

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3890
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011
SURVEY OF MINERALS BY PSUS
Patle Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) engaged in the survey of minerals and mining in the country;
- (b) the number of PSUs out of these running in profit;
- (c) whether a High Level Committee constituted by the Planning Commission has made any recommendation to remove the current provisions of reservation of minerals and metal areas to PSUs only and supplying the raw material to small and medium mineral based industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

- (a): As per available information, there are 45 Public Sector Undertakings(PSUs) including State and Central, engaged in survey(exploration) and mining of minerals in the country.
- (b): Details on profitability of the Public Sector Undertakings are not centrally maintained.
- (c) & (d): The High Level Committee had recommended that looking at the need for private investment in exploration, it is necessary that PSUs of the Central and State Governments be treated at par with private sector companies in the grant of mineral concessions. In accordance with the recommendations of the High Level Committee, the National Mineral Policy provides that in mining activities, there shall be arms length distance between State agencies(Public Sector Undertakings) that mine and those that regulate, and that there shall be transparency and fair play in the reservation of ore bodies to State agencies on such areas where private players are not holding or have not applied for exploration or mining, unless security considerations or specific public interests are involved. The draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12.12.2011 provides for reservation of mineral bearing areas only for the purpose of conservation.