

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1180
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
MINING LEASES
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Rare Earth Limited (IREL) has applied for mining leases in the year 2000 in Kanyakumari district and the same is pending with the State Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for its pendency;
- (c) whether the IREL Mining lease areas in Kanyakumari district has also been recommended for grant to private parties by the State Government; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Central Government to safeguard the interest of IREL?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes

(b) According to information furnished by the Tamil Nadu Government, details of two applications for grant of mining lease submitted by M/s. Indian Rare Earths Limited, Manavalakurichi, Kanyakumari District are as under:

Sr. No. Date of Application Taluk & Village Extent and SF No. Reasons for pending

1. 3.2.2000 Kalkulam, Ezhudesam 133.80.0 ha. The application is still under process with the Collector, Kanniyakumari District

2. 19.9.2000 Vilavancode Keelkulam and Midalam 321.07.0 ha. The application forwarded to the State Government for grant of mining lease has been returned on 5.8.2004 to the Collector for rectifying certain discrepancies and defects. The Collector, Kanniyakumari District has been addressed to rectify the defects and send a report.

(c) Yes

(d) The State Government has granted certain areas, originally included in the mining lease issued to M/s. Indian Rare Earths Limited, to private parties. M/s. Indian Rare Earths Limited filed a revision application No.27(1)2003-RC-II and the Government of India Tribunal by order dated 4.8.2003 stayed the operation of the amendment dated 23.1.2003 to the original mining lease granted by the State Government vide G.O. Ms. No.1085 dated 21.9.1977. Against this order of the Tribunal, the private party has filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Madras High Court and obtained a stay, and the matter is presently sub-judice.