

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:91  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014  
MINERAL PRICING  
P. Shri Nagarajan

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the prices of certain minerals are increasing constantly in the country due to increase in royalty rates of minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether the employment in the mining sector has gone down due to increased use of machines; and
- (d) if so, the quantum of reduction in employment during the said period?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) and (b): As per the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, royalty is levied on ad valorem basis for all major minerals excepting 15 minerals for which the royalty is charged on tonnage basis.

There is no definite information on whether the prices of any particular mineral are increasing constantly due to increase in royalty rates. The sale price of minerals is totally determined by market forces of supply and demand.

(c) and (d): As per information made available to Indian Bureau of Mines (an attached office of the Ministry of Mines), the average daily employment in mines producing minerals under the purview of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (excluding fuel and atomic minerals and minerals other than minor minerals) was 131536 during 2013-14 compared to 143673 in 2012-13 and 141330 in 2011-12. There is no data on the correlation between number of persons engaged in mines and the level of mechanization, and particularly whether the employment in mines has gone down due to increased mechanization.