

and manganese ore, and the losses resulting there from; and to identify, as far as possible, the persons, firms, companies and others that are engaged in such mining, trade and transportation of iron ore and manganese ore, done illegally or without lawful authority;

- (ii) to inquire into and determine the extent to which the-management, regulatory and monitoring systems have failed to deter, prevent, detect and punish offences relating to mining, storage, transportation, trade and export of such ore, done illegally or without lawful authority, and the persons responsible for the same;
- (iii) to inquire into the tampering of official records, including records relating to land and boundaries, to facilitate illegal mining and to identify, as far as possible, the persons responsible for such tampering; and
- (iv) to inquire into the overall impact of such mining, trade, transportation and export, done illegally or without lawful authority, in terms of destruction of forest wealth, damage to the environment, prejudice to livelihood and other rights of tribal people, forest dwellers and other persons in the mined areas, and the financial losses caused to the Central and State Governments.

(c) Commission has submitted its 'First Interim Report' on 14th July, 2011 and the 'Report on the State of Goa' on 15th March, 2012 (part I and II) and on 25th April, 2012 (part III) respectively.

**Screening Committee for evaluation of  
exploration applications**

3657. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Screening Committee was constituted for the purpose of evaluation of applications for exploration of mineral bearing offshore blocks located in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal during 2011;

(b) if so, the details of composition, powers and functions of such committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In the year 2010, the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) as Administering Authority for Offshore Area Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 2002 had constituted a screening committee for the purpose of scrutinizing and evaluating applications received for grant of mineral bearing offshore blocks located in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal for exploration and for making recommendations to the Administering Authority. The screening committee comprised of following:

- 1 Shri M. Sengupta, the then Superintending Mining Geologist, IBM.
  - 2 Dr. A.R. Gujar, Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.
  - 3 Dr. B.R. Venkatesh, Director, Geological Survey of India, Mangalore.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

**Prior approval for Bauxite mining lease**

3658. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gujarat Government has recommended 10 bauxite mining lease proposals for prior approval of Ministry in Jamnagar district; and
- (b) the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Mines has received ten proposals recommended by the Government of Gujarat seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease for bauxite in Jamnagar district in favour of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. In these cases, after preliminary examination, queries were raised to the State Government. The reply from the State Government has been recently received.

**Declaration of followers of Jainism as minority**

†3659. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Jain Confederation has demanded to declare the followers of Jainism as minority;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.