

provided through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited at 486 District Courts and 1272 Taluka Court complexes. In addition, internet connections have also been provided at the home offices of 10744 Judicial Officers. For development of Software Application, the base version of the application has been decided and is now being tested in 8 locations. For site preparation, estimates have been received for approx. 2200 court complexes. An amount of Rs. 38.64 crore has been transferred to States. 499 District Courts complexes have so far reported site preparation work as completed across various High Courts. A grant of Rs.212.95 crore has been provided to NIC for the implementation of the scheme till 31.03.2009.

(d) The above scheme is being implemented in close co-operation with the State Governments and the High Courts including of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Royalty on Iron-ore**

2497.SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R. C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would link the royalty rates levied on extraction of iron-ore to its prevailing market price;

(b) if so, the reasons and the details in this regard;

(c) what would be the royalty rates and whether these rates have been considered by some high-powered group; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The proposal for revision of rates of royalty is under consideration of the Government.

#### **State of NALCO**

2498.SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit of NALCO has gone down;

(b) the net profit of NALCO from 2004 to 2008, year-wise;

(c) what is the total investment in NALCO for modernization and whether it is a fact that the cost of modernization has increased because of delay in work; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there has not been a regular Chairman of NALCO for the last 10 years and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Year-wise details of net profit of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) for the years from 2004-2008 are given below:

Year	Rs. in crore
2004-05	1,235
2005-06	1,562
2006-07	2,381
2007-08	1,632
2008-09	1,272

(c) The ongoing 2nd phase expansion of NALCO was approved by the Government of India in October, 2004 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,091.51 crores (at July, 2003 price level) which has since been revised to Rs. 4,402 crores (at November, 2008 price level). The escalation is mainly due to change in scope, change in statutory levies and duties, besides exchange rate variation and on account of changes in price index.

(d) In view of allegations of sexual harassment made by a lady employee, the then Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of NALCO was asked to proceed on leave in February, 2004. Additional charge arrangements for the post of CMD were made by appointing a functional Director in his place. In view of an injunction from the Delhi High Court, the process for regular filling up of the post of CMD, NALCO, could not be initiated, till the expiry of the tenure of the charged officer. However, a proposal for appointing a regular incumbent to the post of CMD, NALCO has been moved for approval of the competent authority.

#### Scholarship for Muslims

2499.SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 20 lakh Muslims in Andhra Pradesh are eagerly waiting for scholarships;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(c) what funds Government has released and spent so far for the current year in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Funds have not been released to any of the States/UTs under the scholarship schemes for the current year as no proposals have been received from them.

#### Low returns on Wakf properties

2500.SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: