

**Revision of royalty on minerals**

1605. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not revising the royalty on minerals on time and the date by which it will be done;

(b) whether there are proposals to raise the rate or royalty on different minerals from their present rates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Proviso to Section 9(3) of the MMDR Act, 1957 stipulates that the Central Government shall not enhance the rates of royalty more than once during any period of three years. The MMDR Act 1957 does not mandate the Central Government to revise the rates of royalty every three years so that new rates come into force every three years.

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 minerals.

(b) and (c) However, as approval of the Government is yet to be accorded, it is not possible to give the details for which of the minerals royalty rates would be increased or decreased and to what extent.

**Funds to Women Labour Division**

1606. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise total funds released to the Women Labour Division of the Ministry over the last three years;

(b) the year-wise amount of expenditure and number of women beneficiaries over the last three years; and

(c) whether there has been inadequate usage of funds to promote women labour services and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Women Labour Division of the Ministry does not have any separate allocation of funds. However, Women Labour Division is administering Grant-in-aid Scheme for welfare of women labour. Under this