

Title: Need to increase the royalty on non-coal major minerals. – Laid.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The revision of rates of royalty on non-coal major minerals has not yet been effected though the statutory requirement of completion of three years is over since September, 2003. It is learnt that the Study Group on revision of royalty on major minerals has already completed its deliberations and has submitted its report to the Government. But the expected notification amending the Second Schedule for revision of rates of royalty has not yet been issued by the Government. In the meantime, prices of some of the minerals particularly iron ore has gone manifold. While such an increase in the price is enriching royalty structure is not based on ad valorem basis. Orissa is currently facing a serious resources crunch and additional revenue is urgently required to augment the exchequer to ameliorate the present ways and means position.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate step to increase the royalty on non-coal major minerals at the earliest.