

**Assistance to entrepreneurs belonging to SCs and STs**

3652. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is keeping a record of amount of business provided to entrepreneurs/vendors belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities by Ministries, Government departments and public sector annually;

(b) if so, the details of the amount of such business provided during the current financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MTNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Under section 11 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006, the Government of India has notified a Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2012 effective from 1st April, 2012. Under the Policy, every Central Ministry/Department/PSU has to set an annual goal for procurement from MSEs at the beginning of every financial year, with the objective of achieving an overall procurement of minimum 20 per cent of total annual purchases of products produced/ services rendered by MSEs. After a period of three years, *i.e.* with effect from 1st April, 2015 overall 20% procurement shall be mandatory for every Central Ministry/Department/PSU. The Policy also earmarked a sub target of 4% out of this 20% procurement from MSEs owned by SC/ST Entrepreneurs.

The Government Ministries/ Departments/ PSUs have been requested to provide details of procurement made from MSEs including MSEs owned by SC/ST in the year 2012-13 and detail of annual procurement plan for the year 2013-14. However, the amount of such business provided during the current financial year may be made available by Ministries/ Departments/ PSUs after the end of the financial year 2013-2014.

(c) Does not arise.

**Ban on export of iron ore and chrome ore**

3653. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state : whether the Ministry is seriously considering to discourage/ban export of iron-ore and chrome ore which can effectively be utilized for value addition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): Export of minerals, including iron ore and chrome ore is guided by the Export-Import policy. To conserve natural resources and to meet the domestic demand, duty on export of iron ore has been increased from 20% to 30% ad valorem basis on all grades of iron ore(except pellets) with effect from 30.12.2011 and the export duty of chrome ore increased from Rs. 3000/- per tonne to 30% ad valorem from the year 2012-13.

**Revision of royalty rates of minerals**

3654. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing royalty rates of various minerals, alongwith the year in which the same was last revised;

(b) whether various mineral rich States have urged the Central Government to hike the royalty rates of various kinds of minerals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reaction of the Central Government thereon alongwith the details of their revised royalty rates; and

(e) the reasons for the delay in revision of royalty rates and by when the new revision is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The rates of royalty in respect of major minerals (excluding coal, lignite and sand for stowing) were last revised *vide* gazette notification number G.S.R. 574(E) dated 13.8.2009. The rates of royalty in respect of Coal including Lignite were revised *vide* notification number G.S.R. 349 (E), dated the 10th May, 2012 by the Ministry of Coal. The rates of royalty in respect of Sand for Stowing were revised *vide* notification number G.S.R. 214(E) dated the 11th April, 1997 by the Ministry of Coal. The rates of royalty are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (e) Some of the mineral rich States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan have requested to enhance the rates of royalty for major minerals. The Government 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. The Study Group has to undertake detailed consultations with all stakeholders. The Study Group is likely to submit its final report shortly.