

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 The same has since been withdrawn.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.