

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3733  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011  
IDENTIFICATION OF MINERAL RICH AREAS  
Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give approval for identifying mineral rich areas in various States and to develop them as Special Mining Zones (SMZs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether gross domestic production is likely to increase as a result of speedy allotment of SMZs for potential ancillary industries in iron and power sectors; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): No, Madam. However, the draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 provides for the State Government to identify mineral bearing areas and grant prospecting and mining lease through competitive bidding as a measure to streamline and make the process of grant of concessions more transparent. This proposal is likely to increase investments in the mining sector.