

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3521  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2005  
MMDR ACT  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether for some minerals included in Part C of first schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before granting of mineral concessions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether State Governments are seeking permission from the Union Government for these minerals from time to time;
- (d) whether some State Governments have granted mineral concessions without seeking approval of the Union Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether control of Union government over mining sector has continuously been coming down due to privatization of mines;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure good performance of mines in the public sector?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments only in case of minerals specified in the First Schedule, including minerals in Part C of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Part C of the First Schedule contains ten minerals, viz., asbestos, bauxite, chrome, copper, gold, iron, lead, manganese, zinc ores and precious stones.

(c) to (e) State Governments have been seeking such prior approvals for aforementioned minerals and no such instance of grant of mineral concession for minerals specified in the First Schedule, excluding coal & lignite but including minerals in Part C of the MMDR Act, without prior approval of the Central Government has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(f) & (g) Though mineral sector has been opened up for private sector, development and regulation of mines is under the control of the Union. All mining leases for major minerals are subjected to mandatory Mining Plan including an Environmental Management Plan duly approved and enforced by statutory authorities. All mining leaseholders are required to comply with the requirements of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which are administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Under Rule 23A of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, it is mandatory for every major mineral mine to have a progressive mine closure plan and a final mine closure plan for proper reclamation and rehabilitation of the area under mining lease.

(h) The performance of the mines under various central public sector undertakings is monitored as per parameters of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a quarterly basis by the administrative Ministries of respective central public sector undertakings.