

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3060
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013
OFFSHORE EXPLORATION MINING LICENCE
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of large scale irregularities in awarding of the offshore exploration/mining licenses in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has cancelled the offshore exploration/mining licenses in view of alleged irregularities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, block-wise along with the dates of cancellation of licenses in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b): Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated a preliminary enquiry in the alleged irregularities in award of offshore mining licences.

(c) and (d): A total of 63 mineral bearing blocks have been notified vide notification dated 07.06.2010 in the offshore areas. Out of a total of 377 applications received against the said notification from 53 applicants, orders for grant of exploration licences were issued to 16 applicants for 62 blocks on 05.04.2011. However, till date no exploration licence has been executed as the matter is subjudice in High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Bombay (Nagpur bench).