

M.IV-2306/10/2025-Mines IV-Part(1)

Government of India

Ministry of Mines

Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road

New Delhi-110 001

Dated:- 07.10.2025

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subject: Amendment of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024 for prescribing minimum 2 technically qualified bidders for proceeding with the auction in the first attempt - reg.

The existing provisions of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 framed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024 framed under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 provide that there should be at least three technically qualified bidders to continue with the auction of mineral blocks after technical qualification stage. In case there is less than three technically qualified bidder, then the first attempt of auction is annulled and State/ Central Government may decide to conduct the second attempt of auction.

2. In case of auction of coal blocks by the Ministry of Coal since June, 2020, minimum 2 technically qualified bidders are required for proceeding with the auction in the first attempt. A similar requirement is proposed in case of auction of blocks of other minerals. The proposed step is crucial to improve the success rate of auctions in first attempt which would help in minimizing delays.

3. Accordingly, it is proposed to amend the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024 for prescribing minimum 2 technically qualified bidders for proceeding with the auction in the first attempt. The draft notification for amendment of the above rules is enclosed herewith as Enclosure for comments/ suggestions of the general public, Governments of States and Union Territories, mining industry stake-holders, industry associations, and other persons and entities concerned .

4. In view of the above, it is requested that comments/ suggestions on the above issues may be sent **on or before 22.10.2025**.

5. The comments/suggestions may be sent by e-mail in MS-Office Word file to the following ID:

jspolicy-mines@gov.in

The subject of the e-mail should be "Comments/ suggestions on the proposed amendments in rules for prescribing minimum 2 technically qualified bidders for proceeding with the auction in the first attempt".

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6. Alternatively, comments/suggestions may also be sent by post to the following address:

Shri Mustaq Ahmad, Director
Ministry of Mines
Room No 313,
D-Wing Shastri Bhawan,
Dr Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi -110 001

The envelope may kindly be superscribed on the top with "Comments/suggestions on the proposed amendments in rules for prescribing minimum 2 technically qualified bidders for proceeding with the auction in the first attempt".

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Mustaq Ahmad)
Director

Draft amendment of Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2025

**TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II,
SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the September, 2025.

G.S.R....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the 'said rules'), in rule 9,—

(a) in the first proviso to sub-rule (8), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted;

(b) in sub-rule (9), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted;

(c) in sub-rule (10), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted;

(d) in the second proviso of sub-rule (12), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted.

3. In the said rules, in rule 19E,—

(a) in the first proviso to sub-rule (9), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted;

(b) in sub-rule (10), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted;

(c) in sub-rule (11), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted.

(d) in the second proviso of sub-rule (13), for the word "three", the word "two" will be substituted.

[F. No. M.VI- -Mines VI]

(Dinesh Mahur)
Joint Secretary

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 406(E), dated the 20th May, 2015 and lastly amended, *vide* number G.S.R. 255(E), dated the 23^d April, 2025.

Draft amendment of the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2025

**TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART II,
SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the September, 2025.

G.S.R....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 35 of the Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 (17 of 2003), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024, in rule 9,—

(a) in the first proviso to sub-rule (8), for the word “three”, the word “two” will be substituted;

(b) in sub-rule (9), for the word “three”, the word “two” will be substituted;

(c) in sub-rule (10), for the word “three”, the word “two” will be substituted;

(d) in the second proviso of sub-rule (12), for the word “three”, the word “two” will be substituted.

[F. No. M.VI- -Mines VI]

(Dinesh Mahur)
Joint Secretary

Note.— The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 502 (E), dated the 14th August, 2024 and amended, vide number G.S.R. 311(E), dated the 14th May, 2025.