

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no firm criteria for special package for the States. The demand for special assistance to States, as and when received from them, is considered by the Union Government. These demands from the States are usually based on their specific needs which, *inter-alia*, include the issue of rehabilitation, reconstruction, development deficit in backward regions, infrastructure needs, etc.

(d) and (e) No proposal for granting a special package has been received in NITI Aayog in the recent past from the Government of West Bengal.

Operation of stone mines in Jharkhand without environmental clearance

*175. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether stone mines in Jharkhand, especially in Santhal Pargana division, are currently being operated without obtaining required environmental clearance, beyond the stipulated date prescribed by the National Green Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their operation is being allowed with the consent of Jharkhand Government which is a violation of NGT's order; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by the Ministry to enforce the court's direction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Jharkhand, the Environmental clearance has been made mandatory *vide* Gazette Notification No. 250, Ranchi, dated 30.05.2014 in case of all the minor minerals including stone mining in the state of Jharkhand which is also applicable for Santhal Pargana division.

(c) and (d) Government of Jharkhand has constituted the District Level Task Force in each District to enforce all the directions issued by the Competent Authorities, Hon'ble Courts and Tribunals to ensure compliance.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which deals with the process to grant

Environmental Clearance. The projects of mining of minerals as stated in the schedule of the Notification require prior environment clearance.

In pursuance to the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Deepak Kumar etc. *versus* State of Haryana and Others etc., prior environmental clearance has now become mandatory for mining of minor minerals irrespective of the area of mining lease. National Green Tribunal, *vide* its order dated the 13th January, 2015 has directed for making a policy on environmental clearance for mining leases in cluster for minor minerals.

The Ministry has amended the EIA Notification, 2006 in January 2016 for minor minerals and has delegated the Authority of Environmental Clearance up to 5 hectare of individual mining lease of minor minerals including stone and 25 hectares in clusters to the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) headed by the District Magistrate/ District Collector. A District Expert Appraisal Committee (DEAC) has also been constituted under the chairmanship of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department to appraise projects. The monitoring of mined out mineral, environmental clearance conditions and enforcement of Environment Management Plan is ensured by the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority, State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, State Pollution Control Board /Committee. The status of compliance of stipulated conditions of the environmental clearances of different projects, including stone mining projects, is monitored by ten Regional Offices of this Ministry in the Country.

Fuel supply agreements with power projects

*176. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has given approval or is considering to give approval for supply of coal to power projects which were given Letter of Approvals (LoAs) during 2009, 2010 and 2011 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total capacity of these power projects, year of their commissioning along with capacity of each plant and its location; and
- (c) by when Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) are proposed to be signed with those power projects?