

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4482

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014

IRREGULARITIES IN AWARDING OFFSHORE MINING LICENCES

Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether serious irregularities have been reported in awarding offshore mining licences to explore minerals in the sea bed of Bay of Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the government has inquired into the matter and has fixed responsibility in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d): A total of 63 minerals bearing blocks were notified vide notification dated 07.06.2010, by the Controller General of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) who is the Administering Authority for the purposes of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (OAMDR Act, 2002), for award of exploration licences. Out of a total 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, some of the aggrieved parties moved the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Bombay (Nagpur Bench) against the grant of offshore exploration licences by Indian Bureau of Mines.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted a Preliminary Enquiry to investigate alleged irregularities in grant of Exploration Licence in the offshore waters of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea and concluded that no misconduct was found on the part of any public servant of IBM in this case.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) to (d) above.