

mineral concessions and not only on such minerals as are exported. The question of the revision of royalty rates on various minerals has been carefully examined by a Study Group appointed by the Government on the recommendation made in June, 1966 by the Mineral Advisory Board on which the State Governments are also represented. In April 1967, a proposal was received from the Government of Orissa that the report of the Study Group should be discussed by the Government of India with the State Governments at a meeting and the royalty rates should be finalised immediately thereafter. As the report

of the Study Group has already been referred to the State Governments for their views, the Government of Orissa was informed that the report of the Study Group along with the views of the State Governments will be considered at the next meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board and a decision in the matter will be taken immediately thereafter.

(c) No, Sir. Export duty on various grades of iron ore has been revised with effect from 24.7.1967. The comparative rates prevailing prior to 24.7.1967 and thereafter are indicated below:—

Rates which prevailed prior to 24-7-1967 (per tonne)	Revised rates now applicable (per tonne)	Difference (per tonne)
		(in Rs.)
Lumpy iron ore : Rs. 10/-	<i>Iron ore :</i> Lumpy iron ore 62% fc. and above :	Rs. 10.50 (+) 0.50
	Lumpy iron ore having 60% fc. or more but less than 62% fc. :	Rs. 9.00 (—) 1.00
	Lumpy iron ore having less than 60% fc. :	Rs. 7.50 (—) 2.50
Iron ore fines (including blue dust) : Rs. 5/-	<i>Fines : (including blue dust)</i> (i) where iron ore content is less than 62% :	Rs. 3.00 (—) 2.00
	(ii) where iron ore content is 62% or more :	Rs. 4.00 (—) 1.00

Coal Control Ordinance

8964. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu;
Shri E. K. Nayanar;
Shri Ganesh Ghosh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) the date when the Coal Control Order was first introduced;

(b) the purpose for which Coal Control Order was revised and to what extent that purpose has been achieved; and

(c) the circumstances that led to the decision to decontrol coal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri

P. C. Sethi): (a) The Colliery Control Order was first introduced on 1st June, 1944.

(b) The Colliery Control Order was first revised in the year 1945 enlarging the scope of the earlier order so as to regulate the production, distribution and price of coal particularly with a view to meet the requirements of priority consumers within the available capacity of production and transport and the Government has been, by and large, successful in achieving these objects to a great extent.

(c) Government had been constantly reviewing the controls on coal and progressively moving in the direction of decontrol. Keeping in view the adequate production of coal and built-in capacity, particularly in non-coking coals of grade I and below variety to produce more without a long gestation period, and other relevant factors, Government has lifted price control on all coking and non-coking coals and distribution control on all coals except coking coal required by metallurgical industries.

Quality of Indian Coal

8965. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri Ganesh Ghosh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) the ash percentage of the best Indian coal;

(b) the highest ash percentage of the Indian coal that is in use; and

(c) the approximate quantity of coal in reserve?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (**Shri P. C. Sethi**): (a) In Assam there are deposits of coal with ash content as low as 1.8 per cent to 6 per cent. However, the best Indian coal generally used in industries contains about 11 per cent to 13 per cent ash.

(b) The highest ash percentage of Indian coal that is in use is about 50 per cent.

(c) The Geological Survey of India has estimated the gross reserves of all categories of coal upto a depth of 609 metres at 87,326 million tonnes.

Cases of Suppression in H.E.C., Ranchi

8966. Shri Kartik Oraon: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been number of cases of suppression at various levels in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases since 1964 in the following categories;

(i) in the scale of Rs. 2000 and above.

(ii) in the scale of Rs. 1600—2000.

(iii) in the scale of Rs. 1600—1800.

(iv) in the scale of Rs. 1300—1600.

(v) in the scale of Rs. 1100—1400.

(vi) in the scale of Rs. 700—1150.

(vii) in the scale of Rs. 400—950.

(viii) in the scale of Rs. 500 and below.

(ix) in the scale of Rs. 250 and below?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (**Shri F. A. Ahmed**): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment of S.C. and S.T. in H.E.C., Ranchi

8967. Shri Kartik Oraon: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that S.C. and S.T. are disregarded for the purpose of recruitment and promotion in H.E.C. Ltd., Ranchi and

(b) if not, the strength of these classes in the scales of—