



VITAL INDUSTRY UPDATES - 01/09/2015

States likely to auction 22 iron ore mines in October-November

Mineral bearing states of Odisha, Karnataka and Maharashtra are likely to put 22 iron ore mines under the hammer in the upcoming mines auction in October and November this year.

While Karnataka is likely to auction 15 iron ore mines, Odisha and Maharashtra may auction six mines and one mine respectively.

"We expect 22 iron ore mines to be auctioned by states in the auction slated for October-November," Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar told PTI.

Kumar added that Karnataka may auction 15 mines as per the order of the Supreme Court.

In July, the apex court directed Karnataka Government to commence "forthwith" the auctioning of 15 'C' category iron ore mines in which end-user firms dealing in steel, sponge iron or pelletisation only, would be able to take part.

The apex court also asked the authorities to conclude the auctioning process within "32 weeks from today (July 30)". It said that "public sector undertakings end users and existing end user firms" could take part in the bidding process of the mines spread over Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts.

The state government in compliance with the apex court's order had in September, 2013 cancelled 51 'C' category mining leases. The Central



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