

SUB: AUCTIONING OF MINING BLOCKS
STARRED LAQ NO.012A TABLED BY SHRI YURI ALEMAO MLA
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023

| QUESTION | ANSWER |
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| <p>*WILL the Minister for Mines & Geology be pleased to state:</p> | <p>By Shri Pramod Sawant, Minister for Mines & Geology/ Chief Minister:</p> |
| <p>(a) whether the government has conducted a study to assess the quantum and quality (Grade Fe %) of the iron ore resources at the mining blocks that are recently e-auctioned or being auctioned in the State; if so, furnish the reports submitted by such agencies appointed by the Government along with the copies of all file noting and the criteria followed and procedure adopted for selection of such agency;</p> | <p>Sir, the quantum and quality of iron ore resources is taken from the previous available records of the erstwhile mining leases. No separate study is conducted for the same;</p> |
| <p>(b) the details along with the copies of all relevant file notings and documents of the methodology/criteria adopted by the Government to evaluate and fix the reserve price pertaining to each Iron Ore Mining Block that has been auctioned recently or being auctioned;</p> | <p>The relevant file noting copies are as per Annexure “A”</p> <p>The documents of the methodology/criteria is as per Annexure “B” ;</p> |
| <p>(c) whether the Government had conducted any assessment pertaining to high premium committed by the successful bidders vis-à-vis feasibility to operate auctioned Iron Ore Blocks; if so the basis on which the Government is of the opinion that the successful bidders will be able to operate the Blocks and carry out mining business even after paying premium over 100% (63.55% for Bicholim Mineral Block, 99.25% for Sirigao Mineral Blocks, 111.28% for Monte-de-Sirigao Mineral Block and 86.40% for Kalay Mineral Block);</p> | <p>The Government has initiated process of auction of mining blocks in terms of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as provided for under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation Amendment Act, 2015. The Bidders are expected to do their own due diligence with regard to feasibility while quoting auction premium.</p> |
| <p>(d) the details along with copies of file notings and the other documents pertaining to the number of bidders that participated in the first stage and second stage of the bidding process of</p> | <p>The copies of file noting, minutes of meeting of the technical Bid Opening of Phase I of e-auction & Response to Queries for 1st NIT is as per “Annexure C”.</p> |

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| <p>each auctioned Iron Ore Block recently concluded along with copies of the presentations made before the bidders by various Agencies/Government, copies of queries received by the Government from various bidders and copies of the Action Taken Report/Responses to the queries made by the Government ; the details of the premium/final price offer offered by each bidder during the first and second stage of the bidding process, for each Iron Ore Mineral Block auctioned so far; and</p> | |
| <p>(e) whether any Mining Company/Companies/Erstwhile Lessees that were involved in illegal mining activities or that were listed as defaulters in the Justice Shah Commission Report on illegal mining or the Mining Company/Companies/Erstwhile Lessees who have failed to pay the fine/penalty/levy as per findings of Charters Accountants Audit Report/CAG Report; Company/Companies/Erstwhile Lessees against whom cases were filed before SIT or the mining Company/Companies/Erstwhile Lessees whose Owners/Directors were arrested for illegal mining activities were allowed to participate in the e-auctioning of the Iron Ore Mining Block; if so, the names of all such Companies/Erstwhile Lessees and the reasons to allow them to participate in the e-auctioning of Iron Ore Mineral Blocks; the reason the Iron Ore Blocks are not auctioned by combining two or three leases of Erstwhile Lessees to facilitate optimum utilization of resources trapped at common boundary operation?</p> | <p>Illegal mining activity as per Shah Commission Report is under investigation by Special Investigating Team (SIT). Wherever feasible, erstwhile leases have been combined for the purpose of auction.</p> |

