

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4428
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
MINING WITHOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to sanction the exploration of minerals and mining activities without environmental clearance in the country including in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which such proposal is likely to be approved?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): State Government grants mineral concession as the owners of minerals. However, prior approval of Central Government is necessary before grant of mineral concession in respect of specified minerals listed in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. The Central Government grants such prior approval subject to environment and forest clearance. Thus the Central Government does not give sanction for mining and exploration work directly. Further there is no such proposal with Government to give sanction for exploration and mining activities without environmental clearance.