1539. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dolomite mines operating in Chhattisgarh and since when the same are operating;
(b) the number of illegal mines in the State which are causing revenue loss to Government; and
(c) whether Government is in a position to take action against the illegal mines by giving the same on lease and if so, the time by when?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): State Governments grant mining leases for Dolomite. Information regarding the number of dolomite leases granted by state governments is not maintained centrally. However, on the basis of information made available by the Government of Chhattisgarh, 79 mining leases of Dolomite are sanctioned in the State of Chhattisgarh, out of which presently 50 mining leases are operational, since their date of execution.

(b) & (c): The Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that no case of illegal mining of dolomite has been reported.

(c): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 state governments have complete powers to make rules for prevention of illegal mining and for purposes connected therewith. So far 20 States (including Chhattisgarh) have framed rules under section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 to curb illegal mining.