

of Kerala for declaring the Varkala Cliff as National Geological monument. A Resolution declaring the Varkalla Cliff as Geoheritage site has been issued by GSI on 28.05.2014 requesting the State Government to issue necessary notification and instructions for their protection and conservation.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** A request had been received from the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir for preservation of Geological Fossiliferous Zone at Guryal near Khanmoh District, Srinagar. GSI is evaluating the geological setting within the constraints of prevailing law and order situation in the area.

#### **Amendment to mining law**

1543.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to make reforms in the Mines Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what are the new by-laws being included in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Mines Amendment Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23.03.2011 and was referred to the Standing Committee for examination. The report of the Standing Committee for Labour is under examination in the Ministry of Labour and Employment in consultation with the Minister for Communications and Information Technology, the Minister of Coal, and the Minister of Mines.

#### **Next round of bidding for oil and gas blocks**

1544. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when does Government proposes to have the next round of bidding for oil and gas blocks;

(b) how many blocks does Government proposes to offer;

(c) what is the regime being proposed and details thereof; and

(d) what are the measures Government proposes to take to make this offer more attractive than New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) for investors?