

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF MINERALS .

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SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE

Will the Minister of COALMINES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Central Government has urged the State Governments to re-estimate the reserved mineral deposits and ensure optimum utilization of the minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and State Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether some new companies have shown interest in the field of mining and demanded mines to be given on lease;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF MINES

(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): In exercise of the powers under Rule 27(3) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the Central Government has directed all the State Government to impose a special condition in all the existing and future leases in the country for major minerals (excluding coal minerals) covering reserved areas also where mining leases would be granted in future, requiring the owner of mining lease to:

(a) ensure that prospecting work is carried out in his lease area at his own cost in such mining lease where:
(i) prospecting has not been done and a Prospecting Report has not been filed with the Indian Bureau of Mines;

(ii) the Prospecting Report for the mining lease has been prepared in terms of standards that are materially different or incompatible with UNFC standards;

(iii) fresh prospecting work has become necessary for such minerals for which the threshold values have been revised by the Indian Bureau of Mines; and

(iv) fresh prospecting is required to prove the depth persistency of the ore or mineral deposit;

(b) ensure that prospecting work shall be completed as per the time-schedule given below:

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1 All mining lease with an area of less than 10 hectares.
Within one year of the imposition of the condition in the mining lease.

2 All mining leases with an area more than 10 hectares and less than 50 hectares. One half of the area within one year of the imposition of the condition in the mining lease and remaining half of the mining lease area within three years of imposition of condition in the mining lease.

3 All mining leases with an area of more than 50 hectares.
The mining lease area to be equally demarcated for prospecting work such that all the prospecting work is completed in a period of five years from the date of imposition of the condition in the mining lease.

(c) submit yearly report on the progress in the prospecting work alongwith the expenditure details and also a complete Prospecting Report with a feasibility report at end of the prospecting Report, to the Chief Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, and concerned State Government.

The imposition of the condition by the State Governments and re-estimation of mineral deposits is reviewed from time to time.

(c) to (e):As per the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, all applications for grant of mining leases are filed with the State Governments. Prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of Mineral Concession for minerals in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. As per available information, prior approvals for 316 mining leases, 283 prospecting licences and 144 reconnaissance permits for major minerals (excluding fuel, atomic and minor minerals) have been granted by the Central Government from 2006-07 to 25.11.2010, details of which are available on the website of Ministry of Mines (<http://mines.nic.in>). Indian Bureau of Mines has approved 675 mining plans for fresh grant of mining lease in the country from 2007-08 to 2009-10.