

is sub-judice. However, as per recent information from State Government, mine development work is underway in two mining leases of M/s. Obullapuram Mining Company. No mineral transportation is reported. The Government is closely monitoring the situation. The Andhra Pradesh Government had agreed for an enquiry by an inter-disciplinary team under the Central Bureau of Investigation into irregularities in mining operations. However, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh has stayed this investigation, and the matter is still sub-judice.

Revision of royalty on major minerals

†2357. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision for revision of royalty rates of major minerals in every three years under section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;

(b) if so, whether the revision of royalty rates has been carried out according to the said rule and the times when royalty rates have been revised;

(c) whether the State Governments of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have demanded fixing of coal royalty rates on the basis of value; and

(d) by when Central Government would take a decision on the proposal of State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that royalty rates of minerals may be revised upwards only once in three years. The last revision of royalty rates for coal was notified on 1st August, 2007, in case of Uranium on 13th February, 2009 and other major minerals on 13th August, 2009. After the coming into effect of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, in respect of major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing), the rates of royalty have been revised in the years 1962, 1968, 1975, 1981, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2000, 2004 and 2009. Royalty rates for coal and lignite were revised in the year 1994, 2002 and 2007.

(c) and (d) Most of the coal producing States had approached the Central Government for revision of rates of royalty on coal. Some of them had sought switching over to a fully ad valorem

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

regime of royalty. The Government have constituted a new Study Group under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) on 4.2.2010 for considering the issue of next revision of royalty rates of coal and lignite.

Pending mining lease applications

2358. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 101 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2 August 2010 and state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any directions regarding disposal of all pending mining lease applications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): (a) No such direction has been received by the Ministry of Mines in respect of the period mentioned in Starred Question 101 referred to above.

(b) Does not arise.

MoUs for iron ore mining

2359. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of MoUs signed for mining and setting up of steel plants in the country with multi-national companies;

(b) the details of the terms of these agreements;

(c) whether companies are also allowed to export iron ore from the country as per these agreements;

(d) if so, the percentage of iron ore processed in the units set up in the country by these companies, company-wise and location-wise; and

(e) the details of the iron ore exported by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): (a) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Steel, two of the major foreign direct investors i.e. M/s. Posco India Limited and M/s. Arcelor Mittal India Limited have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the