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National Mineral Development Corporation

1554. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANSARPUR) : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation exports its products on its own;

(b) if so, the details of products exported and the value thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to boost the export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) exports iron ore through MMTC Ltd., which has been designated as canalising agency for export of iron ore with iron content above 64% as per the existing Export-Import Policy.

(b) Quantities and value of NMDC's product from Bailadila and Donimalai Mines exported by MMTC Ltd. during the last 3 years, as per the latest available information are as below:

Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Foreign Exchange Earning (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	65.22	407.13
1996-97	63.94	445.60
1997-98 (Prov.)	70.30	520.33

(c) Some of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase export of iron ore are:

- (i) The export ceilings of the following categories of iron ore have been revised upwards from 1.4.1998:—

	(Million tonnes per annum)
Bailadila Lumps	from 2.4 to 3.0
Bailadila Fines	from 1.2 to 3.8
Bellary Hospet Fines	from 1.5 to 2.0

(ii) Quantity tolerance of + 10% for all the categories of iron ore has been allowed.

(iii) Decanalisation of export of iron ore with Fe content upto 64%.

(iv) Entering into new markets for export of iron ore.

(v) Entering into Long-Term contracts for export of iron ore.

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Restoration of earlier Rates of Royalty on  
Diamond Mining

1555. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI  
BISEN :  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the royalty given on diamond mining has been reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested to restore the earlier rates of royalty;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to restore the earlier rates;

(d) if so, the time by which the royalty is likely to be restored; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The rate of royalty of diamond was reduced from 20 per cent of the sale price at the pit's mouth value to 10 per cent of sale price on *ad valorem* basis *vide* Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.1997, copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 8.5.1997. Such revision was based on the recommendations of the Study Group constituted by the Government of India in 1995 for revision of royalty on major minerals (other than Coal & Lignite).

The aforesaid Study Group comprised of, *inter-alia*, representatives of the State Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan at the level of Secretary to the State Government as members. As per convention, the State Governments are represented in such Study Group constituted for recommendations on royalty rates on