

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1443
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

AUCTION OF MINERAL BLOCKS

1443. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is looking to auction more than 100 blocks over the next 15 months with a potential value of about Rs. 2 lakh crore and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that the Government aims to spur increased interest in the upcoming auctions of 34 mineral blocks that are still in the pipeline and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the new norms also have a clause to discourage miners from squatting on mine leases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL

(SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed there under, 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 provided by the State Governments in various meetings, total of 102 mineral blocks are proposed to be put on auction in the year 2018-19. The estimated value of resources in the 43 mineral blocks auctioned so far is about Rs. 2 Lakh Crores. The State-wise details of the minerals blocks put up on auction or proposed to be put up on auction by the States in 2018-19 are as under:

State	Mineral Blocks presently under Auction	Mineral Blocks in Pipeline for Auction in 2018-19
Andhra Pradesh	7 Blocks (6 Limestone, 1 Gold)	-
Chhattisgarh	-	11 Blocks (7 Bauxite, 4 Limestone)
Gujarat	-	8 Blocks (5 Limestone Blocks, 3 Bauxite)
Jharkhand	3 Graphite Blocks	20 Blocks (6 Graphite, 4 Limestone, 3 Bauxite, 2 Iron Ore, 2 Emerald, 1 Manganese, 1 Copper, 1 Dolomite / Limestone)

Karnataka	8 Iron Ore Blocks	8 Blocks (7 Manganese & Iron Ore, 1 Iron Ore)
Madhya Pradesh	-	13 Blocks (6 Limestone, 3 Zinc, 2 Gold, 1 Bauxite, 1 Manganese)
Maharashtra	-	13 Blocks (6 Bauxite, 3 Limestone, 2 Copper, 1 Iron Ore, 1 Manganese)
Odisha	2 Iron Ore Blocks	8 Blocks (3 Limestone, 2 Iron Ore, 1 Manganese, 1 Bauxite, 1 Iron Ore & Manganese)
Rajasthan	-	15 Blocks (10 Limestone, 4 Copper, 1 Copper & Associated Metal)
Tamil Nadu	-	3 Molybdenum Blocks
Telangana	-	3 Limestone Blocks
Total	20 Blocks (10 Iron Ore, 6 Limestone, 3 Graphite, 1 Gold)	102 Blocks (38 Limestone, 21 Bauxite, 8 Iron Ore & Manganese, 6 Iron Ore, 7 Copper, 6 Graphite, 4 Manganese, 3 Zinc, 3 Molybdenum, 2 Emerald, 2 Gold, 1 Copper & Associated Metal, 1 Dolomite / Limestone)

The Mineral Auction Rules have been amended by the Ministry of Mines vide notification dated 30.11.2017 to make the auction process simpler and to help the States auction mineral blocks quickly.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. As per the provisos inserted in sub-rule (6) of rule 10 of the Mineral Auction Rules, it has been stipulated that no Mining Lease Deed shall be executed on expiry of a period of three years from the date of the letter of intent, and the letter of intent shall be invalidated leading to annulment of the entire process of auction:

Provided further that the State Government may allow a further period of two years for execution of the Mining Lease Deed if the reasons for delay were beyond the control of the preferred bidder.
