

(c) The extant Foreign Trade Policy recognizes that the demand of iron ore by the domestic steel industry has to be met first and any surplus left thereafter may be exported. An export duty of 30% (*w.e.f.* 30.12.2011) and differential railway freight on export cargo of iron ore is levied. A large part of the iron ore mined is in the form of 'fines' and the surplus is exported, either in the form of 'fines' or in the form of pellets. Export duty on iron ore pellets is only 5% (*w.e.f.* 27.01.2014).

Process for increasing Firing Ranges

‡2683. DR. VIJAY LAXMI SADHO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the process for increasing the Firing Ranges to be used by the defence sector in the country;
- (b) whether the Firing Ranges can be extended to the rural settlements; and
- (c) if so, the details of Government's plan for making safety arrangements for the dwellers of rural settlements around these firing ranges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) Sir, in such a case, suitable land is identified in consultation with revenue authorities of the concerned State Government, which is then notified for use as a Firing Range after following various steps for such use as may be required under the extant laws.

(b) Normally firing ranges are located away from inhabited areas. However, in cases where there are pockets of habitation, relocation with adequate compensation is done as per the extant policy on the subject.

(c) Whenever firing is to be carried out in a notified range, adequate intimation to the local population is disseminated through local police, announcements, publicity, signages, flags, placing of warning boards at frequent intervals along the range boundary, posting of representative or police at all the routes leading to the firing ranges etc.

Safety guidelines notified by Coast Guard

2684. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there are any safety guidelines notified by the Coast Guard in the coastal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.