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(Part- I : General Reviews)

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**STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING
LICENCES AND MINING LEASES**

(FINAL RELEASE)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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3 Status of Reconnaissance Permits, Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases in India

INTRODUCTION

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (as amended up to 27.3.2015) and the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, the State Governments may grant non-exclusive reconnaissance permits, prospecting licences (for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015), composite licences (prospecting licence-cum-mining lease) and mining leases. Also the State Governments are required to submit a copy of every mineral concession granted or renewed under the Act and rules made thereunder within two months of such grant or renewal to the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines under Rule 59 (1) of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016. Additionally, the State Governments also have to submit a consolidated Annual Return of all mineral concession granted or renewed under the Act and rules made thereunder to the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines in such form as may be specified for the purpose under Rule 59 (2) of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 not later than the 30th day of June following the year to which the return relates.

RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS

Reconnaissance Permit is a permit granted for the purpose of undertaking “reconnaissance operations” which means any operation undertaken for preliminary prospecting of a mineral through regional, aerial, geophysical or geochemical surveys and geological mapping, but does not include pitting, trenching, drilling (except drilling of boreholes on a grid specified from time to time by the Central Government) or sub-surface excavation.

As per section 10C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permits may be granted in respect of any notified minerals or non-notified minerals or a group of specified minerals, other than minerals specified

in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act 1957, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The holder of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall not be entitled to make any claim for the grant of any prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or a mining lease. As per the Rule 3(2) of The Mineral (Non-exclusive Reconnaissance Permits) Rules, 2015, the State Government shall establish an online system for grant of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permits.

During 2016-17, no information regarding Reconnaissance Permits/Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permits having been approved/granted was received.

PROSPECTING LICENCES

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, (as amended up to 27.3.2015) "Prospecting Licence" (PL) means a licence granted for the purpose of undertaking “prospecting operations” with a view to exploring, locating or proving mineral deposits. The State Governments and Union Territories are empowered to grant/renew/revoke Prospecting Licences (only for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015), under provisions of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016.

As per information received from the State Governments/Union Territories, one Prospecting Licence (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) was granted covering an area of 900 hectares during 2016-17 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The state-wise details of Prospecting Licences granted during 2014-15 to 2016-17 are furnished in Table- 1.

Mineral-wise, in 2016-17, Prospecting Licences (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) for Gold, Iron, Tungsten, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Silver and all associated minerals were granted and accounted for the area of 900 hectares in the district of Chittoor,

Andhra Pradesh. The mineral-wise distribution of Prospecting Licences granted during 2014-15 to 2016-17 is furnished in Table-2.

COMPOSITE LICENCES (PROSPECTING LICENCE - CUM- MINING LEASE)

“Composite Licences or Prospecting Licence-cum-mining lease ” means a two stage concession granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations followed by mining operation. During 2016-17, no information regarding “Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease” or composite licence” having been approved/granted was received.

MINING LEASES

Section 3 (c) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 defines “Mining Lease” (ML) as a lease granted for the purpose of undertaking mining operations and includes a sub-lease granted for such purpose. The Act defines “mining operations” as any operations undertaken for the purpose of winning any mineral.

The status of mining leases of 40 metallic and non-metallic minerals (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) as on 31.3.2016 indicates that 4128 mining leases were in force in the country in 24 States covering an area of 3,54,908.75 hectares.

The state-wise summary of existing mining leases during 2013-14 to 2015-16 is detailed in Table-3. The mineral-wise summary of existing mining leases as on 31.3.2016 is furnished in Table-4 .

Sector-wise distribution of mining leases as on 31.3.2016 is furnished in Table-5.

During 2015-16, the state-wise break up of mining leases as reflected in Table-3 indicates that Madhya Pradesh was leading with 697 mining leases followed by Tamil Nadu (543), Gujarat (467), Andhra Pradesh (462), Karnataka (393), Odisha (350), Goa (281), Chhattisgarh (177), Maharashtra (167), Jharkhand (164), Rajasthan (163) and Telangana (113). These 12 states together accounted for about 96.34% of the total mining leases in force.

Of the total mining lease area covered by different States, Odisha accounted for 19.50%

followed by Rajasthan (14.14%), Karnataka (11.28%), Madhya Pradesh (9.19%), Andhra Pradesh (7.45%), Jharkhand (6.72%), Chhattisgarh (6.63%), Gujarat (6.32%), Goa (6%), Maharashtra (3.49%), Telangana (3.09%), and Tamil Nadu (2.67%). These twelve States accounted for about 96.48% of the total mining lease area granted and the remaining 3.52% was accounted for by the rest of the twelve States.

Scheduled Minerals are Minerals those specified in Part C of the First Schedule of The Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. There are 11 minerals under Scheduled Minerals for which mining leases were in existence as on 31.3.2016. The number of existing mining leases for said Scheduled Minerals are 1,488, i.e., about 36% of the total mining leases accounting for an area of 1,76,230 hectares which is about 50% of the total mining lease area (Excluding coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas, atomic mineral and minor minerals) in the country. Out of the eleven scheduled minerals, the total number of mining leases for iron ore is placed at 713 followed by bauxite (372), manganese ore (321), chromite (34), copper ore (14), lead & zinc ores (13), gold (11), ruby (06) diamond (02) and asbestos & sapphire (01 each).

