Revision of coal royalty

371. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) when the coal royalty was last revised and the reasons for no further revision although revision is affected once in every three years;

(b) whether Government is considering revision of royalty this year, saving the coal bearing States from incurring heavy losses on this account; and

(c) whether the Central Government is charging clean environment cess per tonne production of coal and whether the coal bearing States have a share on this, if so, the percentage thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The rates of royalty in respect of Coal and Lignite were last revised *vide* notification number G.S.R. 349 (E), dated the 10th May, 2012.

Section 9(3) of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, provides that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule (which specifies rates of royalty) so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three year. As such, there is no mandatory provision in the Act to revise the rates of royalty every three year.

As regards revision of the rates of royalty on coal and lignite, a Study Group was constituted on 21.07.2014 for the purpose of examining the issue of revision of present royalty rates on coal and lignite. The final recommendation of the Study Group is under consideration.

(c) Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017 repealed Clean Environment Cess levied under Finance Act 2010 with effect from 1st July 2017.

Opening of underground and opencast mines

372. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground (UG) mines and opencast mines which have been opened over the last ten years along with the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of existing UG mines and opencast mines which have been abandoned during the last ten years along with the details thereof, year-wise; and