

quired to be paid in advance. In certain cases depending upon the availability of stock and need for its clearance, limited credit facilities are also extended.

(c) No requests from co-operative sector have been received in the last one year for supply of acid from Ghatsila. Acid is being supplied to Public Sector Units' and Government Departments also in addition to private parties.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Hidustan Copper Limited have indicated that they would welcome proposals for regular lifting of acid from Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila by co-operative sector for distribution at a fair price to the small actual users.

Mining: activities undertaken by the Public sector Undertaking and State Agencies

1148. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-DARA MENON:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR;

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH;

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 589 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th August, 1978 and state:

(a) the names of the States and Union Territories other than Delhi, where mining activity is being undertaken by the public sector undertakings/Government agencies.

(b) the number of the States and Union Territories in which the public sector undertakings/Government agencies are charging royalty at rates higher than those permissible under the rules by the Administration;

(c) the number of States and Union Territories in which public sector undertakings/Government agencies are charging royalty at higher rates from areas not operated by such undertakings/agencies departmentally;

(d) the number of States/Union Territories in which such undertakings/ agencies are operating most of the mining areas without any mining lease and discretion to relax the rules is being used frequently in their favour; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in the procedure and rules regulating the exploitation of minerals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) State Government Agencies/Public Sector Undertakings are mining Major Minerals in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Royalty is payable to State Governments and the question of royalties being charged by public sector undertakings does not arise.

(d) Under the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957, Public Sector Undertakings are also required to obtain Mining Leases/Prospecting Licences. Union Territories/State Governments do not enjoy any discretion to relax this provision. However, Union Territories/State Governments, being the owners of the minerals, need not obtain Mining Leases/Prospecting Licences for mining departmentally.

(e) Does not arise.