

Calling Attention tabled by Hon'ble MLA Dr. Pramod Sawant

Sub: "Anxiety in the minds of the mining workers who were terminated from service by the mining Companies viz. M/s. Sesa, M/s Vedanta, M/s. Fomento Group of Company, M/s. V.M. Salgaonkars, M/s. Bandekars and others due to stoppage of mining in the State. Now as the mining industry has been commenced, the staff/workers who were terminated is to be re-instated. Steps the Government plans to resolve the matter in the interest of local workers".

Reply by Shri Laxmikant Parsekar, Hon'ble Chief Minister / Minister for Mines

Speaker Sir,

The State Government has been always concerned about well being of the citizen of the State of Goa. Immediately after Hon'ble Supreme Court of India imposed ban on mining activities in the State of Goa, vide its order dated 05/10/201 in W.P.(C) No. 435/2012 filed by Goa Foundation v/s. Union of India & Othrs. Taking cognisance of the fact that such stoppage of mining activity would directly impact the workers, truck owners, drivers, machinery owners, barge owners etc.,

The State Government has formulated an Umbrella scheme namely Mining Affected People scheme to provide relief to such mining effected people, truck owners and barge owners and accordingly so far 8829 people were provided with relief to the extent of Rs. 148.14 crores.

The State Government efficiently put forth the stand before Hon'ble Apex Court with regards factual positions on the grounds and efforts made by the State Government after March 2012 by Mines department to efficiently regulate the mining activities in the State of Goa.

The plight of people dependent on mining activities was put forth before the Hon'ble Apex Court of India.

After consisting all the material evidence placed before Hon'ble Apex Court, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 21/04/2014, finally disposed off Writ Petition with certain directions to the State Government.

Order of Hon'ble Apex Court was further interpreted by Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in bench of Writ Petitions decided by judgement and order passed on 13/08/2014, pursuant to which the State Government has framed the Goa Grant of Mining Leases Policy, 2014 and accordingly passed second renewal orders in 88 applications filed by the lease holders.

The MMDR Act is a Central Legislation and duties and functions of various departments are given in water tight compartments thereby leaving no scope for overlap between one department to another or the State Government and Central Government.

The State Government took up various issues with the Central Government so that there could be early resumption of mining activities in the State of Goa and there is economy prosperity amongst Citizens of Goa more significantly because of the capping imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India upto 20MT which is less than 50% of actual production undertaken before ban. Coupled with the facts that prices of ore have gone down to one third of prices of mineral before the ban in 2012. The efforts of the State Government were successful and certain reliefs sought by the State Government were granted by Central Government.

The issue concerning labour employed for mining activity comes under the jurisdiction of Central Government under Central Labour Department office at Vasco, the State Government does not have any control on such Department of Central Government.

However, various lease holders were requested not to terminate or retrench the labourers for mining activity this request to a large extent was honoured by lease holders.

The State shall continue to persuade the lease holders not to terminate and re-employ the terminated labourers if any in mining sector so that they are not affected despite reduction of production limit imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and sharp fall in prices of mineral.