

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Year-wise details of export of coir and coir products in the country during the last three years are given in Statement. {Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to USQ No. 3036 [Part (d)]}

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. There is enough scope for the growth of coir industry in the country. The Government through the Coir Board is implementing the following plan schemes for the sustainable development of Coir industry in the country;

1. Plan General:

- 1.1 Skill Upgradation, Quality Improvement Scheme and Manila Coir Yojana.
- 1.2 Development of Production Infrastructure.
- 1.3 Export Market Promotion.
- 1.4 Domestic Market Promotion.
- 1.5 Trade and Industry Related Functional Support Services.
- 1.6 Welfare Measures (Group personal accident insurance scheme for coir workers).

2. Plan Science and Technology.

3. REMOT (Rejuvenation, Modernization of Traditional Industries).

4. SFURTI (Scheme of funds for regeneration of traditional industries).

Export of iron ore and chrome ore

3039. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the steps taken on the recommendation of Chief Minister of Odisha *vide* his letter dated the 16th November, 2011 addressed to the Prime Minister and his letter dated 21st January, 2012 addressed to the Union Minister of State of the Ministry of Mines to discourage/ban export of iron ore and chrome ore which can be effectively utilized on value addition in the State?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : Export of minerals, including iron ore and chrome ore is guided by the Export-Import Policy. To conserve limited natural resources and to meet the domestic demand, duty on export of iron ore has been increased from 20% to 30% *ad valorem* basis on all grades of iron ore (except

pellets) with effect from 30.12.2011 and the export duty of chrome ore increased from Rs. 3000/- per tonne to 30% *ad valorem* from the year 2012-13.

Exploration licences for off-shore mining

3040. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of comparative evaluation route followed in the allocation of exploration licences for mineral bearing off-shore blocks located in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal in 2011;

(b) whether the notification for call for bid applications contained any guidelines or evaluation criteria, and the *inter-se* weightage of these criteria;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any of these criteria was altered or modified in any way after the bids were submitted by applicants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (e) Indian Bureau of Mines, *vide* Gazette Notification No. S.O. 1341(E), dated 07.06.2010, invited applications for grant of exploration licences in mineral bearing off-shore areas in Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. The said Gazette Notification, *inter-alia*, included broad evaluation criteria. However, weightage to each criteria was not indicated in the said notification. The guidelines for evaluation to be followed for scrutiny and allotment of exploration licences was published by the IBM in December, 2010 through their website is given in Statement (*See* below). Till date, no exploration licence has been executed as the matter is sub-judice in High Courts of Judicature of Bombay (Nagpur Bench), Andhra Pradesh (at Hyderabad) and Madras (at Chennai).

Statement

Revised guidelines for making selection of applicants for the grant of off-shore exploration licence

The mineral bearing Off-shore blocks available for grant of Exploration Licence have been notified by the Controller General as an Administering Authority, IBM on 07.06.2010. Following guidelines for evaluation of Exploration Licence Applications have been framed for processing of applications taking into consideration the provisions laid down under: (1) Section 12(1) to Section 12(3) of the Off-shore Areas Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 2002; (2) Rule 13 of the Off-shore Areas Mineral