

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1143  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011  
AWARD OF MINING LEASE  
Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad

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

- (a) whether the procedure for allotment and utilisation of mining leases has led to serious violations of forest and environment laws of the the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Ministry of Law and Justice has also opined against the present procedure;
- (d) if so, whether Ministry of Mines is going to evolve a transparent and competitive process for awarding mining leases for mining blocks;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b): All the mining leases allotted in terms of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder have to comply with Forest and Environment laws of the country. However, Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court in its Report on mining in Orissa had pointed out that 215 mines were working on deemed extension basis in terms of Rule 24A(9) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, pending renewal of the mining leases, mainly for want of forest clearance. The State Government of Orissa has been advised to dispose off the pending applications for renewal at the earliest.

(c): No such specific opinion of the Ministry of Law and Justice has been communicated.

(d) to (f): Yes, Madam. The draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act was referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM) set up by the Government on 14.6.2010. The said GoM held five rounds of detailed discussions and on 7.7.2011 has recommended the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 to be placed before the Cabinet. The Bill is proposed to be introduced in Parliament as per prescribed procedure, after obtaining Cabinet approval. The details of provisions as they stand in the draft MMDR Bill at present are by their nature secret, since the draft MMDR Bill is in the process of Cabinet approval.