

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2370
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2009
CHIRIA IRON-ORE MINES
Sinha Shri Yashwant

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of the Government behind the leasing out of Chiria Iron-ore mines to Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);
- (b) whether the State Government has been given any information in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a)to(c): State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining leases with the prior approval of the Central Government in the case of iron ore under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) had requested the Government of Jharkhand to renew the mining leases at Chiria which belonged to the erstwhile Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO), which has been merged with SAIL with effect from 01.4.2005. The question of renewal of these leases is pending with the Government of Jharkhand and a few cases pertaining to renewal are also before the Courts. SAIL and the Ministry of Steel are in dialogue with the State Government to resolve the matter for ensuring the renewal of these leases in favour of SAIL.