

Coastal Regulation Zone clearance on 22nd November, 2010 with necessary conditions on environmental safeguards, after following due procedure of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (a) and (b) above.

Study on impact of sand mining on ecology

*251. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: :

(a) whether Government is aware that sand mining is rampant in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that over-extraction of sand would badly impact on ecology;

(c) if so, whether Government is taking any measures to study the impact of sand mining on the ecology;

(d) whether Government has received any suggestion to conduct such a study/research; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Sand mining is regulated in terms of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed therein. All mining activities of minor minerals, including sand, require prior environment clearance. This is with a view to ensuring that the mining is done in a scientific and sustainable manner.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) had constituted on 24.03.2009 a group under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Environment and Forests) to look into the environmental aspects associated with mining of minor minerals. The group submitted its report in March 2010 and made several recommendations relating to definition of minor mineral, size of mine lease, period of mine lease, cluster of mine approach for small sized mines, requirement of mine plan for minor minerals, river bed mining etc. MoEF have asked the States to examine the

report and to issue necessary instructions for incorporating the recommendations made in the report in the Mineral Concession Rules for mining of minor minerals under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 27.02.2012 in IA No. 12-13 of 2011 in SLP(C) No. 19628-19629 of 2009 in the matter of "Deepak Kumar etc. vs. State of Haryana and Ors." has ordered that the State Governments and UTs should take immediate steps to frame necessary rules under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 taking, *inter-alia*, into consideration the recommendations of MoEF in its report of March, 2010.

Valuation of Scooters India Ltd.

*252. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to carry out any exercise for the valuation of Scooters India Limited;

(b) whether Government plans to disinvest its shares in Scooters India Limited; and

(c) if so, the details thereof,

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Scooters India Limited, Lucknow (SIL) is a public sector unit under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Government on 19.05.2011 approved revival of SIL by transfer of entire Government equity to a suitable identified strategic partner through Department of Disinvestment (DoD). Subsequent to this, a Resolution seeking Parliamentary approval to implement Government decision was moved and listed during the Monsoon Session 2011 of the Parliament. Due to subsequent developments including improved performance of the company, the matter was reconsidered and the Resolution so introduced was withdrawn.

(c) Question does not arise.

Budgetary allocation for health sector

†*253. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether people across the country are very discontented with the kind of services being provided by Government on basic needs like health service;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.