Sl. No.	Geological heritage site/National geological monument
Himachal Pradesh	
28.	Siwalik Fossil Park, Saketi, Sirmur Distt.,
Odisha	
29.	Pillow Lava in Iron Ore Belt at Nomira, Keonjhar Distt.
Jharkhand	
30.	Plant Fossil bearing Inter-trappean Beds of Rajmahal Formation, Upper Gondwana sequence around Mandro, Sahibganj Distt.
Nagaland	
31.	Nagahill Ophiolite Site near Pungro
Sikkim	
32.	Stromatolite Bearing Dolomite/Limestone of Buxa Formation at Mamley, near Namchi, South District.

Illegal diamond mines in Mainpur, Chhattisgarh

†1381. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining is going on at the diamond mines in Mainpur, Chhattisgarh due to lack of maintenance; and

(b) the timely action being considered by the Centre for starting large scale mining at the above site to utilize its abundant reserves of diamond and priceless gemstones like Alexandrite in order to put a check on illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines, no mine for diamond has been granted in Chhattisgarh State. State Governments are empowered, under section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) to make rules, *inter alia*, for prevention of illegal mining. As matters relating to prevention of illegal mining come under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments, data on specific details of illegal mining is not maintained Centrally.

The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, which is deemed to have come into force with effect from 12.1.2015. The most important provision of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, is the grant of mineral

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

concessions for major minerals through auction by competitive bidding which is a transparent and non-discriminatory method and which will also obtain for the State Government its fair share of value of the mineral resources. The Amendment Act, *inter alia*, also provides for stringent punitive provisions for combating illegal mining. Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the area. Provisions have been made for setting up of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining.

Iron ore mines in Chhattisgarh

1382. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to extract iron ore from Rowghat mines in Antagarh district of Chhattisgarh;

(b) what is the likely gain of revenue from extraction of iron ore from these mines;

(c) how much forest land is required to be cleared and how much needs to be acquired to build all necessary infrastructure including for mine extraction, townships, railway line, etc.;

(d) the details of progress of land acquisition process; and

(e) whether Gram Sabha consent from all affected villages under the Forest Rights Act has been taken, if so, the village-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) In order to extract iron ore from Block 'F' of the Rowghat mines located in Narayanpur and Kanker district of Chhattisgarh, a large number of pre-project activities are required to be completed by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). In order to implement the Rowghat Project, environmental and forestry clearance have been obtained by SAIL. The Mining Lease in favour of SAIL/Bhilai Steel Plant has been obtained. Approval for 2.5 million cubic meters of water per year for the project has been obtained from the State Government. SAIL has also obtained the sanction for 10000 KVA EHT power supply on 132 KV for construction purpose of the project from Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited. The requisite charges for forest clearance, mining lease, allocation of water by State Government and construction of power supply line and sub-station have already been deposited by SAIL. Two battalions each of Border Security Force and CRPF for sanitizing the area, providing security to the mine peripheral area, facilitating security and safe execution of construction of the rail line from Dalli-Rajhara to Rowghat have been sanctioned and posted.