

53 officials in position compared to 95 technical posts. Manpower requirements are in areas like forensic audit, tax, capital market frauds etc. Besides, 7 contractual appointments have been made against the vacancies. Recruitment to SFIO is mainly on deputation basis from other government agencies/PSUs as per the decision of the Cabinet at the time of constitution of SFIO. Government is making efforts to obtain required staff from lending organizations on deputation. Advertisements are also issued in leading newspapers for recruitment of staff.

(c) and (d) To tide over the existing shortage of manpower, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry/SFIO:

1. A proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Personnel for amending Recruitment Rules in SFIO to provide for direct recruitment in case officers are not available for appointment on deputation basis.
2. Engagement of services of retired government officers to be appointed as consultants in various disciplines.
3. Induction of more experts on contract basis in specialized areas like Cyber Forensic and Data Analysis, is under active consideration.
4. Renewing efforts with lending organizations for sparing officers on deputation for SFIO.

#### **Revision of rates of royalty and dead rent**

\*227. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Government would take a decision on the revision of rates of royalty and dead rent for major minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing after obtaining the study group report set up by Government on 13th September, 2011,

(b) whether the delay in taking the decision is violating the provisions under sub-section-3 of Section-9 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957; and

(c) the details of the steps taken on the letter dated 20th July, 2013 of the Chief Minister of Odisha addressed to the Minister of Mines, Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Government had 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 submitted its report on 28.6.2013. The recommendations of the Study Group are under consideration in the Ministry.

(b) No Sir. Levy of royalty on a mineral is as per the rate specified in the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957.

Sub-section 3 of Section 9 of the MMDR Act, 1957 states as follows:

“The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification:

Provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years.”

(c) The Central Government’s approval is required for amending the Second Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957 which specifies the rate of royalty payable in respect of minerals. The Ministry is in the process of obtaining the approval of the Central Government which, *inter-alia*, includes inter-ministerial consultations.

#### **Admission of children in schools**

†\*228. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, under the Right to Education Act, there is a

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.