

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