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Title: Regarding alleged illegal mining of bauxite in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (BHADRACHALAM): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

This is an issue on illegal bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam District. Bauxite mining permissions were given to two private mining companies – ZSWA Limited and RAS AL Khaimah, without contemplating any procedure as per the Constitution. There was no environment impact study was done and there was no public hearing that was held. There was no survey also taken up by the GSI.

Bauxite is present at Jerrela Block, Galikonda, Rakthakonda and Chittingonda which falls within the Fifth Schedule of our Constitution. As per the PESA Act of 1996, it is unconstitutional and illegal to mine in the area without conducting Gram Sabhas. The mining will create environmental pollution besides displacing hundreds of tribal villages.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Mines and the National Pollution Control Board to take up the following measures: (1) cancel the MoU with two private companies as it undermines all legal procedures. (2) stop the construction of Aluminium refinery at Makavarapalem and Boddavara. (3) conduct the environment impact assessment survey in a scientific manner and (4) consult and discuss with local people's representatives including Gram Sabhas. Thank you.