

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : How can only show his concern. He cannot cast aspersions. I have taken note of it.

Royalty payable to States on Coal, Iron ore and Steel

*414. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH

GOSWAMI :

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the royalty on items such as coal, iron ore and steel;

(b) if so, the rate etc. of the royalty to be paid to States on account of coal, iron ore and steel; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). Under Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, royalty is payable by a holder of a mining lease in respect of any mineral removed or consumed by him or by his agent, manager, employee, contractor or sub-lessee from the leased area at the rate, for the time being specified, in the Second Schedule of the aforesaid Act in respect of that mineral. Section 9 (3) of the said Act empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral once during a period of 4 years.

The rate of royalty on coal was last revised with effect from 13-2-1981. To consider the question of further revision of royalty rate on coal, a Study Group was constituted in November, 1984. The Study Group will be submitting its report shortly and after considering the recommendations of the Study Group, the royalty rate on coal will be suitable revised.

The rate of royalty in respect of iron ore was last revised with effect from 12-6-1978. A Study Group was constituted to consider

the revision of royalty rate on most of the major minerals, including iron ore in November, 1984 and the Study Group is likely to submit its report by August, 1985 after which the royalty rate on iron ore will be revised, if necessary, after taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Study Group.

Steel is a ferro-alloy and final product of iron ore. This, being a metal, is not specified in the Second Schedule of the MM (R and D) Act, 1957 which covers only minerals. No royalty is, therefore, payable on Steel and, therefore, the question of revision of rate of royalty on steel does not arise.

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH

GOSWAMI : The question of royalty is a big bone of contention between the States and the Centre and in view of that it has come in the Press that royalty on crude oil has already been trebled—from Rs. 61 it has gone up to Rs. 185—I would like to know from the Minister whether in view of the feeling in some States of being deprived and being discriminated against, in view of these feelings prevalent in some States, whether the Government will come forward and consider, at a very early time, the question of increasing the royalty on these items commensurate with the prices.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Production Cost of different kinds of Steel

*405. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the production cost of different kinds of steel, plant-wise just before the announcement of recent price hike;

(b) the reasons for difference, if any, between the production cost of steel plants in private and public sectors; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to minimise such difference and also to reduce