

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1258
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012
ILLEGAL EXPORT OF IRON ORE
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that private sector companies in Karnataka have not only done illegal mining but also exported 35 lakh metric tonnes of iron ore;
- (b) if so, the names of the companies which have made the said exports along with the names of the countries to which the same was exported;
- (c) whether the Government's permission is required for the export of iron ore;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the guilty companies for violating the direction;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to impose a blanket ban on export of iron ore in view of the future requirements of the country; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (e): As per available information, Forest Department, State Government of Karnataka had seized about 8.06 lakh metric tonnes of ore without valid permits from Belikere Port. As per observations of the Supreme Court on the basis of Report of Central Empowered Committee, there is an illegal extraction of about 50.79 lakh tonnes of iron ore from forest areas of Karnataka during the period from 1.1.2009 till 31.5.2010. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 7th September, 2012 has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate in the matter.

Export of minerals, including iron ore is guided by Export-Import Policy. As per the policy, export of iron ore grades upto 64% Fe grade, Goan ore (export to China, Europe, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan) and ore from Redi region of the country is free irrespective of the Fe content and does not require any permission. Export of iron ore with Fe content more than 64%, and iron ore concentrate and pellets prepared by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited are required to be exported through State Trading Enterprises.

(f) and (g): At present, the export of iron ore is regulated by fiscal measures and an export duty of 30% on ad valorem basis is levied on all iron ore exports. As on date the Ministry of Mines does not have any proposal to impose a blanket ban on the export of iron ore.