During 2015-16, mining leases in force were in both Private and Public Sectors and also included Central and State Government Undertakings. Out of the total 4,128 mining leases in force in the country, 3833 (92.85%) mining leases with an area of 2,57,898.07 hectares (72.67%) are in the Private Sector and the remaining 295 (7.15%) with an area of 97010.68 hectares (27.33%) are in the Public Sector.

In the metallic minerals, Ferrous group of minerals includes iron ore, manganese ore, chromite, while the Non-ferrous group of minerals comprises bauxite, copper ore, lead & zinc ores, molybdenum, nickel, tin and the noble metals which include gold, silver and platinum group of metals. There are no mining leases for molybdenum, nickel, silver and platinum group of metals in the country. In 2015-16, the number of existing mining leases for 08 metallic minerals (including gold) were 1,492 (36%) covering an area of 1,75,401.97 hectares (49%). On the other hand, the number of existing leases for 32 non-metallic minerals/industrial minerals were 2,636 (64%) which covered an area of 1,79,506.78 hectares (51%).

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

**Table-1 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2014-15 to 2016-17
(By States)**

| State | 2014-15* | | 2015-16** | | 2016-17** | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| | No. | Area (ha) | No. | Area (ha) | No. | Area (ha) |
| India | 168 | 28255.36 | 5 | 2869.048 | 1 | 900 |
| Andhra Pradesh | - | - | 1 | 900 | 1 | 900 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 3 | 6122.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Chhattisgarh | 5 | 56.64 | 1 | 1548.00 | - | - |
| Jharkhand | 4 | 21.75 | - | - | - | - |
| Madhya Pradesh | 29 | 1385.39 | - | - | - | - |
| Odisha | - | - | 3 | 421.048 | - | - |
| Rajasthan | 109 | 19630.03 | - | - | - | - |
| Tamil Nadu | 8 | 249.97 | - | - | - | - |
| Telangana | 6 | 767.83 | - | - | - | - |
| Uttarakhand | 4 | 21.75 | - | - | - | - |

*Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum & Natural Gas and the minerals declared as minor as per Gazette Notification dated 10th February 2015.

** Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals.

Source: Data received from various State Governments (Compiled the data from BMI April-September 2016 and BMI October-March 2017).

**Table – 2 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2014-15 to 2016-17
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | 2014-15* | | 2015-16* | | 2016-17** | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | No. | Area (ha) | No. | Area (ha) | No. | Area (ha) |
| India | 168 | 28255.36 | 5 | 2869.048 | 1 | 900[#] |
| Barytes | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bauxite | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Calcite | 8 | 361.96 | - | - | - | - |
| China clay | 3 | 100.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Chromite | - | - | 3 | 421.048 | - | - |
| Dolomite | 2 | 20.60 | - | - | - | - |
| Garnet (abrasive) | 1 | 160.77 | - | - | - | - |
| Graphite | 6 | 3708.44 | - | - | - | - |
| Gypsum | 15 | 5469.16 | - | - | - | - |
| Iron ore | 2 | 221.09 | - | - | - | - |
| Laterite | 6 | 54.05 | - | - | - | - |
| Limestone | 18 | 1060.78 | - | - | - | - |
| Limestone (cement grade) | 17 | 13080.40 | - | - | - | - |
| Manganese ore | 5 | 819.86 | - | - | - | - |
| Pyrophyllite | 1 | 6.84 | - | - | - | - |
| Quartz | 1 | 5.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Red ochre | 1 | 42.00 | - | - | - | - |
| Rock phosphate | 3 | 101.10 | - | - | - | - |
| Talc/soapstone/steatite | 4 | 21.75 | - | - | - | - |
| Silica sand | 28 | 1222.27 | - | - | - | - |
| Silicious earth | 4 | 264.79 | - | - | - | - |
| Group of minerals | 43 | 1534.50 | 2 | 2448.00 | 1 | 900 [#] |

*Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum & Natural Gas and the minerals declared as minor as per Gazette Notification dated 10th February 2015.

** Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals.

Source: Data received from various State Governments. (Compiled the data from BMI April-September 2016 and BMI October-March 2017).

[#]Prospecting Licences granted for Gold, Iron, Tungsten, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Silver and all associated minerals.

