

Title: Requested to revise the royalty on lignite coal at Neyveli, Tamil Nadu and pay the arrears at the earliest with retrospective effect.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, despite reminders and discussions at higher levels on the issue of increasing the royalty on lignite coal at Neyveli, the case is yet to be decided by the Ministry of Coal.

Sir, royalty on lignite at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu was fixed by the Government of India in the year 1990 at rates applicable to Group-V coal, that is, non-cooking coals. For Grades F and G, and lignite coal the rates were fixed at Rs.2.50 per metric tonne. Subsequently, royalty on Group-V coal was increased to Rs.50 per metric tonne in October, 1994. However, royalty on lignite coal is yet to be revised. As per rules, revision of royalty on major minerals is to be decided once in three years. It is due from 1997.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the able leadership of Dr. Kalaingar, is implementing many welfare measures for the upliftment of downtrodden and poor people. To augment the resources of the Government of Tamil Nadu, I urge upon the Government to fix the royalty on lignite so that payment can be made. Neyveli Lignite Corporation is earning about Rs.400 crore as profit every year. The Government of India need not pay the royalty. The Corporation can itself pay it. I, therefore, would request the hon. Minister of Coal as well as the Prime Minister to immediately intervene and see that royalty is revised and payment of arrears is to be made immediately, with retrospective effect.

श्रीमती ज्यश्री बन्नर्जी (जबलपुर) : महोदय, मैं (अध्यक्षपीठ के आदेशानुसार कार्यवाही-वृत्तान्त से निकाल दिया गया।)