

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2249
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Afghanistan has invited some Indian companies to make the initial bids for an iron ore mine in that country;
- (b) if so, whether Government is planning to form a consortium of Indian companies and bid;
- (c) if so, the present position of the process of bidding for mining activities in Afghanistan; and
- (d) the time by which the final results are likely to come out?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (d) Government of Afghanistan had invited Expressions of Interest from mining companies, including India, for developing the Hajigak Iron ore mine in Afghanistan. A number of companies that had submitted Expressions of Interest have been short-listed as eligible by the Government of Afghanistan, including fourteen Indian companies. The Government of Afghanistan is planning to undertake a process of competitive bidding for the project and is currently finalizing the modalities for all phases of the bidding process.