

State Government also proposed to incorporate certain conditions such as setting up of a Steel plant, involvement of the State Government in the equity of the JV Company to the extent of 20%, recruitment of manpower from the State especially from District Bastar, establishment of schools/hospital in the area by the JV Company etc. The Ministry of Mines have approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of MMRD Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that "the State Government, the proposed joint venture company, i.e., Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the transfer and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument that may be executed between the parties".

Ministry of Mines vide their letter dated 13.6.96 requested Government of Madhya Pradesh to inform whether NMDC has consented to the conditions that the State Government proposed to incorporate under Rule 27(3) of the MCR, 1960.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested Ministry of Steel vide their letter dated 19.6.96 and 3.8.96 to advise NMDC to send their consent on the conditions proposed by the State Government.

The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta granted a stay order on the decision to transfer the lease of 11-B iron ore mines in favour of joint venture company on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Members of Parliament. The writ petition had been dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.1996. However, the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the JV Company against this order, the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court has ordered that the interim stay granted by the learned trial judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta against the order dismissing the original writ petition of jurisdiction grounds. These appeals are to come up before the regular bench.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has also been filed in the High Court of Delhi in July, 1996 against the transfer of Bailadila Deposit 11-B. The petition came up for hearing on 14.10.96. The case was adjourned to 29.10.96 to be placed before a different bench. However, the case was not listed on the said date. The case was again listed on 6.11.96. M/s. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. moved an application for being impleaded as a party. The application was allowed. After hearing the case on 18.2.97, it has now been adjourned to 26.3.97 for next hearing.

The stand taken by the Government is that the subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Court, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

Accidents in Industrial Establishments in Bihar

884. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents in industrial establishments in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have issued instructions to industrial establishments in the State to provide adequate safety as well as to check recurrence of such accidents therein; and

(c) if so, the name of industrial establishments which have adopted these safety measures and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the available information, the number of accidents which took place in industrial establishments in Bihar during 1993, 1994 are as under :

Year	number of accidents
1993	2674
1994	1532

Information for 1995 is not yet available.

(b) and (c) Safety measures required to be taken to check occurrence of accidents have been laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules framed there under. All industrial establishments are required to follow the same.

[Translation]

Child Labour

885. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government sleeping over growing child labour menace" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated December 13, 1996;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for elimination of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have taken a number of steps to prevent the type of accident which took place in the unregistered fire work unit named M.P. Fire works at Begnan, Howrah on 11.9.95. Inspectors appointed under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 have been directed by the State Government to be more vigilant in order to (i) find lapses/violation by the registered factories; (ii) find out unregistered