and Regulation) (MMDR) Act 1957, State Governments are required to obtain previous approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions for minerals specified in the First schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957.

State Governments are empowered to grant mineral concessions for rest of the minerals (other major minerals not specified in the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957 and minor minerals) without requiring to obtain the previous approval of the Central Government. Details of time taken by State Governments to process grant of mineral concession are not maintained Centrally.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

New legislation on mines and minerals

†845. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that mineral rich areas in Chhattisgarh are mostly located in forest areas where the Central Government has strictly prohibited its diversion;

(b) whether a new legislation to replace the Act of 1735 on mines and minerals pending before the Parliament is proposed to be passed soon;

(c) whether Government has issued guidelines to the States on Samdha Judgment passed by Supreme Court; and

(d) whether appropriate provisions have been incorporated in Section 43 of the Bill of 2011 in Parliament and whether it can be given a legal status ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Most of the mineral rich areas in Chhattisgarh are located in forest areas. As per Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose, which includes mining.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has advised Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs to adhere to the judgment of the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.4601-02 of 1996 filed by 'SAMATHA' (a voluntary organization).

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to (b) above.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.