

has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an under-trial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence.

Section 436(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has also been amended to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused of a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

(ii) In 2006, the Government of India introduced the system of 'plea bargaining', primarily to reduce pendency of cases in trial courts and overcrowding in prisons.

(iii) Fast Track Courts were set up for speedy disposal of long pending sessions cases and the cases of under-trial prisoners.

Royalty on minerals

3485. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Minerals Industries (FIMI) has opposed the proposed market linked royalty on minerals including iron ore;

(b) if so, whether the Federation has also urged Government to hike the levy in the existing production linked system;

(c) if so, the criteria laid down on providing royalty to the States on minerals;

(d) whether Government proposes to revise the criteria; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) The Central Government constituted a Study Group for revision of rates of royalty and dead rent, which included State Governments, concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government and Federation of Indian Minerals Industries (FIMI). The views of FIMI were considered by the Study Group and rates of royalty and dead rent recommended to Central Government taking into account the dynamics of market and provides buoyancy in revenues without interference of Government. The Report of the Study Group is available on the website of Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.gov.in>). Based on the recommendations of Study Group, Government has revised rates of royalty and dead rent vide Official Gazette Notification No. G. S. R. 574(E) dated 13.8.2009 and G. S. R. 575(E) dated 13.8.2009 respectively.

Minority dominated districts

†3486. SHRIMATT MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.