

Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023

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About Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023:

- The Bill **amends the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.**
- The new bill **regulates mining in maritime zones of India.**
- **Highlights of the Bill:**
 - It **allows the government to reserve offshore areas** that are not held under any operating rights.
 - The Bill also allows the administering authority to **grant a composite licence or production lease to the government or a government company.**
 - It proposes to remove the provision for renewal of production lease and **provide a fixed period of fifty years for production lease** similar to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957.

- It also seeks to **provide for the grant of production lease to the private sector only through auction by competitive bidding.**
 - It also **provides for grant of operating rights without competitive bidding to a government or a government company, or a corporation in the mineral-bearing areas reserved by the central government.**
 - In the case of **atomic minerals**, the grant of exploration licence or **production lease shall be made only to a government** or a government or corporation.
 - It **aims to introduce a four-year timeline for commencement of production and dispatch after the execution of composite licence** or production lease under and timeline of two years (extendable by one year) for re-commencement of production and dispatch after discontinuation.
 - **It will enable the central government to frame rules for the conservation and systematic development of minerals in offshore areas** and for the protection of the environment by preventing or controlling any pollution which may be caused by exploration or production operations.
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Q1) What is a Mineral?

A mineral is a naturally occurring homogeneous solid with a definite chemical composition and a highly ordered atomic arrangement. It is usually formed by inorganic processes. There are several thousand known mineral species, about 100 of which constitute the major mineral components of rocks; these are the so-called rock-forming minerals. Examples of minerals include quartz, feldspar minerals, calcite, sulfur and the clay minerals such as kaolinite and smectite.

Source: [Lok Sabha passes Bill to provide fixed 50-year production lease for offshore minerals](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/offshore-areas-minerals-development-and-regulation-amendment-bill-2023/>

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