പതിനാലാം കേരള നിയമസഭ പതിനെട്ടാം സമ്മേളനം

<u>നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത</u> ചോദ്യം നം. 2416

12.02.2020 ൽ മറ്റപടിക്ക്

കരിമണൽ ഖനനം

ചോദ്യം

മറുപടി

ശ്രീ.ഡി.കെ. മുരളി

ഇ.പി.ജയരാജൻ (വ്യവസായവും സ്പോർട്സും യുവജനകാര്യവും വകപ്പമന്ത്രി)

- (എ) കരിമണൽ ഖനനം സംബന്ധിച്ച് സംസ്ഥാന (എ) സർക്കാരിന്റെ നയം എന്താണെന്ന് & വിശദീകരിക്കാമോ; (ബി)
- (ബി) ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച ഉത്തരവുകളുടെ പകർപ്പകൾ ലഭ്യമാക്കാമോ?

ധാതുമണൽ ഖനനം പൊതുമേഖലയിൽ മാത്രമായി പരിമിതപ്പെടുത്തുമെന്നും, എന്നാൽ ധാതുമണൽ ഖനനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് നിലവിലുള്ള ബഹു. സുപ്രീംകോടതി ഉത്തരവ് പാലിക്കപ്പെട്ടമെന്നും സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാരിന്റെ 2018 ലെ വ്യവസായ നയത്തിൽ വ്യക്തമാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൂടാതെ 20.02.2019 ൽ കേന്ദ്രസർക്കാർ 2016 ലെ അറ്റോമിക് മിനറൽ കൺസെഷൻ ചട്ടങ്ങൾ ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്യകയും സ്വകാര്യമേഖലയിൽ അനവദിച്ച കരിമണൽ ഖനനാനമതികൾ റദ്ദാക്കുന്നതിനായി സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാരിന് നിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രസ്തത നൽകകയും നിർദേശം 08.04,2016 തീയതിയിലെ കരിമണൽ ഖനനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ബഹ. സ്പ്രീംകോടതി വിധിയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ സർക്കാർ പരിശോധിച്ചവരികയാണ്. കരിമണൽ ഖനനം സംബന്ധിച്ച് കേന്ദ്രസർക്കാരിനു മാത്രമേ നിയമനിർമ്മാണം സാധിക്കുകയുള്ള. നടത്തുവാൻ ആയതിനാൽ കരിമണൽ ഖനന നയം സംബന്ധിച്ച് സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവൊന്നം പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാർ പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ച ഉത്തരവിന്റെ പകർപ്പ് അനബന്ധമായി ചേർക്കുന്നു.

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഹീസർ

F. No. 1/1/2019-M.V1 Government of India Ministry of Mines

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi Dated: 1st March, 2019

ORDER

Subject: Premature termination of all mineral concessions of Beach Sand Minerals found in the teri or beach sand, held by private companies, under the provisions of Section 4A(1) of the MMDR Act, 1957 -reg.

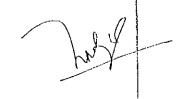
Whereas in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government has amended the Atomic Minerals Concession Rules (AMCR), 2016 vide G.S.R. 126(E) dated 19th February, 2019 called the Atomic Minerals Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2019.

- 2. Whereas in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rule 36 of the AMCR, 2016, the Central Government has amended AMCR, 2016 vide G.S.R. 134(E) dated 20th February, 2019 called the Atomic Minerals Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 2019.
- 3. Whereas the Schedule A of the AMCR, 2016 prescribing the particulars of threshold value for atomic minerals has been substituted by the Second Amendment to AMCR, 2016 vide G.S.R. 134(E) dated 20th February, 2019, and the threshold values for:
 - i. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (Ilmenite, Rutile and Leucoxene):
 - ii. Uraniferousallanite, monazite and other thorium minerals:
- iii. Zirconium bearing minerals and ores including zircon:
- iv. Beach Sand Minerals i.e. economic heavy minerals found in the teri or beach sand, which include Ilmenite, Rutile, Leucoxene, Garnet, Monazite, Zircon and Silimanite:

occurring in Beach Sand Minerals and other placer deposits in association with monazite are notified as above threshold (i.e. the threshold is 0.00% monazite in Total Heavy Minerals), irrespective of monazite grade.

5. Ilmenite, Rutile, Leucoxene, Monazite, Zircon, Silimanite and Garnet occur together as a group of associated minerals with varying concentrations in beach sands and other placer deposits. With the development of latest technologies, Monazite & Zircon available in association with beach sand minerals are used for strategic and hi-tech

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applications. Zircon, the main mineral of zirconium, is the most important ore of the rare element, Hafnium. Monazite is a mineral comprising rare earths and Thorium. Monazite found in the country has a high percentage of rare earth, Neodymium. In addition to various other industrial applications of Beach Sand Minerals, Zirconium alloys & Hafnium, Rare Earth alloys & compounds and Thorium have extensive applications in Atomic Energy, Defence and Space sectors for various strategic purposes in the country.

- 6. Zirconium, Hafnium and Thorium are very important strategic elements for the ongoing Nuclear power installations and 3rd stage Nuclear Power Programme in the Country. Monazite being the primary source of Thorium and Rare Earth, occurring in association with Beach Sand Minerals, any loss or leakage of Monazite or Zircon due to mineral processing or handling of Beach Sand Minerals will be significant loss to the country affecting the National Security.
- 7. Ilmenite, Rutile and Leucoxene are Titaniferrous minerals. Titanium sponge is known for its high strength and low weight, making it ideal material for aircraft manufacturing including fighter aircraft. The material is also used in nuclear plants, engine parts, ocean platforms, reactors and heat exchangers.
- 8. Whereas in the view of protecting and conserving the critical elements viz: Rare Earths, Thorium, Zirconium and Hafnium occurring in Beach Sand Minerals towards meeting the future strategic needs, the Central Government is of the opinion that it is expedient to regulate the mines & mineral development and conservation of Beach Sand Mineral resources.
- 9. Whereas in the view of the amendment made to Schedule A of AMCR 2016 under G.S.R. 134(E) dated 20th February, 2019, all the existing mineral concessions of the Beach Sand Minerals are above threshold. Rule 5(1) of AMCR 2016, prescribes that where the grade of atomic minerals is equal to or above the threshold value, the mining lease can invariably be granted to a Government company or corporation owned by the Government only.
 - 10. Whereas in view of the facts and circumstances above, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4A(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government, after consultation with the State Governments decides that it is expedient in the interest of regulation of mines and minerals development and conservation of mineral resources to terminate all the existing mineral concessions of Beach Sand Minerals held by private person / company in the country. Hence, the State Governments are requested to take necessary action as per provisions of Section 4A(1) and 4A(3) of the MMDR Act, 1957.

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- 11. The Beach Sand Minerals mineral concessions held by a Government company or corporation owned or controlled by the Government and which are not in contravention of any of the provisions of the Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed thereunder shall continue.
- 12. Henceforth, any mineral concession of Beach Sand Minerals shall be granted to a "Government company or corporation owned or controlled by the Government" under the provisions of the Atomic Minerals Concession Rules, 2016.
- 13. This Order issues with the approval of the competent authority...

(Dr. Niranjan Kumar Singh)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Ministry of Mines