

Export of Minerals

90. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the factors responsible for limited growth of the export minerals;

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take steps to attract private sector investment in export potential of minerals; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) to (c). In order to attract investment in the mineral sector new National Mineral Policy has been announced in 1993 and also Mines & Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act and rules framed under the Act have been amended. This will facilitate the investment by the Private Sector including the foreign investment in many areas which were hitherto reserved for exploitation by the Public Sector, which will lead to the growth of the mineral sector and export earnings.

Pak's Acquiring Sophisticated Arms

91. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has been acquiring sophisticated weapons and fighter aircrafts from the US, France and other countries ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to counter the situation;

(d) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with these countries that are supplying arms to Pakistan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (f). Government are aware of Pakistan's acquisition of sophisticated weapons from various countries, including the

USA and France. Government believe that the acquisition of weapons by Pakistan, far beyond its legitimate requirement, are not conducive to peace and security in the region.

Government have conveyed their views, on arms supply to Pakistan, to the concerned countries. Government will take all necessary measures to counter the adverse effects on India's security caused by the acquisition of arms by Pakistan.

[Translation]

Leasing of Mines

92. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :
SHRI BRIJBUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines for awarding mines on lease to private companies by State Governments,

(b) if so, the details there of,

(c) whether any complaints regarding violation of the guidelines have been received, and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government for redressal of grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) to (d). Grant of Mining Leases is regulated by the Mines & Minerals (Regulations & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made there under which contain detailed provisions and procedures for the grant of Mining Leases to Indian Nationals and Companies including private companies. Any person aggrieved by any order of the State Govt. passed under the said Act & rules thereunder can file a Revision application before the Central Govt. which is disposed of as per the provisions of law and the prescribed procedure.

[English]

Safe Drinking Water

93. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI BHOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :