

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2052
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
CONCESSIONS FOR MINERAL PROSPECTING OPERATIONS
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the present norms relating to the concessions granted for mineral prospecting operations in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to revise such norms/ increase the area permissible for mineral prospecting;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which action in this regard is likely to be taken;
- (d) whether such move would help in attracting modern technology in the mining sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a): All the exploration and mining activities in the country are undertaken in terms of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, which provides for regulation of mines and development of minerals.

(b) and (c): The Government has approved the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 for introduction in the Winter Session of Parliament, 2011. The draft Bill provides for a maximum area for mining lease at 100 sq. km. (as compared to 10 sq. km. at present), and for prospecting licence at 500 sq. km. (as compared to 25 sq. km. at present). Apart from that, a new concession called High Technology Reconnaissance-cum-Exploration Licence (HTREL) is proposed over an area of 5000 sq. km. for deep-seated deposits. The maximum area for reconnaissance would continue to be 10000 sq. km.

(d) and (e): The streamlining and simplifying the process of grant of concessions, provision for seamless transition of concessions, and transfer to eligible persons would enable an environment for attracting modern technology and investment in the mining sector.