

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1404
ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

AMENDING MINERAL AUCTION RULES

1404 SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking steps to amend mineral auction rules that will encourage competition which in turn will ensure more participation in the sale of blocks and more production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof; and
- (c) whether any specific action plan has been drawn up so that the country is self-sufficient in mineral resources, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Mines has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 through MMDR Amendment Act, 2021 with effect from 28.03.2021. The objectives of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2021 *inter alia* are increasing mineral production and time bound operationalisation of mines, increasing employment and investment in the mining sector, maintaining continuity in mining operations after change of lessee and increasing the pace of exploration and auction of mineral resources. These reforms will ensure self-sufficiency in mineral requirement of the country.

In pursuance of the said amendment, the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 have been amended vide notifications dated 17.03.2021, 18.06.2021, 02.11.2021, 14.12.2021 and 18.02.2022.
