

SL. No.	Name of Country with which MoU is signed
1.	Colombia
2.	Afghanistan
3.	Mali
4.	Peru
5.	Canada

Meetings of Steering Committee have been held with Canada to enhance bilateral cooperation in mining and geology.

Study group on rate of royalty on minerals

3796. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the summary of the recommendations made by the recent study group for revising the rates of royalty on minerals and dead rent;
- (b) the amount due to State of Odisha on the basis of above study group report; and
- (c) the period in which the above arrears shall be disbursed to State of Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) The most recent Study Group Report to make recommendations on revision of royalty rates received by the Government on 28.6.2013 is under examination by the Central Government. As approval of the Central Government is yet to be accorded, it is not possible to give the details of either the recommendations of the Study Group or the proposed revised rates of royalty.

(c) The question of arrears does not arise as the new rates of royalty will be with prospective effect *i.e.* from the date of notification in the Gazette of India.

Curb on illegal mining

†3797. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether illegal mining activities have been curbed after formulation of new mining policy in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is proposed to facilitate the people engaged in mining on a small scale under this new mining policy, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Even before a new National Mineral Policy (NMP) was enunciated in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.