October 16, 2026

MINISTRY OF MINES

Part D mineral auctions proceed to round two with two qualified bidders

G.S.R. 898(E) amends the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015: a Part D mineral auction goes to its second round with two or more technically qualified bidders.

THE MINISTRY OF MINES has amended the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 so that an auction of a mineral in Part D of the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 goes on to its second round when there are two or more technically qualified bidders. In rule 19E, it replaces the word "three" with "two" in three places. It did this in the Mineral (Auction) Third Amendment Rules, 2026, notification G.S.R. 898(E), dated October 16, 2026.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY
Ministry of Mines

PUBLISHED
October 16, 2026

ISSUED BY
Ministry of Mines

DOCUMENT
Notification G.S.R. 898(E), the Mineral (Auction) Third Amendment Rules, 2026



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The notification is published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 827, dated October 16, 2026 (CG-DL-E-19102026-277279). It is made under section 13 of the Act and signed by Kulveer Singh Yadav, Joint Secretary, under F. No. M.IV-2306/10/2025-Mines IV-Part(1). The rules came into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Rule 9 gets three new provisos, each for the auction of a mineral in Part D. In sub-rule (8), if the number of technically qualified bidders is between two and five, all of them are treated as qualified bidders. In sub-rule (9), if there are two or more, the auction goes on to the second round in the manner set out in clauses (i) to (iii). In sub-rule (10), if there are fewer than two, none is treated as a qualified bidder and the first attempt of auction is annulled. In the existing second proviso to sub-rule (8), "Provided further" becomes "Provided also".

In rule 19E, the word "three" is replaced by "two" in sub-rule (9) (the first proviso), sub-rule (10) and sub-rule (11). The notification doesn't quote what those sub-rules say, and it doesn't change any other rule.

The principal rules were published as G.S.R. 406(E), dated May 20, 2015. The notification lists 14 earlier amendments, from G.S.R. 1469(E) of November 30, 2017 to G.S.R. 223(E) of March 30, 2026.

Issued by	Ministry of Mines
Document	Notification G.S.R. 898(E), the Mineral (Auction) Third Amendment Rules, 2026
Dated	October 16, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 827, October 16, 2026 (CG-DL-E-19102026-277279)
Legal basis	Section 13, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

Amends	Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (G.S.R. 406(E), May 20, 2015), rules 9 and 19E
Applies to	Auctions of minerals in Part D of the First Schedule to the Act (rule 9)
Bidders needed for the second round	Two or more technically qualified bidders (new proviso after rule 9(9))
Fewer than two bidders	No qualified bidder, and the first attempt of auction is annulled
Rule 19E	"three" replaced by "two" in sub-rules (9) (first proviso), (10) and (11)
Takes effect	On publication in the Official Gazette
Signed by	Kulveer Singh Yadav, Joint Secretary, F. No. M.IV-2306/10/2025-Mines IV-Part(1)

The notification (PDF, 442 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-19102026-277279.

Checked against the official copy on November 12, 2026.

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