

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6014
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
BENEFICIATION PLANTS FOR IRON ORE FINES
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large quantities of iron ore fines are generated during the course of mining which are not fit for use in blast furnaces without beneficiation;
- (b) if so, whether in large number of mines, owners are reluctant to set up beneficiation plants to save capital expenditure and dump these fines as waste resulting in loss of natural resources;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken for making it compulsory for mine owners to set up beneficiation plants; and
- (d) the compliance/implementation status in regard to setting up of beneficiation plants by the States, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a)&(b) Yes, Madam. Fines are generated during the process of mining of iron ore. Iron ore fines cannot be used in blast furnace without beneficiation/agglomeration. Iron ore fines are consumed mainly in the making of sintering and pellets to be used in the blast furnace. In order to use the low grade iron ore fines, there has been sizable growth in capacity of beneficiation, sintering and pelletisation in the country. Presently, Sintering and Pelletisation capacity are 60.5 million tonnes and 49.0 million tonnes, respectively (Source Joint Plant Committee).

(c) and (d) In view of the economy of scale, it is not possible to make compulsory for all mine owners to set up pelletisation plants. The Government is emphasizing on utilization of iron ore fines, by encouraging beneficiation through fiscal measures such as reducing basic custom duty on import of plants/equipments used in initial set up and expansion of iron ore pellet and beneficiation plants to 2.5% from 7.5% in the Budget 2012-13 and, withdrawing of export duty on iron ore pellets in the Budget 2011-12. The list of beneficiation plants mine owner wise as per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines is given at Annexure.