

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STEEL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:471  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012  
QUOTA IN MINING OPERATIONS  
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reserve quota in mining operations for public sector units;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modalities thereon; and
- (c) the details of the public sector steel plants proposed to be covered under such quota?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)&(b): Section 17A(1A) and 17A(2) of the existing Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides reservation of areas for Public Sector Undertakings for prospecting or mining operations as per details given below:

Section 17A (1A): The Central Government may in consultation with State Government, reserve any area not already held under any prospecting licence or mining lease, for undertaking prospecting or mining operations through a Government company or corporation owned or controlled by it, and where it proposes to do so, it shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the boundaries of such area and the mineral or minerals in respect of which such area will be reserved.

Section 17A (2): The State Government may, with approval of Central Government, reserve any area not already held under any prospecting licence or mining lease, for undertaking prospecting or mining operations through a Government company or corporation owned or controlled by it and where it proposes to do so, it shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the boundaries of such area and the mineral or minerals in respect of which such areas will be reserved.

(c) The proposals for reservation of area for exploration and mining in favour of Public Sector Undertakings are considered on case-by-case basis by the Ministry of Mines in consultation with the concerned State Government as and when such proposals are received.