

(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.

provision of imparting education to the children compulsorily in the schools nearest to their residence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would be a violation of the Fundamental Right to Education if parents wish to get their children admitted in schools comparatively far away from their residence due to some reasons; and

(d) whether Government has received any complaints or suggestions in this regard, and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (d) Section 3(1) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates that every child of the age of six to fourteen years shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education. The provision is based on the principle that for young children, school premises should be within walking distance, generally regarded as one kilometer for primary and three kilometer for upper primary schools.

Section 10 of the RTE Act states that it is the duty of parents/guardians to admit his or her child or ward, in elementary education in a neighbourhood school.

In a democratic system, parents could choose schools for their children, which may even be a private school beyond the neighbourhood, based on need and affordability.

Since admission to schools which are not neighbourhood schools is a choice for parents to exercise, the question of any complaints does not arise, in this context.

Construction of rural roads in Karnataka

*229. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government had submitted four