

(v) The rate of royalty will range from Rs. 300 per cubic metre for black granite to Rs. 200 cubic metre for colour granite.

(vi) An annual dead rent of Rs. 10,000 per hectares will be charged if the lease holders fail to develop their mines within the prescribed time limit.

Production of granite

1669. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of granite in India in terms of quantity and value annually;

(b) what quantity of granite out of this is exported annually;

(c) whether any quantity of granite is imported also if so, how much is imported annually; and

(d) what is our quality of granite as compared to that of produced abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The total production, exports and imports of granite in India in quantity and value during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93 are as given below:—

Year	Production		Exports		Imports	
	Qty. in thousand tonnes	Value in Rs. crores.	Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs. lakhs	Qty. in tonnes	Value in Rs. lakhs
1990-91	1285	N.A.	636808	24233	649	57
1991-92	1012	N.A.	714951	37611	917	289
1992-93	992	289*	1223270	50397	106	18

N.A.—Not available

*excluding value of production in Tamil Nadu.

(d) No comparative study of quality of granite produced abroad and in India seems to have been made. However large number of popular colours, varieties and grades of Indian granite are in demand in the international market.

Mineral concession for NMDC

1670. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to cancel or withdraw the mineral concessions for NMDC in respect of iron ore in the Kumaraswamy mines near Saudur in Belary district of Karnataka and to transfer the concessions to M/s. Jindals;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received a memorandum submitted by the workers of Donimalai Iron Ore Project Employees Association to the Prime Minister protesting against this move; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) There is no such proposal under Central Government's consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Donimalai Iron Ore Project Employees' Association, in their memorandum dated 7-5-1994 submitted to Prime Minister of India have protested

against transfer of mining lease in respect of Kumaraswamy Iron Ore deposit in District Bellary held by NMDC in favour of new Steel Plants to be established in the State. NMDC plans to work Kumaraswamy Iron Ore deposit fully as replacement of Donimalai Iron Ore project on exhaustion of Donimalai deposits.

Licence to Multinational Companies for Mining

1671. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multinational companies have been given lease and licences to operate different mines in the country during the past two years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof country-wise and mine-wise;

(c) whether these foreign firm have asked to revise the royalty rates, and is so, the details thereof;

(d) whether as a result thereof the country's Public Sector companies operating such mines at present have been endangered;

(e) whether any protection has been assured before the entry of multinational companies is allowed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases are given by the concerned State Governments as per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. In case of companies, the Act envisaged that a mining lease/prospecting licence can be given only to a company in which majority of the Directors were Indian citizens and not less than sixty per cent of the share capital was held by persons who are either citizens of India or companies as defined in the companies Act,

1956. This Act was amended on 25-1-1994 and it now permits grant of a prospecting licence or a thing lease only to a company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b), (d), (e) and (f) Does not arise.

(c) Suggestions for revision and rationalisation of royalty rates are received from time to time from various sources. A view on such suggestions is taken as and when these rates are revised in accordance with provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

Mineral Exploitation in the country

1672. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Indian Resources (AIR), a company set up by a consortium of mining firms in Western Australia to act as a vehicle for mineral exploitation in India, has applied for prospecting licences for 50,000 square kilometers in India;

(b) if so, the areas identified for prospecting in the various States concerned and the various minerals and metals like gold, copper, nickel, zinc and platinum to be explored and exploited; and

(c) Government's reaction to the grant of mining rights in India sought for by the Australian firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the various State Governments/UTs and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Parliamentary Privileges

1673. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider codifying Parliamentary Privileges; and