

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1783

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013

GRANT OF MINERAL CONCESSIONS

Nishad Capt.(Retd.) Jainarayan Prasad;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai;Ram Shri Purnmasi;Sardinha Shri Francisco

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of applications for grant of mineral concessions received during each of the last three years and the current year along with the proposals approved by the State Governments and prior approvals conveyed by the Union Government in this regard, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the names of Public Sector Companies to which mineral concession has been granted during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether State of Gujarat has also recommended for prior approval of Union Government in respect of grant of mineral concessions for bauxite and other minerals;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and
- (e) the applications for grant of mineral concessions lying pending with the Union Government and the State Governments indicating the reasons for their pendency along with the steps taken /proposed to be taken for their expeditious clearance?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): As State Governments grant the mineral concessions in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act,1957 (MMDR Act,1957), and the Rules framed there under after necessary statutory clearances, details of applications for grant of mineral concession received and granted by the State Governments are not centrally maintained. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required under Section 5 (1) of the Act for grant of Reconnaissance Permit (RP),Prospecting License (PL) and Mining Lease(ML) in respect of minerals specified in Parts 'B' and 'C' of the First Schedule to the Act. Details of such proposals recommended by various State Governments and the prior approvals given by the Ministry of Mines thereto during the last three years and the current year, State/UT wise, is given in Annexure-I.

(b): The names of Public Sector Companies to whom prior approval of the Central has been conveyed for grant of mineral concessions during the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure -II.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): During the period in question, Government of Gujarat had recommended 20 applications for mineral concessions and there were three backlog applications. Prior approval of the Central Government has been conveyed in two cases, while one proposal has been returned to the State Government. Out of 20 proposals, references have been made to the State Government in 6 cases, and 14 cases are at various stages of process.

(e): The number of applications for grant of mineral concessions awaiting prior approval of the Ministry of Mines is given in Annexure-III. The number of applications pending with the major mineral bearing State Governments, as per their latest quarterly reports, is shown in Annexure-IV. The primary reasons for the delay at the Central level are insufficient information/documents furnished by the applicants, legal implications and inappropriate application of the provisions of the MMDR Act and Mineral Concession Rules (MCR),1960 by the State Governments.

The Ministry of Mines has taken several steps for expeditious clearance of mineral concession applications, viz.,

i. The Ministry of Mines has issued detailed guidelines on 24th June, 2009, 9th February, 2010, 29th July, 2010, 13th October, 2010 and 11th February,2013 in order to bring about more clarity and consistency in processing the mineral concession proposals. These guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (www.mines.nic.in).

ii. A Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Mines under the chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) to inter alia monitor and minimize delays in grant of approvals for mineral concessions.

iii. Regular reminders are given for expediting replies from the State Governments.