

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

(c) if not, the details of coal mines allocated during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

(c) A total of 146 coal blocks were allocated during the last five years. Out of the allocated blocks, 16 blocks have been de-allocated. As such a net of 130 coal blocks with a combined geological reserves of about 35.84 million tonnes stand allocated during the last five years.

Sugarcane production

†2800. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugarcane production in the country is adequate to meet the domestic demand of sugar;

(b) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bridge the gap between demand and production;

(c) whether sugarcane producers are getting remunerative price of their produce;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Government's price policy seeks to ensure payment of Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) to the sugarcane farmers. The FRP is the floor price below which no sugar factory can purchase sugarcane from farmers. The concept of FRP introduced from 2009-10 sugar season, in place of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP), is in fact a big step forward as it ensures upfront payment towards margins on account of profit and risk to sugarcane farmers on the cost of production and transportation of sugarcane. Moreover, there is a system of State Advisory Prices (SAP) in some States, which are generally higher than the FRP. State-wise information available with the Central Government on FRP/SAP is given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.