

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2225
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
MINING LICENCE
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any private Group has been granted licence for mining of bauxite in the Niyamgiri forest of Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of people including tribals likely to be displaced and affected as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has sanctioned any compensation to the affected tribal people; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES & MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION(SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (c) Mineral concessions (Mining Lease, Prospecting Licence and Reconnaissance Permit) are granted by respective State Governments. Prior approval of the Central Government is required in respect of minerals (including bauxite) specified in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 before grant of mineral concession by the State Government. Prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease to M/s Orissa Mining Corporation Limited for Bauxite in Niyamgiri Dongar area of Kalahandi and Rayagada district over an area of 721.323 hecets was accorded on 13.9.2004. As per the information furnished by the Government of Orissa, the entire quantity of bauxite to be raised from the area shall be exclusively used in the proposed alumina plant to be set up at Lanjigarh by M/s Sterlite Industries (P) Ltd / Vedanta Alumina Ltd. However, the said mining lease has not been granted to the company for want of forest clearance. The State Government has informed the company that the grant of mining lease is subject to the company obtaining forest and environment clearances. The State Government has also stated that there is no human habitation within the area of the said mining lease.

(d) & (e) Does not arise.