

**Note:** The rates of royalty for the State of West Bengal in respect of major minerals have remained the same as specified in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Steel and Mines (Department of Mines) number G.S.R. 458 (E) dated the 5th May, 1987.

#### **Increase in royalty rates of minerals**

3026. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized a blueprint which prescribes raising of royalty rates of minerals including bauxite, chrome, manganese and iron-ore, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the increase in royalty rates would benefit mineral rich States like Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, the estimated gains by these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Based on the recommendations given by the Study Group constituted for the purpose of recommending revision in rates of royalty, a proposal is under consideration to revise the rates of royalty of major minerals.

(b) and (c) However, as approval of the Government is yet to be accorded, it is not possible to give the details regarding the impact of the revision in rates of royalty on the revenues of various States, including Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

#### **Export of gas to Pakistan**

3027. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to export gas to Pakistan through a pipeline from Jalandhar, Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of agreement signed in this regard and its salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Negotiations are under way between GAIL and Inter State Gas Systems (ISGS), Pakistan for supply of 5 MMSCMD of lean gas to Pakistan for a period of 5 years. Under this proposal, GAIL would lay 110 km pipeline infrastructure from Jalandhar to Amritsar/Atari Border.