

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3335

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013

RELAXATION CONCESSIONS IN MINING SECTOR

Khaira Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides some relaxation/concessions in the mining sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the parameters/criteria fixed in this regard; and
- (c) the number of cases of relaxation pending with the Government and the period of their pendency along with the action taken/being taken by the Government for their clearance at the earliest?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): In terms of the provisions of Section 6(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, no person shall acquire in respect of any mineral or prescribed group of associated minerals [in a State] one or more Reconnaissance Permits (RPs), Prospecting Licenses (PLs) and Mining leases (MLs) covering a total area of more than 10,000 square kilometers, 25 square kilometres and 10 square kilometres respectively. However, the Central Government in the interests of development of any mineral, may permit any person to acquire one or more PLs or MLs covering an area in excess of the aforesaid total area. As per the guidelines dated 24.6.2009 issued by the Ministry of Mines, the broad criteria for considering relaxation cases are end use of the mineral, plant capacity, reserves held by the applicant and that available in the recommended area.

(c): The Ministry of Mines has in hand 59 proposals for relaxation of prescribed area limits for mining leases and 12 proposals for relaxation of prescribed ceilings for prospecting licenses. The period since receipt of these proposals ranges from 2 months to 5 years. Mineral concession proposals including relaxation proposals recommended by the State Governments are examined by the Ministry of Mines in the light of the provisions of the MMDR Act,1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, and where necessary, in consultation with the State Governments and other specialized organizations/agencies. As such, no specific timeframe for disposal of the proposals can be indicated. However, the Ministry of Mines has taken following steps for expeditious clearance of mineral concession proposals, viz.,

(i) Detailed guidelines have been issued 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); and

(ii) Regular reminders are given for expediting replies from the State Governments/concerned agencies to whom queries have been made for evaluating the merits of the proposals.