

- (a) whether a large number of applications for mining on lease basis pertaining to various States are pending with the Government for approval for a long time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) reasons for the delay in this regard; and
- (d) time by which the approval is likely to be given in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder, by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of Mineral Concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Govt. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete and consequently in such cases, State Governments are asked to furnish complete information/ additional information for disposal.

102 cases pertaining to grant of mining leases were disposed of in respect of First Schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act during 1998-99 (from 1.4.98 to 30.11.98). 3 cases for grant of mining leases in case of Part A and 68 cases for grant of mining leases in respect of Parts B & C of First Schedule of the Act are pending with Central Govt. as on 30.11.98. List showing pending cases for approval for grant of mining leases with Central Govt. for minerals listed in Part A & Parts B/C of 1st Schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act 1957 as on 30.11.98 are given in Statement-I & II respectively.

**Statement-I**

State	Pending Cases as on 30.11.1998
Maharashtra	1
Bihar	1
Rajasthan	1
	3

**Statement-II**

State	Pending Cases as on 30.11.1998
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	22

1	2
Gujarat	08
Haryana	01
Himachal Pradesh	01
Karnataka	03
Madhya Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	04
Orissa	09
Rajasthan	04
Tamil Nadu	06
	68

[English]

**Nikel Extraction Plant**

2021. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Nikel Extraction Plant at Sukinda Valley in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

[Translation]

**Excess Staff in Air India and Indian Airlines**

2022. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :  
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether excess Staff is employed in Air India and Indian Airlines;
- (b) if so, the total number of extra employees in both the organisations, separately;

(c) whether any Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been evolved by the Government to retrench the excess staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any Scheme has also been formulated to provide employment to these extra employees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) While no category of employees has been identified as excess in Air India and Indian Airlines, the employee to aircraft ratio in both the airlines is higher in comparison with other reputed airlines. The Voluntary Retirement Scheme is yet to be finalised by either airlines. Both the airlines consider, from time to time, various alternatives for more effective utilisation of their work force.

[English]

#### Incidents of Air Miss

2023. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air miss incidents took place in the Indian skies during 01.01.1996 to 31.10.1998;

(b) the loss of lives and property in each incident; and

(c) the main steps contemplated by the Government to avoid such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) A total of 42 airmiss incidents have been reported in the Indian sky during 01.01.1996 to 31.10.1998 (1996-12, 1997-14, 1998-16).

(b) There were no loss of lives or property in these incidents.

(c) The main steps taken to avoid air-miss incidents are :

(i) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers; (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers; (iii) Monthly random analysis of ATC tape transcripts to ensure that Air Traffic Controllers use standard phraseology and follow the laid down procedure while giving instruction to aircraft; (iv) Appropriate action against Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) involved in ATC incidents; (v) Modernisation of Air Traffic services at Delhi and Mumbai Airports; (vi) Proper maintenance, navigational communication and landing facilities; (vii) Installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aircraft and Mode 'S'

transponder; and (viii) Installation of Mono-pulse Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR) for radar coverage in major high density routes.

#### Urban Infrastructure Development Projects

2024. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether ADB has agreed to assist Urban Infrastructure Development Project of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance received so far;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from Karnataka seeking ADB assistance for the development of West Cost districts of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project (KUIDP) is an integrated urban infrastructure and institutional strengthening programme which has been designed to provide and upgrade essential urban infrastructure and services in the four towns of Mysore, Tumkur, Ramanagaram and Channapatna in order to promote decentralisation of economic growth away from the rapidly expanding Bangalore city and to build up the capacity of the urban local Governments and other sector institutions to help ensure the sustainability of the investments.

The project is estimated to cost US \$ 112 million of which US \$ 85 million is financed by the Asian Development Bank and the remaining US \$ 27 million is financed by Karnataka State, the Urban Local Governments and the implementing Agencies. The loan was signed on 10.5.96. In addition, another agreement has been signed between ADB and Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) for a loan of US \$ 20 million for a component on low income housing project.

The primary components of the project include (i) environments (ii) road improvements (iii) poverty alleviation (iv) industrial sites and services and (v) implementation assistance and institutional strengthening.

As on date an expenditure of Rs. 47.985 crores has been made in respect of various components of the project.