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Media Release

Jharkhand contributes Nine Per Cent of Minerals in India : Prepares Action Plan to Curb Illegal Mining

Mines Min Informs MP Nathwani in RS

Aug 2, 2010 : Jharkhand contributed nine per cent in total value of mineral production of India during 2008-09 and it is one of the ten States of the country which prepared action plan at the instance of the Centre to curb illegal mining. Mr. B. K. Handique, the union minister of mines and development of North-East region informed rajya sabha to-day in response to a question from member Mr. Parimal Nathwani.

Jharkhand produces bauxite, copper, dolomite, feldspar, fire-clay, gold, graphite, iron-ore, kaolin, kyanite, laterite, lime-stone, manganese ore, prophyllite, pyroxenite, quartz, quartzite and silica sand minerals. While Jharkhand is one of the ten States to have prepared action plan, as advised by the central government, to monitor and curb illegal mining; it is yet to set up a Co-ordination-Cum-Empowered Committee in accordance with guidelines and suggestions of the central ministry to look into the issues such as illegal mining and measures to prevent, detect and control it. The minister informed.

The minister also stated that Indian Bureau of Mines constituted special task force teams which conducted inspections in 106 mines in endemic areas of five states viz. Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Gujarat between December 7, 2009 and December 17, 2009; and suspended operations in 60 mines. Out of the 60 suspended mines, 58 applied for revocation of suspension orders; but two mines (one each in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh) were recommended for termination; it was added.

A draft Model State Mineral Policy is circulated to all the state governments by the centre. State governments grant mining leases as the owner of the minerals. Prior approval of the central government, however, is mandatory to grant of mineral concession under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

Mr. Parimal Nathwani has been taking up in Parliament the issues of immediate concerns to the State of Jharkhand besides the issues of larger national interests.

