. All viable proposals for skill development have been funded by NMDFC.

(e) During current financial year, NMDFC has made provisions to provide skill training to more than 4400 minority beneficiaries including women. As the scheme is demand driven, the targets for next year (2013-14) have not been fixed.

Minority Commission for Hindus

2406. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when and under which act the National Commission of Minorities (NCM) was established;

(b) whether there is any Minority Committee for Hindus in the States where they are in minority and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) since the onus of determining the minority lies with the States, whether Government would make amendments in the Constitution, so that the Centre can intervene and whenever Hindus are in minority, they can also have the shelter of NCM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The National Commission for Minorities was established under the "National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992" on 5th July, 1993.

(b) There is no information with regard to Minority Committee for Hindus in any State. It is within the purview of the State Government to constitute such Committees for their States. However, statutory State Minorities Commissions have been constituted in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal, and non-statutory State Minorities Commissions have been set up in Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Scholarships in Assam

2407. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: