Government seeking approval for allocation of iron-ore mines during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details and status thereof including the number of such proposals pending with Government along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan for exploration and exploitation of iron ore available in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last three years and the current year (till date), the Ministry of Mines had received only one proposal dated 1.4.2009 for grant of Prospecting Licence for iron ore over an area of 3.72 sq.km. in Chandardiga Hill, Dibrugarh in favour of M/s. Shyam Century Ferrous Ltd. The said proposal was examined and prior approval of the Central Government was conveyed to the State Government on 8.7.2009.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Field Season Programme (FSP) 2011-12, Geological Survey of India (GSI) is assisting the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam in iron ore investigation in Kamrup District, Assam. GSI's FSP 2012-13 will include an additional item for iron ore investigation in Goalpara District, Assam.

Economic interests of mineral producing States

1344. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mineral bearing States get a fair share of the value of the minerals extracted from the boundary of the States concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue earned by some of the mineral producing States like Jharkhand are considerably less than the national average;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to protect the economic interests of the mineral bearing States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), all mining lease holders are required to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the lease area. The entire royalty amount accrues to the concerned State Governments. The rates of royalty for minerals (other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals) are given in Second Schedule to the MMDR Act, which the Central Government may enhance once in a period of three years. The last revision of rates of royalty was

undertaken on 13.08.2009, due to which the royalty collections for various States has increased from Rs. 4469.75 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 7279.49 crore in 2010-11, and Rs.5828.84 crore was collected till December, 2011. Apart from this, the State Governments also collect dead rent. Further, the State Governments are empowered to levy and collect royalty on minor minerals at their level. State Governments have also been levying local cess and taxes on mining and minerals.

(c) and (d) Details on royalty for minerals (other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals) collected by the State Governments including Jharkhand, are given below:

State	Royalty		
	2009-10	2010-11	April 2011 to Dec. 2011(P)*
Andhra Pradesh	370.38	381.92	245.73
Assam	0.94	0.73	0.67
Bihar	-	-	0.46
Chhattisgarh	474.39	1196.55	757.90
Gujarat	192.90	193.89	258.74
Goa	285.91	959.12	352.05
Himachal Pradesh	47.98	-	43.62
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	1.03
Jharkhand	202.33	440.24	348.88
Karnataka	430.10	708.44	288.01
Kerala	8.81	9.42	2.85
Madhya Pradesh	351.45	324.55	142.72
Maharashtra	84.85	132.70	151.14
Meghalaya	7.26	13.09	6.72
Odisha	894.44	1598.05	2365.43
Rajasthan	987.45	1182.23	774.89
Tamil Nadu	130.56	138.56	87.02
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	0.20
Uttarakhand	-	-	0.64
West Bengal	-	-	0.14
TOTAL	4469.75	7279.49	5828.84

Details on dead rent collected, royalty collected for minor minerals or amount collected as local cess and taxes on mining and minerals by the State Governments are not maintained centrally.

(e) The Central Government constitutes a Study Group to review the rates of royalty and dead rent from time-to-time which also includes members of mineral rich states. This Group considers the economic interests of the mineral bearing States while fixing the rates of royalty and dead rent. The Ministry has constituted 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 and dead rent.

Illegal Mining in Jharkhand

1345. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of illegal mining including irregularities in bauxite/iron ore mining have been reported recently from various parts of the country including Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by Government against the companies and officials found involved therein, State-wise; and

(d) the details of new initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by Government including use of satellite imagery to curb illegal mining in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The year-wise details of cases of illegal mining detected and action taken, till September 2011, as reported by the State Governments are as follow :