NEW LEGISLATION FOR MINING CLEARANCE

844. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a legislative proposal to cut red tape in mining project clearance;
(b) whether the legislation envisages strict time line or official machinery to process files;
(c) if so, whether analysis shows that prospecting applications have to pass through hundred officials at the State and Centre levels and there were instances when even after prior approval had been granted by the Centre, States take as many as four years to clear applications; and
(d) if so, to what extent this new legislation would help to avoid such delays?

ANSWER

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

(a): No Sir.

(b): Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c): As per the proviso to Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act 1957, State Governments are required to obtain previous approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions for minerals specified in the First schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957.

State Governments are empowered to grant mineral concessions for rest of the minerals (other major minerals not specified in the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957 and minor minerals) without requiring to obtain the previous approval of the Central Government. Details of time taken by State Governments to process grant of mineral concession are not maintained centrally.

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

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