

environmental clearance to several mining projects of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), viz., Gua Iron Ore mine of West Singhbhum, Jharkhand; Rowghat Iron Ore Mine, Chhattisgarh; Bolani Iron Ore Mine, Odisha; Taldih-Barsua Iron Ore Mine, Odisha; Manoharpur Iron Ore Mine, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand etc. With regard to Thakurani mining project of Odisha Mineral Development Corporation (OMDC), additional information has been sought. As far as Bisra Lime Stone Quarry proposal is concerned, the same was placed in the Expert Appraisal Committee meeting held during April 16-18, 2013.

**Access and benefit sharing arrangements under Bio-diversity Act, 2002**

3105. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the access and benefits sharing arrangements under the Bio-diversity Act, 2002;
- (b) whether the access and benefit sharing arrangements will be modified in light of the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the access and benefit sharing arrangements provided under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules 2004, any foreign individual, institution or company desiring access to biological resources occurring in India or knowledge associated thereto for research, commercial utilisation or biosurvey and bioutilisation is required to seek prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). When granting approvals, NBA enters into benefit sharing agreement with the applicant imposing conditions which secure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge. These benefits may either be monetary or non-monetary in nature. Further, NBA approval is also required before seeking any intellectual property rights based on biological resource and associated knowledge obtained from India.

(b) and (c) The access and benefit sharing arrangements provided for in the Biological Diversity Act are broadly in compliance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, and would not require any amendment.