

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3069
FOR ANSWER ON 03/05/2012

CLEARANCE TO IRON ORE MINES

3069. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests refused to accord clearances for the SAIL's three key iron ore mines in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for refusal;
- (c) the plans of the PSU to get the 80,000 million tonne of ore annually which it has planned to get from these iron ore mines; and
- (d) the action the Ministry has taken or would take so that the Ministry of Environment and Forests would give its accord for mining here and by when?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests examined the proposals of Jhillingburu-I, Jhillingburu-II and Topailore leases of Gua iron ore mines of SAIL in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on 24.01.2012 for issuance of Term of Reference (ToR) for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)/Environment Management Plan (EMP) reports. The EAC has observed that these leases are located in the West Singhbhum District, an area identified as severely polluted in terms of the respirable suspended particulate matter exceeding the prescribed levels. The EAC has therefore, deferred and kept the proposals in abeyance till appropriate control measures are implemented in the said area. The proposal is still pending with MoEF for approval. The shortfall in the supplies of iron ore as a result of the closure of mines is being met from other operating mines as a short term measure.

(d) Ministry of Steel has taken up the matter on several occasions with MoEF to expedite the grant of forest and environment clearances in respect of pending leases of iron ore mines including Gua.
