

Title: Need to revise the royalty on coal and other mineral products- Laid.

SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Even after 52 years of Independence, despite the presence of abundant natural resources, the State like Orissa is continuing with persistent backwardness. The State is under debt traps and facing serious financial crisis due to lack of any effective measures for reduction of heavy debt burden and virtually now on a verge of bankruptcy. The long prevailing natural calamities have been deteriorating the economic condition of the people of the State and the alarming situation has further worsened due to the recent cyclone which has devastated the coastal areas of the State. The State cannot overcome the problem, if the Centre does not come to its rescue. It is now high time to take remedial measures for its sustenance. Apart from other steps the upward revision of royalty on coal which has been over due since long, has to be revised. The mineral bearing but economically backward States will be benefitted immensely, if the revision will be considered at par with the revision of royalty on petroleum products. It needs immediate attention of Government of India and urgent steps is highly necessary for the revision of royalty on coal and other mineral products.