

16 applicants for 62 blocks on 05.04.2011. However, some of the aggrieved parties moved the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Bombay (Nagpur bench) against the grant of offshore exploration licences by IBM. Since the matter is sub-judice in the Courts, IBM has kept the execution of the offshore exploration licences granted in abeyance.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted a Preliminary Enquiry to investigate alleged irregularities in grant of Exploration Licence in the offshore waters of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea and concluded that no misconduct was found on the part of any public servant of Indian Bureau of Mines in this case.

Area under mining activities

1161. SHRI. AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) out of the total extent of 3,27,87,590 square km., the extent of area covered under mining activities;
- (b) whether the current extent is proposed to be increased by Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As per the data available in the Indian Minerals Yearbook 2011 published by Indian Bureau of Mines, the area held under mining leases granted to 65 metallic and non-metallic minerals excluding lignite, coal, petroleum, natural gas, atomic minerals and all the minor minerals, covering 23 states in the country, as on 31.3.2011 is 5,47,814 Hectares.

(b) and (c) The State Governments grant mineral concessions viz., Reconnaissance Permit, Prospecting Licence, and Mining Lease under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, Mineral Concession Rules 1960, and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 1988. Grant of fresh mining concessions will lead to an increase in the area under mining operations. Since the State Governments grant mining concessions, information as to increase in area under mining operations cannot be estimated.

Report on Muzaffarnagar disturbance

1162. SHRI. SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Minorities has recently submitted a report on the recent Muzaffarnagar disturbances; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government has taken thereon, besides the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) Yes, Sir. The reports in connection with the Muzaffarnagar disturbances were submitted by the National Commission for Minorities to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Home Affairs had forwarded the same to the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) "Police" and "Public Order" being State subjects under the Constitution of India, the responsibility of dealing with communal violence and maintaining relevant data in this regard rests primarily with respective State Governments.

However, to maintain-communal harmony in the country, the Central Government assists the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, sending Central Armed Police Forces, including the composite Rapid Action Force created specially to deal with communal situations, to the concerned State Governments on specific requests and in the modernization of the State Police Forces. In addition, the Central Government sends advisories in this regard from time to time. The Central Government has also circulated revised Guidelines to promote communal harmony to the States and Union Territories in 2008. The activities of all organizations having a bearing on communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, wherever necessary.

Computer training programme under NMDFC

1163. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) is organizing professional and computer training programmes for educating minority populations in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent by NMDFC in organizing these programmes during each of the last three years and the current year in that State:

(d) whether the Ministry is emphasizing on the education of more women from the minority community; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?