

Royalty on Iron Ore and Coal in Bihar

704. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently State Government of Bihar have approached the Central Government for getting permission to increase the rates of royalty on Iron ore and coal and a mineral development cess to raise additional resources for that State's Plan ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. No such reference has recently been received

(b) However, the revision of Royalty on Iron Ore is under Government's consideration. An increase in respect of coal had been also allowed earlier in the year, in changing the *ad valorem* rate into a per-Tonne basis. A general Mineral Development cess has not been found acceptable.

Exploitation of Unutilised Mining Ores in Bihar

705. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various mining ores lying unutilised in the State of Bihar in general and Palamau District in particular ;

(b) whether there is any proposal with the Central Government for establishing large scale industries for exploiting the unutilised mining ores of the District of Palamau ; and

(c) if so, the expected number of manpower to be employed in those industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received,

Lock-Out in Bharat Earthmovers Limited, Bangalore

706. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Earthmovers Limited, Bangalore have declared lock-out recently ;

(b) the number of workers affected by this lock-out and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether the lock-out has been withdrawn ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHA-DILKAR) : (a) Yes, on September, 21, 1971.

(b) The number of workers affected by the lock-out in the Bangalore unit is reported to be about 4,000. The reason for the lockout as pointed out by the management was unjustified strike and violent activities by the workers.

(c) The lockout was lifted from the third shift of October 1, 1971 following an amicable settlement.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Project (Mysore)

707. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are going to give clearance to Kudremukh Iron Ore Project (Mysore) ; and

(b) if so, the main features of the Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Detailed Project Report for the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project in Mysore is under examination by a Working Group constituted by the Government.

A decision on the Project will be taken after the recommendations of the Working Group are available.