

Proposal to auction minerals

1069. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to auction minerals such as iron ore, bauxite and manganese ore recently, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any modalities for auctioning have been worked out if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether existing projects where Letter of Intent already issued by State Governments will be given preference; and

(d) if not, how the commitment made by the State Governments would be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. An Ordinance was promulgated on 12th January, 2015 to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 providing for auction of minerals concessions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Such cases are covered by the provisions of section 10A(2)(c) of clause 10 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2015.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Reforms in mining sector

1070. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring certain reforms in the mining sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of afflictions in the system that are proposed to be addressed to help the workers; and

(d) the fresh actions on streamlining mineral produce especially iron ore to control any kind of black-mailing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Ordinance was promulgated on 12th January, 2015 to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which *inter-alia* provides for (i) grant of mineral concessions through auction by competitive bidding; (ii) extension of validity of lease period of existing leases; (iii) establishment of District Mineral Foundation for the benefit of persons and areas affected by mining operations; (iv) establishment of National Mineral Exploration Trust for the purposes of regional and detailed exploration; (v) simplification and removal of delays in the method of grant of mineral concessions; and (vi) enhancing penal provisions to check illegal mining.

(c) As the matters relating to safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines are covered under the provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations made thereunder, therefore, no specific provision had been made in the Ordinance relating to mine workers.

(d) Changes brought in the legal framework to streamline mineral production, including production of iron ore, *inter-alia* are introduction of transparent procedure for grant of mineral concessions through auction; removal of discretionary provisions like renewal of mining leases; increase in tenure of mining leases to 50 years; and transition provisions to ensure that mining operations do not come to a standstill and the manufacturing industry is not deprived of an assured supply of raw material.

Revenue generated by ONGC

1071. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and PSU-wise revenue generated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and its other organisations like ONGC Videsh Limited in India and abroad in last five years;

(b) whether Government has any plans for expansion of ONGC in India and other countries to make them more profitable;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the oil production from various assets of ONGC in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The revenue generated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during last five years is as under:—