

[Shri P.V. Rajeshwar Rao]

servicing, retired Officers and sons of dead soldiers should be given priority. This rule was actually not followed. It has also come in the newspaper that Subedar Subhash Kushwal, who was the recruiting authority there, had taken Rs. 1,40,000 as bribe.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rao, this is a matter regarding corruption in recruitment to the Army. It would be better if you write to the hon. Defence Minister about this. This is not a subject to be raised in the House like this. Please make your submission very brief.

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Sir, this is the submission that I wanted to make.

This has been going on there and an inquiry has also been ordered in this case. I want to bring it to your notice and to get the attention of the House and the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, recently, on the 11th of April, 1997, the Government of India and the Department of Mines have revised the mineral and metal royalty rates in a very clandestine manner. When on the 11th April, 1997, we were discussing the Motion of No Confidence here. It was kept concealed till three days back. This is going to have deep implications on the various States which are naturally endowed with mineral, such as Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Sir, the implications are that the last revision was done in the year 1992 in the month of March. It should have been revised under the MMNR&D Rules of 1957 on the 22nd of March, 1995. In spite of delaying it by two years, by the Ministry of Mines, these royalty rates have been revised for all the important minerals with the exclusion of coal. Orissa is one State which has 95 per cent of the chromate area in the whole of India. The consequences of the 1997 order are that Orissa will get Rs. 18 lakh less than what it was getting in 1992. Revision are made to help the States to augment their resources and not by cutting them down. They have been done in the various minerals. Somewhere it is Re. 1, somewhere it is Rs. 1.50, and somewhere it is Rs. 2. This has created a lot of problems for these four or five States.

We hope, through you, to prevail upon the Government to reconsider this revision. Otherwise, most of the States which are always suffering from resource constraints are going to be in deep trouble. We should not barter away the interest of the States at the altar of commercial

considerations for supporting a particular viewpoint which is the private sector. . .(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it on the same subject ?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will call those who have given their names first.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you after him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to submit my views on the points which have been raised by Hon. Member Shri K.P. Singh Deo. The royalty on minerals have been fixed through Government of India i.e. on dt. 11 April, 1997 I think recently the royalty have been reviewed. There has been some delay in this regard and also it has not been done justified. In three-four states, the royalty considered as main sources of income. In Bihar, income comes on large scale by the mode of royalty. Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are such states, where the main source of their income is royalty on the minerals. The justice which has been done by the Government would deteriorate the financial conditions of these states.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many Members who have given their names to speak on this subject. Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to request you that Bihar and Orissa are poor and backward states. They don't have any other source of their income. They can improve their financial position only on the basis of royalty on minerals, but Central Government is not paying any attention in this regard. The rate, which has been fixed, is not on the basis of prices. There are many minerals like lime-stone, Bauxite, domolite, Grafite on which royalty has not been fixed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that you are not listening to others. You are only speaking. Please understand this.

(Interruptions)