

(a) whether it is a fact that Long Term Agreement Policy has been adopted instead of Spot Price Policy for export of iron ore;

(b) the losses incurred to exchequer due to non-adoption of the Spot Price Policy;

(c) whether the expected losses to Government by adopting the Long Term Agreement Policy has been estimated by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India;

(d) if so, the findings of CAG and if not, the reasons attributed for not conducting the assessment; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available information, National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC Ltd.), a Government of India Enterprise had been exporting iron ore to Japan and South Korea on long-term agreement since 1963 and the last agreement has expired on 31st March, 2011. The long-term agreement for the next 3 year period starting from 2012-13 has been approved by Government.

(b) Comparison of long-term prices with spot prices cannot be done as long-term prices are applicable for the entire year whereas the spot prices are fixed on day to day basis or even ship to ship basis.

(c) Any report or estimate of Comptroller and Auditor General of India regarding the likely loss to Government from adaptation of Long Term Agreement Policy is not in the notice of Government.

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

#### **Minority communities in technical education**

4123. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proportion of students from minority communities is much lower in technical education institutions, compared to other sections of the population and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of proportion of students from minority communities in Government-run Industrial Training Institutes in the country, State-wise; and

- (c) the details of steps Government has taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The proportion of students from Minority communities in technical education institutions both Government and private including Industrial Training Institutes; (ITIs) in various States are not maintained by the Central Government. However, the Report of the High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajender Sachar to study Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India indicates that the percentage of Muslims in technical education is low as per pro-rata population. Similar conclusion has also been drawn by the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities under Chairmanship of Justice Ranganath Mishra.

(c) In order to develop skill amongst the Minority Communities and improve their employability, the following steps have been taken by the Government:

- (i) Under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), which is under implementation in 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) of 20 States/UTs of the country, 71 Industrial Training Institutes and 31 Polytechnic Institutes have been taken up for construction/upgradation.
- (ii) Under Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities, Rs. 120.16 crore has been released from 2007-08 to 2011-12 for upgradation of 60 identified ITIs into Centres of Excellence in districts having substantial Minority population by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Under the Sub-Mission on Polytechnics, 48 minority concentration districts have been covered for setting up of polytechnics, and an amount of Rs. 226.66 crore have been released up to 30th September, 2011 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- (iii) For educational empowerment of minority students, the Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various scholarship schemes which include Pre-matric, Post-matric, Merit-cum-means and Maulana Azad National Fellowships. Under these scholarship schemes, Rs. 2672 crore has been disbursed to more than 1 crore 40 lakh students of minority communities during the 11th Five Year Plan period.
- (iv) Under Coaching and Allied Scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs, funds totaling Rs. 54.60 crore have been released during the 11th Five Year Plan to train/coach 27,826 students/candidates belonging to minority communities.