

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3446
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

RULES FOR EXPLORATION IN MINES

3446. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to ease the rules for exploration and mining of minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that changes in policies would benefit Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and enhance domestic economic activity; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (**MMDR**) Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which, inter alia, provides the provisions for accelerating exploration as well as for transparent and non-discriminatory method for grant of mineral concessions. The salient features of the reforms initiated include:

- (i) Eliminating discretion and improving transparency in the allocation of mineral resources;
- (ii) Attracting private investment in exploration and creation of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET);
- (iii) Simplifying procedures and eliminate delays so as to enable expeditious and optimum development of the mineral resources of the country;
- (iv) Enhance the punishment for illegal mining; and
- (v) Non-Exclusive Exploration Permit (NERP)

The Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 have also been amended through the Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2017, published in the Official Gazette vide notification No. G.S.R. 1469(E) dated 30.11.2017, for better and more effective implementation of these rules as well as to enable wider participation in auctions.

Reforms in the mining sector have been successfully implemented, which is an ongoing process to bring an overall positive impact in the mining sector and mineral based industry.
