

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3577
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3.4.2017**

Planning for auction of Mines

**3577. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:
DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:**

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

- (a) whether Government has chalked out a plan to put as many as 280 mines with a mineral wealth of over ₹ 10 lakh crore for auction during the next fiscal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether 83 mines under litigation depend upon the outcome of legal process;
- (d) whether Government intends to apply drone technology for preparing topography maps, inspection of mines and prevention of illegal mining and if so, whether Governments, proposal has been accepted by concerned stakeholders; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2015 and the Rules framed thereunder, the State Governments are devolved upon the responsibility to carry out auction of mineral blocks in accordance with the prescribed law. As per the information received from various State Governments, the mineral blocks proposed for e-auction during the fiscal year 2017-18 are given in the Annexure. The likely revenue to be accrued through e-auction process to the State Governments therefrom is contingent upon the final bids at the time of the auction. The estimate of the value of mineral resources of a block to be put up on auction, is calculated by the State Government before putting the block on auction, on the basis of the estimated quantity of mineral resources in that block and the average price of such mineral as published by Indian Bureau of Mines for the relevant State for a period of twelve months immediately preceding the month of computation of the Value of Estimated Resources.

(c) The mining lease applications which were saved under section 10A (2)(c) inserted by the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 but could not be granted by 11.01.2017, stand lapsed. The Ministry of Mines, Government of India has sent application to Attorney General of India for transfer petition to the Supreme Court under Article 139 A (1) of the Constitution of India, for transfer of 58 such cases lodged against the Government of India and the State Governments by the applicants, whose applications have lapsed under section 10A(2)(c). The mineral blocks of the applications lapsed under section 10A (2)(c) will be put up on auction by the respective State Governments.

(d) & (e): The Ministry of Mines has explored the usability of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Technology (UAVs) or drones for the mining sector and has circulated a note on application of drone in Mining to all State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings like National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited, National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Steel Authority of India Limited, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Manganese Ore India Limited, Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India with a request to explore the usage and deployment of drone technology vide letter no. 31/46/2016-M.III dated 1.11.2016. MECL, a Government of India Enterprise under Ministry of Mines, has taken initiative to explore the application of drone technology as Research & Development work for 2016-17.

The details of mines to be auctioned in near future as per information received from the State Governments:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of mineral (s) to be auctioned	No of blocks to be auctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	gold, limestone	7 blocks
2.	Chhattisgarh	bauxite	2 blocks
3.	Jharkhand	bauxite, iron ore, gold limestone, emerald	8 blocks
4.	Karnataka	iron ore	10 blocks
5.	Madhya Pradesh	limestone, graphite	5 blocks
6.	Maharashtra	limestone, bauxite, manganese, tungsten, copper	11 blocks
7.	Odisha	iron ore, bauxite	2 blocks
8.	Rajasthan	iron ore, manganese and limestone	11 blocks
9.	Tamil Nadu	molybdenum, limestone, graphite iron ore	12 blocks
Total			68 blocks