

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

Concession Rules, 2006; and (3) Notification dated 07.06.2010 published by the Controller General, IBM & Administering Authority.

Exploration Licence Application Evaluation Criteria (Summarised)

Sl. No.	Criteria	Item-wise Points
1.	Industry:	
	(a) Existing	10
	(b) Proposed	05
2.	Technical Capability	30
3.	Exploration Work Proposed	20
4.	Financial Resources	25
5.	Data Submitted	10
	TOTAL	100

Exploration Licence Application Evaluation Criteria (With Break Up)

Sl. No.	Items	Points
1	2	3
1.	Industry Status:	(15)
	(a) Requires the mineral for use in an industry already owned by the applicant from the block applied for exploration.	10
	(b) Alternatively, Applicant has taken sufficient steps to set-up such industry. Proposed Plant with basis (depends on the results of exploration).	05
2.	Technical Capability:	(30)
	(a) A brief statement of experience on off-shore exploration, if any.	05
	(b) Competency of the technical personnel employed by the applicant for undertaking the exploration program.	05

1	2	3
	(c) In case of applicant having a Consultant/ Adviser, whether document in support of it is furnished.	02
	(d) Technical tie-up/collaboration with Companies having experience in off-shore exploration.	06
	(e) Evidence that collaborative agency has agreed to assist/ collaborate in the proposed exploration.	05
	(f) Details of exploration, survey vessel/platform and equipment.	07
3.	Exploration Work Proposed.	(20)
	(a) Plan showing the application Area of the Block.	02
	(b) Details of committed exploration work programme along with timeframe.	15
	(c) Listing of impact on the environment if any, and outline the measures for mitigation.	03
4.	Financial Resources:	(25)
	(a) Proof of financial capability to undertake the exploration work/details of the financial resources available/proof of ability to fund the exploration.	10
	(b) Alternatively, line of credit from a recognized financial institution/statement from the financial institution concerned giving the extent of credit/signed authorizations from guarantors, if applicable.	5
	(c) Expenditure commitment with proper justification as per the exploration proposal points will be given as below:	10
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	Limit (value in Rs. crores)	Rating (points)
	<1	01
	1-2	02
	2-3	03
	>3	04

1	2	3
5.	Data Submitted along with the exploration work proposed and source, mode/proof of acquisition shall be ranked as follows:	(10)
	(i) Data purchased	08
	(ii) From published literature	02

Loss due to illegal mining in Himachal Pradesh

†3041. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the year 2006, the Himachal Pradesh Government has suffered losses of Rs. 8.2 crore to 10 thousand crores due to illegal mining and around 8 districts of the State are facing the menace of mining mafias whom the State Government has failed to control;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the State Government has failed in charging the compound fee of Rs. 23.3 crore as well; and

(c) if so, by when the licences of these mining mafias would be cancelled and the details of appropriate action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) As per information received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Controller and Auditor General of India in its Audit Report (Civil), Himachal Pradesh for the year 2010-11 had observed loss of revenue to the tune of Rs. 8.02 crore on account of non-procuring of 'M' Forms from the Contractors engaged for carrying out various construction works for the Public Works Department (PWD), which is required for movement of minor minerals.

(b) and (c) The Government of Himachal Pradesh is issuing instructions from time to time to concerned Government Departments including PWD to ensure that the mineral for the construction of various works is procured from legal source by the contractors. Further, the PWD and other State Departments are deducting and depositing royalty for the mineral used by contractors from their bills directly to the account of the Department of Industries and taking action as per provisions of law against those indulging in illegal mining.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.