

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 765
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

OPENING OF OFFSHORE MINING OF NON-ATOMIC MINERALS TO PRIVATE COMPANIES

765. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has opened up offshore mining of non-atomic minerals to private companies;
- (b) if so, the details of private companies that have been granted composite licenses or production leases till date, since Financial Year 2024;
- (c) whether Government is ensuring a fair and transparent mechanism to allocate operating rights to these private companies; and
- (d) if so, the details of actions taken to ensure transparency in auctioning and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The Offshore Area Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 [OAMDR Act] was enacted by the Parliament providing for regulation and development of minerals in offshore areas of the country. The OAMDR Act, 2002 before its amendment provided for the grant of operating rights to private companies on first come first serve basis. After the amendment to OAMDR Act in 2023, the production licence can be obtained by private companies only through a transparent non-discretionary e-auction process.

(b): Since Financial Year 2024 to till date, no composite licenses or production leases have been granted to any private companies.

(c) & (d): The OAMDR, Act, 2002 has been amended through the OAMDR (Amendment) Act, 2023, w.e.f. 17.08.2023 to mandate auction as the methodology for the grant of operating rights to private companies, thereby ensuring a fair and transparent mechanism of allocating operating rights in the offshore areas of the country.
