THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (e) No Sir. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, administered by the Ministry of Mines, does not have provisions on Stamp Duty. In view of the Constitutional scheme of distribution of legislative powers in respect of Stamp Duty - the rate and manner of levy of Stamp Duty on an instrument of mining lease lies within the legislative jurisdiction of State Governments. Stamp duty on instruments of mining lease is collected by the State Governments which goes into the Consolidated Fund of the State and appropriated by act of the State Legislature. Details regarding collection of Stamp Duty on instruments of mining lease and as to whether such amounts collected are utilized for development of local areas around mines is not centrally maintained.

National Mineral Exploration Trust

†751. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of formation of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) established by Government recently;

(b) whether any amendment has been made in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, '1957 for promotion of mining sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the result achieved so far as a result of amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) The primary objective of the formation of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) is to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector. The NMET Rules, 2015, as available on the website of Ministry of Mines *i.e. www.mines.nic.in* , detail the objects and functions of the Trust.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 for promotion of mining sector, which has been notified in the Official Gazette on 27th March, 2015, and is deemed to have come into force with effect from 12th January, 2015.

The most important provision of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 is the introduction of the method of auction by competitive bidding for grant of mineral

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

concessions for major minerals. The other important provisions of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 are:

(i) provisions for extension of the period of existing mining leases to avoid disruptions in supply of ore and to ensure regular supply of raw material to industry especially in cases where downstream industries have been set up depending upon such leases, and to provide for adequate time for preparatory activities for auction of mineral concessions;

(ii) establishment of District Mineral Foundation for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas, affected by mining related operations;

(iii) assured tenure and easy transferability of mineral concessions granted through auction;

(iv) establishment of National Mineral Exploration Trust for regional and detailed exploration; and

(v) strict penalty provisions to deal with illegal mining.

(b) The auction process has been rolled out in the States. The results of the auctions are very encouraging which are yielding handsome revenue to the State Governments.

Exploration of natural gas in coal seams by Coal India Limited

752. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has ordered the Coal India Limited to explore natural gas in their coal seams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been done by the Ministry or by the Coal India Limited to find out the probable places in the country wherein the natural gas is available for exploration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, A notification granting right to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries for exploration and exploitation of CBM from all coal bearing areas for which they possess mining lease has been issued on 03.11.2015. A copy of Notification is given in Statement (*See* below).