Royalty rate for coal

†2356. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for revision of royalty rate for coal mineral is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether any committee had been constituted by Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the said committee along with the reasons for non-implementation of those recommendations, so far; and

(d) by when the recommendations would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of any mineral by notification in the Official Gazette with effect from such date as may be notified. The proviso to Section 9(3) of the Act prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The royalty rates on coal and lignite were last revised on 10.05.2012 and the next revision can only be taken place *w.e.f.* 10.05.2015. The Government has constituted a Study Group on 21.07.2014 for considering revision of royalty rates of coal and lignite. The Study Group consists of representatives from Ministries of Power, Mines and Steel; Coal India Limited (CIL), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) as members. The first meeting of the Group was held on 09.10.2014. The Study Group is in the process of undertaking consultations with the various stakeholders.

Review of rationalisation of coal linkage

2357. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 516 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th July, 2014 and state:

(a) the updated status of the further action taken by new Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) constituted by the Ministry to review rationalisation of coal linkages; and

(b) the updated status of action taken by the Central Government to allocate coal to Gujarat from nearby collieries, as on date?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.