

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1688
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
LEASE OF CHIRIA AND OTHER MINES TO IISCO
Khan Shri Sunil

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has framed any policy to restore the mines in the Indian hands and the State should not be the sole authority to crash the public sector undertakings;
- (b) if so, whether IISCO will get the lease of Chiria and other mines situated in Jharkhand ;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the decision taken in regard to POSCO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) : The policy framework for mining and utilization of minerals is set out in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and the National Mineral Policy, 1993. Anyone can undertake mining, based on the economic viability of the project, provided such a person is an Indian national or a company registered in India.

(b)&(c): As per the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the power for renewal of mining lease in respect of minerals specified in part C(which includes iron ore) of the First Schedule of MMDR Act vest with the State Governments. IISCO had filed an application for renewal of the mining lease for its iron ore mines located in Mouza Jhilingburu, Mouza Budhabura and Mouza Ankua reserved forests in West Singhbhum, Jharkhand before the State Government which were rejected by the State Government. Subsequently, IISCO had filed revision applications before the Tribunal (Mines) against the orders of the State Government. After due hearing, the Tribunal (Mines) has quashed the orders of the State Government and remanded the cases to the State Government for reconsideration of the renewal applications for the above said areas.

(d): No proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concession in favour of POSCO has been received by the Ministry of Mines as yet from the State Government of Orissa.