

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2636**  
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2021

**AMENDMENT IN MMDR ACT**

2636. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a).whether there is any proposal of the Government to bring certain amendments in the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act;
- (b).if so, the details thereof including the consultation process followed, suggestions and objections received from the general public in this regard;
- (c).whether these amendments are likely to change the definition of 'illegal mining' and if so, the details thereof;
- (d).whether the amendments also propose auctioning of partially explored mining blocks; and
- (e).if so, the details thereof and the safeguards employed for possible auction of larger mineral deposits at lower prices?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to bring structural reforms in the mining sector.
- (b): As per pre- legislative consultation policy, the proposals of amendment to Acts/Rules are placed for public consultation along with consultations with other stakeholders including State Governments; the process of consultation process was followed in the instant proposal also.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d) & (e): The proposals intend to bring more blocks for auction by redefining norms for exploration. The State Governments put mineral blocks on auction keeping all factors including revenue in mind.

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