

tonnes of iron ore a year whereas inspections showed that in reality, another 30-40 million tonnes of ore was illegally mined and siphoned off; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its reports submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court stated about large scale illegal mining in the State of Karnataka. Based on the reports of the CEC, Hon'ble Supreme Court entrusted the cases of illegal export of iron ore from Belikere Port, illegal mining by Associated Mining Company and illegal mining carried out by Deccan Mining Syndicate for investigation to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Besides this, Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its judgment dated 18.4.2013 in the WP(C) No. 562 of 2009 has, *inter-alia*, cancelled 51 mining lease in Karnataka and imposed a penalty of Rs. 5 crores for illegal mining pit and Rs. 1 crores for illegal dumping. The Government of Karnataka has informed that the State Government has complied with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order by extending its cooperation to CBI and also stated that the State Government will comply with the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 18.4.2013 in the WP(C) No. 562 of 2009.

Enquiry into mining of Iron and Manganese ore

3656. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee to enquire into the matter of mining of iron and manganese ores across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose therefor; and

(c) whether the committee has submitted its preliminary report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has appointed Shri Justice M. B. Shah Commission of Inquiry (COI) under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 to inquire into the large scale mining of iron ore and manganese ore without lawful authority in several States *vide* notification No. S.O.2817 dated 22.11.2010. The terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry are:

(i) to inquire into and determine the nature and extent of mining and trade and transportation, done illegally or without lawful authority, of iron ore

and manganese ore, and the losses resulting there from; and to identify, as far as possible, the persons, firms, companies and others that are engaged in such mining, trade and transportation of iron ore and manganese ore, done illegally or without lawful authority;

- (ii) to inquire into and determine the extent to which the-management, regulatory and monitoring systems have failed to deter, prevent, detect and punish offences relating to mining, storage, transportation, trade and export of such ore, done illegally or without lawful authority, and the persons responsible for the same;
- (iii) to inquire into the tampering of official records, including records relating to land and boundaries, to facilitate illegal mining and to identify, as far as possible, the persons responsible for such tampering; and
- (iv) to inquire into the overall impact of such mining, trade, transportation and export, done illegally or without lawful authority, in terms of destruction of forest wealth, damage to the environment, prejudice to livelihood and other rights of tribal people, forest dwellers and other persons in the mined areas, and the financial losses caused to the Central and State Governments.

(c) Commission has submitted its 'First Interim Report' on 14th July, 2011 and the 'Report on the State of Goa' on 15th March, 2012 (part I and II) and on 25th April, 2012 (part III) respectively.

**Screening Committee for evaluation of
exploration applications**

3657. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Screening Committee was constituted for the purpose of evaluation of applications for exploration of mineral bearing offshore blocks located in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal during 2011;

(b) if so, the details of composition, powers and functions of such committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?