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Title: Need to enhance the rates of royalty on non-coal major minerals.- Laid.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : The revision of rates on royalty of non-coal major minerals has yet been effected though the statutory requirements of three years is complete since 12th September, 2003. The Government has been intimated that the Study Group on revision of major minerals has already completed its deliberation and has submitted its report. Now, it is for the Government to consider it and take action on it. But, the expected notification amending the Second Schedule for revision of rates of royalty is yet to be issued.

In the meanwhile, prices of some of the minerals, particularly iron ore have increased manifold. While such an increase in the price is benefiting the iron ore miners, Orissa exchequer is denied the benefit because the existing royalty structure is not based on ad volorem basis.

As the State of Orissa is facing serious resource crunch, an additional revenue is urgently required to augment the State's resources to ameliorate the present situation. I urge upon the Government to take prompt action for upward revision of the rates of royalty on non-coal major minerals at the earliest.