

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2666
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014
MINING OF IRON ORE IN NAXALITE AREA
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adequate quantity of iron ore is not being mined in Surjagarh of Maharashtra due to naxalite and other violent activities;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to assign the mining work to some public sector undertakings apart from the companies already engaged in this work;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to have a permanent solution to the problems in national interest in view of the difficulties being faced in mining of iron ore available in other naxal affected areas of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) to (c): The Government of Maharashtra has informed that mining activity has not started in Surjagarh area in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra and no area of the Gadchiroli district has been reserved for public sector undertakings for mining of iron ore.

(d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, action with respect to maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has a holistic approach towards combating Left Wing Extremism wherein it supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of security related and developmental related issues. As and when the issues relating to security of mines come to the notice of the Government, suitable advisories are issued to the State Government concerned to take necessary steps to strengthen the security of mines including increasing the deployment of security forces personal in the mining areas.

The Government of Maharashtra has informed that necessary measures are being taken by the concerned authorities to start mining activities in the area.