GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2338  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH 2015  

PERMISSION OF MINING ACTIVITIES IN AREA OF ST AND ST MAJORITY AREAS

2338. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is permitting mining activities in the areas where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are in majority;
(b) if so, whether any stringent rules have been prescribed by Government for mining activities;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Regulation of mining, including grant of mineral concessions, is governed by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, which does not have an embargo on grant of mining leases in the areas where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are in majority.

As per section 4(k) of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 the recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas. Approvals under the MMDR Act, 1957 does not absolve the mineral concession holders from compliance of prescribed statutory provisions in force.

The MMDR Amendment Ordinance, 2015 promulgated on 12.1.2015 to amend the MMDR Act, 1957 inter-alia provides for establishment of District Mineral Foundation for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining related operations.

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