

Revision Application before Central Government. In order to have transparency all orders issued are available on the Website of Ministry of Mines.

(e) In terms of Section 5(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957, an Indian national, or a company as defined under sub-section 1 of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956, is eligible to obtain mineral concession, including for iron ore. Section 6 of the said Act further limits the maximum area which can be held under a prospecting licence in respect of any mineral for a total area of not more than twenty-five square kilometer for one or more prospecting licences, and not more than ten square kilometer for one or more mining leases, which can be relaxed with the prior approval of Central Government with reasons to be recorded in writing. These provisions sufficiently allow fair competition and prevent creation of monopolies.

(f) Does not arise since all mineral concessions are granted in terms of provisions of MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

Review of royalty rates of minerals

†2103. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision according to which Central Government reviews the royalty rates of major minerals every three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has discriminated against Madhya Pradesh Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for which royalty rates were not reviewed during the period of three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In terms of Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), royalty rates for minerals can be revised upward only once in three years. Accordingly, royalty rates in respect of major minerals (excluding coal, lignite and sand for stowing) were last revised on 13.8.2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No, Sir. Royalty rates notified by Central Government in Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 are uniformly applicable on all the States, including Madhya Pradesh.

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

(e) The rates of royalty were last revised by the Government on 13.8.2009, and the next upward revision, if any, of the royalty rates is possible only after 12.8.2012. The Ministry has set up a Study Group on revision of rates of royalty and dead rent for major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) on 13.9.2011 to review the rates of royalty.

National Mineral Policy

2104. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the targets fixed under the National Mineral Policy for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12;

(b) whether the targets has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons for under performance; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The targets fixed under National Mineral Policy for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12, *inter-alia*, include drafting of legislation in terms of policy directions in National Mineral Policy, 2008, implementing policies for zero-waste mining, preparing policy on Value Addition, taking policy measures to prevent and stop illegal mining, creating and operationalising educational and training facilities and Human Resources development in the mining sector, creation of mechanism for coordination between Ministry of Earth Science, Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines for sea-bed exploration and mining, preparing policy paper on resources extraction consumption and exports of major mineral dynamic conservation strategies, endowing policy on acquisition of raw material assets abroad, and taking policy measures for incentivization of Venture Capital/investments for exploration and mining.

(b) to (d) Accordingly, the Government has taken various initiatives, which include preparation of a draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011, for introduction in