COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA IN MINING SECTOR

2340. SHRI C.M.RAMESH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Australia and South Africa for cooperation in mining sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES & STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) & (b): No Sir, there is no Memorandum of Understanding in the mining sector between the Government of India and Australian Government. However, there is an India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Energy and Minerals established under the India-Australia Joint Commission in the year 2000 for enhancing bilateral co-operation in the energy and mineral sectors for mutual benefit of India and Australia. So far eight JWG meetings have been held. Last JWG meeting was held during 11-12 June, 2013 at New Delhi.

An Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Geology and Mineral Resources was signed on 07.10.1997 between the Government of India and the Government of South Africa.