GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1718
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

REFORMS IN THE MINES AND MINERALS ACT

1718 SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed reforms in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, wherein any violation within the mining lease area, over-extraction of minerals beyond the mining plan or flouting environmental and forest laws will no longer be considered illegal mining, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the time given for comments and suggestions from the general public, States and Union Territories, industry and other stakeholders is just ten days, instead of the thirty day minimum window, under the pre-legislative consultation policy, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): No, Sir. Violations with respect to mining operations carried out not in accordance with the approved or certified mining plan are dealt under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017. The violations with respect to environmental, forest laws and others are dealt as per the extant provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the concerned law as the case may be.

(b): The Ministry of Mines has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 through MMDR Amendment Act, 2021 with effect from 28.03.2021. The time given by Ministry of Mines for pre-legislative consultation policy for seeking comments and suggestions from the general public, States and Union Territories, industry and other stakeholders was in accordance with the pre-legislative consultation policy.

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