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

**Table-3 : Existing Mining Leases, 2013-14 to 2015-16
(By States)**

| State | 2013-14 * | | 2014-15* | | 2015-16** | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | No. | Area (ha) | No. | Area (ha) | No. | Area (ha) |
| India | 10982 | 454706.15 | 11001 | 453891.73 | 4128 | 354908.75 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2038 [#] | 61470 [#] | 1484 | 41902.37 | 462 | 26438.25 |
| Assam | 7 | 889.50 | 7 | 889.50 | 7 | 889.50 |
| Bihar | 9 | 1382.66 | 15 | 1604.07 | 12 | 387.47 |
| Chhattisgarh | 300 | 22070.85 | 299 | 23707.11 | 177 | 23546.78 |
| Goa | 267 | 19892.01 | 90 | 7402.98 | 281 | 21280.45 |
| Gujarat | 1100 | 29632.55 | 1078 | 28503.23 | 467 | 22434.02 |
| Haryana | 110 | 10974.99 | 107 | 10912.38 | 4 | 46.85 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 44 | 2542.39 | 43 | 2539.21 | 41 | 2465.80 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 57 | 2450.93 | 59 | 2458.14 | 35 | 2012.48 |
| Jharkhand | 282 | 30344.92 | 271 | 27033.79 | 164 | 23846.08 |
| Karnataka | 545 | 47653.07 | 546 | 47651.14 | 393 | 40020.59 |
| Kerala | 91 | 3077.84 | 90 | 2431.76 | 15 | 2246.49 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1001 | 32882.58 | 1018 | 34835.46 | 697 | 32613.27 |
| Maharashtra | 260 | 15454.61 | 260 | 15457.68 | 167 | 12401.94 |
| Manipur | 1 | 132.78 | 1 | 132.78 | 1 | 132.78 |
| Meghalaya | 18 | 606.19 | 18 | 606.19 | 17 | 601.29 |
| Odisha | 461 | 73594.13 | 526 | 74840.12 | 350 | 69207.98 |
| Rajasthan | 3306 | 84140.69 | 3511 | 93092.56 | 163 | 50169.61 |
| Sikkim | 3 | 96.32 | 3 | 96.32 | 3 | 96.32 |
| Tamil Nadu | 931 | 9765.52 | 935 | 10162.56 | 543 | 9470.21 |
| Telangana | - | - | 486 | 22516.88 | 113 | 10990.12 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 23 | 3964.70 | 23 | 3619.30 | 5 | 3397.80 |
| Uttarakhand | 83 | 1272.85 | 87 | 1083.11 | 7 | 191.79 |
| West Bengal | 45 | 414.07 | 44 | 413.09 | 4 | 20.88 |

[#] Includes data on Mining Leases of Telangana.

*Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas (includes the minerals declared as minor as per Gazette Notification dated 10th February 2015).

** Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals.

Source: Data received from various State Governments.

Table-4 : Existing Mining Leases as on 31.3.2016
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No. of Leases | Lease area (ha) |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| India | 4128 | 354908.75 |
| Amethyst | 3 | 7.83 |
| Apatite | 2 | 20.17 |
| Aquamarine | 1 | 24.29 |
| Asbestos | 1 | 49.22 |
| Bauxite | 372 | 29106.76 |
| Borax | 1 | 159.00 |
| Chromite | 34 | 8955.19 |
| Copper ore | 14 | 4253.98 |
| Diamond | 2 | 275.96 |
| Emerald | 1 | 46.32 |
| Epidote | 1 | 215.83 |
| Fluorite | 11 | 722.84 |
| Garnet | 105 | 1617.59 |
| Garnet (Gem) | 2 | 38.95 |
| Gold | 11 | 7445.46 |
| Graphite | 105 | 3482.39 |
| Iolite | 14 | 195.70 |
| Iron ore | 713 | 90301.95 |
| Kyanite | 30 | 1446.75 |
| Lead & Zinc ores | 13 | 17977.92 |
| Limeshell | 25 | 2856.78 |
| Limestone | 2015 | 156016.02 |
| Magnesite | 38 | 1894.36 |
| Manganese ore | 321 | 17060.54 |
| Marl | 1 | 4.90 |
| Moulding sand | 35 | 841.85 |
| Perlite | 1 | 144.88 |
| Phosphorite | 11 | 2158.60 |
| Red Oxide | 4 | 80.34 |
| Rock Phosphate | 1 | 13.20 |
| Ruby | 6 | 130.00 |
| Sapphire | 1 | 673.40 |
| Semi precious stone | 13 | 134.43 |
| Siliceous earth | 25 | 226.75 |
| Sillimanite | 7 | 3027.06 |
| Tin | 14 | 300.17 |
| Vermiculite | 104 | 1861.04 |
| White clay | 39 | 644.40 |
| White shale | 15 | 77.34 |
| Wollastonite | 16 | 418.59 |

** Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals.

Source: Data received from various State Governments.

Table – 5 : Existing Mining Leases as on 31.3.2016
(By Sectors)**

| Sector | No. of Leases | Percent (%) | Area (ha) | Percent (%) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| India | 4128 | 100 | 354908.75 | 100 |
| Public | 295 | 7.15 | 97010.68 | 27.33 |
| Central Government Undertakings | 112 | 2.71 | 52809.76 | 14.88 |
| State Government Undertakings | 183 | 4.44 | 44200.92 | 12.45 |
| Private | 3833 | 92.85 | 257898.07 | 72.67 |

*** Excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minor Minerals.
Source: Data received from various State Governments.*