

Revision of coal royalties

2798. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has taken over mineral resources of the States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, etc.;

(b) whether Government has received requests from these States for payment of *ad-valorem* royalty and if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government has revised the coal royalties after 1994; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The power of granting mining lease is with the concerned mineral bearing State Government. However, Section 5 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule of the Act, such as coal and lignite, the concerned State Government may grant reconnaissance permit, prospecting license or mining lease with the previous approval of the Central Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. The coal producing States have requested for the payment of *ad-valorem* royalty. The said request is being examined/analyzed by the Study Group, constituted by the Ministry of Coal for revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite with various other suggestions, which have been received from all the stakeholders. The new royalty rates would be announced by the Government after examining the recommendations of the said Study Group.

(c) Yes, Sir. After 1994, the royalty rates on coal and lignite have been revised two times *i.e.* in the year 2002 and 2007.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Irregularities and misappropriations in allocation of coal

2799. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of irregularity and misappropriation in allocation of coalfields has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the enquiry and action taken by Government in this regard; and