

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1381  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013  
GLOBAL PLAYERS IN MINING SECTOR  
Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes a major overhaul of the regulatory framework to attract more global players in the mining sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has formulated any regulations for granting more operational freedom to miners, encouraging them in wooing cutting edge technology and promoting mines safety; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b): No Madam. Government allows 100% FDI on the automatic route in the mineral sector. As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), a mining concession cannot be given to any person unless such person is an Indian national, or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956. The Government has introduced the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 (MMDR Bill 2011) in the Lok Sabha which, inter alia, prescribes that no person shall be eligible for grant of a mineral concession unless such person is a citizen of India or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): The Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 and the Oil Mines Regulations, 1984 are in the process of amendments. The salient features proposed to be incorporated in these regulations are:

- (i) Introduction of risk assessment and safety management plan from the beginning till closure of the mines;
- (ii) Setting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Code of Safe Operating Procedures (CoSOPs) for each domain of operations, maintenance, diagnostics and trouble shootings;
- (iii) Introduction and updation of methods, technology and system based on geologic and environmental domains in and around the mine;
- (iv) Application of modern technologies and tools of information and communication technology in instrumentation, operation control and management of mines including emergency preparedness and disaster control and management;
- (v) Due weightage on the human resource management and skill development using simulation and artificial intelligence in addition to the knowledge management; and
- (vi) Workers participation in safety management, an effective tool, to be an integral part of the mine management.