

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4031

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

IRREGULARITIES IN MINING SECTOR

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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are several reports of corruption in allotment of mining rights of different minerals in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken against persons found guilty alongwith the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (c): Reports of this nature have recently come to the notice of the Ministry of Mines. However, specific details thereof have not come to the notice of the Ministry. The State Governments are the owner of the minerals located within their respective boundaries. They grant the mineral concessions [Reconnaissance Permit (RP), Prospecting Licence (PL) and Mining Lease (ML)] under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Prior approval of the Central Government is required under Section 5 (1) of the Act for grant of RP, PL and ML in respect of the minerals specified in Parts 'B' and 'C' of the First Schedule to the Act.

The Ministry of Mines is conscious of the need to have a transparent and efficient system for processing the mineral concession cases. In pursuance of the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which inter alia enunciates adoption of quick and transparent procedures for grant of mineral concessions, the Ministry has taken several steps in this direction, as mentioned below:

(i) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Mines to monitor and minimize delays in grant of approvals for mineral concessions. The Committee consists of the Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the Secretaries in charge of Mining & Geology in the States. The first meeting of the Committee was held in the Ministry on 24.7.2009. The second meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 22.12.2009.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to similarly constitute Coordination Committees at the State level.

(iii) The Ministry of Mines is using the internet services to bring about more accessibility and transparency in processing the mineral concession proposals recommended by the State Governments. The website of the Ministry (www.mines.nic.in) provides all information on the current status of the applications for mineral concessions. These services are being further enhanced to track the process from approval for grant to execution of concession agreement.

(iv) The Ministry has, in consultation with the State Governments, issued detailed guidelines on 24.6.2009 in order to bring more clarity in processing the mineral concession proposals.

(v) The Ministry has framed a Model State Mineral Policy and circulated it to all State Governments on 12.10.2009 with the request to finalise and adopt a Mineral Policy as per their priority and requirements.

(vi) Procedures for revision under Section 30 of the MMDR Act, 1957 are being streamlined to reduce delays in disposal of revision applications.

(vii) All instances of corruption and illegal mining practices coming to the notice are taken up with State Governments with utmost seriousness and followed up.