

duties. There has been no overall change in this respect.

(b) and (c). Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts in India for Indian leather footwear to be competitive in world market in terms of price and quality have helped in increasing exports and these measures are proposed to be continued and intensified, wherever required.

[*Translation*]

Right of States to Impose Tax on Mineral Rights

8371. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal are authorised to impose tax on mineral rights under article 277 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether other States have similar authority to impose this tax;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to give the right of imposing this tax to other States also in order to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Article 277 of the Constitution of India gives validity only to the taxes, fees, duties, cesses which were being levied lawfully by the Government of any State immediately before the commencement of

the Constitution. It does not authorise the State Governments to impose any such levies afresh.

State Governments derive such authority from the various Entries of the List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and this includes taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitation imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development.

Mining Plans

8372. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the neo-literates and people belonging to weaker sections are sustaining their livelihood from small mines in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to exempt such persons from the provisions of submitting mining plans; and

(c) whether Union Government also propose to make a provision in the rules so that mining plan could be submitted after the mining lease has been approved by the State Government but before the conclusion of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No person can undertake mining operations in any area except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a mining lease granted under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 framed there under. The main objects of this statute are to ensure proper regulation and development of minerals, systematic and scientific mining,