

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:817
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
CHIRIA IRON ORE MINES
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the claim of the Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL) over the leaseholds on Chiria iron ore mines is in dispute with the Government of Jharkhand which is affecting the expansion of SAIL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the dispute?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the six leases in Chiria mines, three leases are under dispute namely, Ajitaburu, Sukri-Latur and Tatiburu. The other three leases namely, Budhaburu (McLellan), Dhobil and Ankua are under deemed extension. The delay in renewal of iron ore leases is affecting the development of a mechanized mine at Chiria. Moreover, after the current expansion of SAIL is completed, it will be difficult to meet the enhanced requirement of iron ore of SAIL's plants, particularly Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) and IISCO Steel Plant (ISP), without access to the Chiria deposits.

(c) Both the Ministry of Steel and SAIL have been making sustained efforts in the past three years to resolve the dispute amicably with the Government of Jharkhand. A number of meetings have been convened during which officials from the Ministry of Steel, Government of Jharkhand and SAIL have been present. The Union Minister of Steel has discussed this issue with the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on 24.9.2008 and 23.10.2008 and written requests have also been made to the Government of Jharkhand. However, this issue has not yet been resolved.