

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the followers of Jainism have also organised sit-in demonstration at Jantar-Mantar in Delhi in this regard and are demanding the same status for many years;

(d) whether Government is committed to give minority status to the followers of Jainism or whether any steps are being taken in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) and (b) Representation from World Jain Confederation demanding declaration of Jain as a minority community under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 has been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The matter regarding declaring Jain as a minority community under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Settlement of disputed Wakf properties

3660. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wakf properties in dispute, state-wise;

(b) the number out of them which have been settled, so far;

(c) whether any time schedule has been drawn for their settlement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of Section 4 of the Wakf Act, 1995, the State Government appoints Survey Commissioner of Wakfs and as many Additional or Assistant Survey Commissioners of Wakfs as may be necessary for the purpose of making a survey of Wakfs existing in the State/UT. The Survey Commissioner submits his report to the State Government who forwards it to the Board. After examining of the report by the Board, a list of wakfs is published in the official gazette. If any question or dispute arises with regard to a Wakf