

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STEEL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3652  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2014  
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES FOR MINING PROJECTS  
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

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

- (a) the number of iron and manganese mining projects which are awaiting environmental clearances presently in the country;
- (b) the status of the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and Special Mining Zones (SMZs) which the Government sought to introduce to attract investment in steel sector; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious environmental clearance and implementation of SPVs and SMZs plans to promote growth in steel sector?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) STEEL AND MINES

(a) There are 13 cases of iron and manganese mining projects which are awaiting environmental clearances as per Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, as on 01/11/2014.

(b)&(c): The concept of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for development of Steel Plants in the country involves agreement of the iron ore rich State Governments for providing land and infrastructure facilities along with iron ore supply to SPV. Discussions in this regard are underway with the concerned State Governments. Similarly, in order to have speedy development of resources like iron ore & coal in the country, a concept of Special Mining Zone (SMZ) is being deliberated upon to facilitate procedural requirements for exploitation of minerals without unnecessary restrictions.