

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1699
ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020

REFORMS IN MMDR ACT

1699. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed reforms to 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 by flouting environmental and forest laws will no longer be considered illegal mining;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the time given for comments and suggestions from the general public, States and Union Territories, industry and other stakeholders is just 10 days - a fraction of the 30-day minimum window under the pre-legislative consultation policy and if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government has also proposed amendments to auction partially explored mining blocks thereby risking larger minerals deposits getting auctioned at lower prices and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Hon'ble Finance Minister on 16.05.2020 has made announcement for reforms in mining sector under Atma-nirbhar Bharat Scheme for enhancing private investments in the Mineral Sector and increasing employment in the sector. In order to implement the announcements, Ministry of Mines has proposed composite reforms that are available on the website of the Ministry of Mines for consultation.

(c) The said Policy relates to legislative amendments. Comments/Suggestions on the proposed reforms including legislation were invited from State Government on 07.08.2020. A notice dated 24.08.2020 along with a note explaining the provisions of proposals was hosted on the website of the Ministry of Mines for seeking comments / suggestions from the General Public, Mining Industry, Stake Holders, Industry Associations and Other Entities concerned within a period of 10 days initially, i.e., by 03.09.2020 and the time for seeking comments was further extended upto 10.09.2020. The details of the proposed reforms are still on the Ministry's website and all comments including from State Governments being received even beyond 10.09.2020 will be considered upto 24.09.2020. A notice to this effect also been placed on the website of Ministry of Mines.

(d) Proposals related to mining reforms are available on the website of the Ministry of Mines for consultation.
