

**National project status to Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project**

\*184. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from Telangana Government to declare Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project as a national project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has considered the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) The State Governments from time-to-time send requests for inclusion of the projects in the scheme of National Projects. However, their inclusion depends upon appraisal/ approval by Advisory Committee of MoWR, RD & GR from techno-economic angle, statutory clearances, investment clearance, fulfilment of criteria of the scheme of National Projects, availability of funds etc.

Investment clearance proposal in respect of Kaleshwaram Project has been submitted by the State Government in Central Water Commission (CWC) on 14.8.2018. The observations/comments on the same have been communicated to the State Government on 06.09.2018. The State Government has not submitted the requisite information/compliances.

**Social media monitoring tool**

\*185. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had any plan to float a tender to create a social media monitoring tool that will create digital profiles of citizen to gauge their opinions about official policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan or attempt made by the Ministry to hire a private agency to create a tool for the above-mentioned matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in January, 2018 had proposed to set up a Social Media Communication Hub. For this, it floated a Tender/Request for Proposal (RFP) on 23rd January, 2018, which *inter alia* involved hiring of an agency, through Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd. (BECIL). This was modified and RFP with revised scope of work was floated on 25th April, 2018 through BECIL. The same has since been withdrawn.

#### **Ban on mining in Goa**

\*186. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that over six lakh people have lost their livelihoods due to the mining ban in Goa;

(b) if so, legislative measures taken by Government till now or action plan proposed to address this issue; and

(c) whether Government is considering to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1953, so that mining operations can be resumed in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) In the matter of Goa Foundation *Vs.* M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. and Ors. in Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 32138 of 2015 with SLP (C) Nos. 32699-32727 of 2015, Writ Petition (C) No. 711 of 2015 and Writ Petition (C) No. 720 of 2015, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* judgement dated 07.02.2018 had cancelled 2nd renewal of 88 mining leases in the State of Goa and directed to stop all mining operations with effect from 16th March, 2018 until fresh mining leases are granted. As per the information provided by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a sub-ordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, no mining activity is presently taking place in the State of Goa for any major mineral. Government of Goa has intimated that, the closure of mining activities has resulted in loss of large number of jobs.

(b) and (c) A proposal has been received from the Government of Goa to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 in order to tide over difficulties faced by the State Government on account of closure of mining operations. The said proposal is under examination in the Ministry of Mines.