

Mineral	Captive mines	Non captive mines	Percentage of captive mines to total mines
Bauxite	70	134	34.30
Chromite	09	10	47.36
Copper	04	02	66.66
Gold	02	00	100.00
Lead	07	00	100.00
Iron ore	22	225	8.90
Manganese ore	10	109	8.40

The information relating to number of mines for value addition without deeming the mines as captive is not centrally maintained.

(b) All mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments. Only in respect of few minerals specified in First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is required before the grant of mineral concession. The Act provides for giving preference to mining lease applicants who undertake prospecting operations. All other mining lease applications received on the same day (within prescribed period) are considered simultaneously keeping, *inter-alia*, the investment which the applicant proposes to make in the mines and in the industry based on the minerals.

Deposits of lower grade coal

2230. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disparity between the higher and lower grades of coal has increased disproportionately over the last three decades and more; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for applying correctives to ensure that States having deposits of lower grade coal are not discriminated against?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) A comparative position of highest and lowest grade of coal as well as rate of royalty in 1975 and 2004 along with percentage increase during this period is given as under:

Price

Year	Price of highest grade of coal Rs./Tonne	Price of lowest grade of coal Rs./Tonne	Price of lowest grade of coal expressed as % of price of highest grade of coal
1975	100.80	37.90	37.60
2004	2960.00	290.00	9.80
% increased during last 29 years	2836.51	665.17	

Royalty

year	Rate of royalty for highest grade of coal Rs./Tonne	Rate of royalty for lowest grade of coal Rs./Tonne	Rate of royalty for lowest grade of coal expressed as % of rate of Royalty of highest grade of coal
1975	5.00	2.00	40.00
2004	250.00	65.00	26.00
% of Royalty increased during last 29 years	4900.00	3150.00	

(b) From the statement referred to in part (A) above, it is observed that where as the price of coal in respect of lowest grade of coal has increased by 665.17% during the period 1975 to 2004, the rate of royalty in case of lowest grade of coal has shown an increase of 3150% during the same period. As such the increase in the rate of royalty in respect of the lowest grade of coal is much more than increase in the price of coal in the same grade during the period from 1975 to 2004.

Import of coal

2231. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal industry has become an ailing industry and as such coal is being required to be imported from other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being considered to improve the functioning of the industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?