

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 749
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2016**

AUCTIONING OF BLOCKS TO PRIVATE EXPLORES

749. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of **MINES** be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1231 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 2016 and state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to auction non-coal and non-fuel blocks to private explorers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms and conditions laid down in this regard; and
- (c) the number and details of such blocks auctioned, so far, or proposed to be auctioned in Odisha?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES, POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b):Yes. The National Mineral Exploration Policy approved by the Government proposes that private agencies could be engaged to carry out exploration work in identified block/ areas with the right to a certain share in the revenue [by way of certain percentage of royalty/premium] accruing to State Government throughout the lease period, with transferable rights in case of discovery of an auctionable block. In cases where no such blocks are discovered, the exploring agency will be reimbursed on normative cost basis. Reasonable areas/blocks (where baseline geosciences data is available with GSI) for regional exploration has been earmarked/identified by the Government for auctioning.

(c): Nine blocks have been identified for auctioning in the State of Odisha. These blocks are related to Manganese, Chromite, Limestone, Bauxite and Gold.
