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SECTION – 1.

1. MINERAL LEGISLATION

A. Notifications/Amendments:

1. **Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 304(E).**— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement:

- (1) These rules may be called the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015.
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Application: These rules shall apply to all minerals except -

- (i) petroleum and natural gas;
- (ii) coal, lignite and sand for stowing;
- (iii) minerals listed in Part B of the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957); and
- (iv) minor minerals.

3. Definitions and interpretation:

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (a) “**Act**” means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957);
- (b) “**composite licence**” means a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease issued under sub-section (2) of section 10B or sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Act;
- (c) “**conforming**” means in a form as near thereto as circumstances of each case may require;
- (d) “**evidence of mineral contents**” means the existence of mineral contents established as specified in rule 4, rule 5, or sub-rule (2) of rule 7, as the case may be;
- (e) “**threshold value of minerals**” means the limits prescribed by the Indian Bureau of Mines from time to time based on the beneficiability and marketability of a mineral for a given region and given time, below which the material obtained after mining can be discarded as waste;
- (f) “**Schedule**” means the Schedule annexed to these rules;
- (g) the expressions Reconnaissance Survey (G4), Preliminary Exploration (G3), General Exploration (G2), Detailed Exploration (G1), Reconnaissance Mineral Resource (334), Inferred Mineral Resource (333), Indicated Mineral Resource (332), Measured Mineral Resource (331), Probable Mineral Reserve (121 and 122), Proved Mineral Reserve (111), Feasibility Mineral Resource (211), Pre-Feasibility Mineral Resource (221 and 222), Modifying Factors, Geological Study (F3), Pre-Feasibility Study (F2), Feasibility Study (F1), Intrinsically Economic (E3), Potentially Economic (E2) and Economic (E1) used in these rules shall have the meanings assigned to them in Part-I of the Schedule;
- (h) all other words and expressions used in these rules, but not defined, shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act or the rules made thereunder.

4. Determining existence of mineral contents under sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub section (2) of section 10A of the Act:

- (1) Where an application for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease to a holder of a reconnaissance permit or prospecting licence, as the case may be, has not been submitted before the 12th January, 2015, the holder of such permit or licence shall be deemed to have established the existence of mineral contents under sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 10A of the Act, if the holder has-

- (a) In the case of grant of prospecting licence, -

(i) carried out Reconnaissance Survey (G4) to establish anomalous zones (areas) worthy of further exploration; and

(ii) prepared a geological study report conforming to Part IV of the Schedule and such geological study report has been submitted to the State Government;

(b) In the case of grant of mining lease, -

(i) carried out at least General Exploration (G2 level) over the area to establish Indicated Mineral Resource (332); and

(ii) prepared at least a Pre-Feasibility Study (F2) report to establish Probable Mineral Reserve (121 and 122) conforming to Part V of the Schedule, to plan mining operation for a period of five years from the date of commencement of the mining lease, and such report has been submitted to the State Government.

(2) Where an application for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease to a holder of a reconnaissance permit or prospecting licence, as the case may be, has been submitted before the 12th January, 2015, the holder of such permit or licence shall be deemed to have established the existence of mineral contents under sub-clause (i) of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 10A of the Act, if the holder has,—

(a) In the case of grant of prospecting licence,—

(i) carried out reconnaissance operations as per Scheme of Reconnaissance under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988; and

(ii) submitted report to the State Government, after completing reconnaissance operations, in conformity with such Scheme of Reconnaissance and satisfying the conditions laid down in the guidelines for processing Mineral Concession proposals issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Mines dated 24th June, 2009 and 30th October, 2014;

(b) In the case of grant of mining lease, -

(i) carried out prospecting operations as per Scheme of Prospecting under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988; and

(ii) submitted report to the State Government, after completing prospecting operations, in conformity with such Scheme of Prospecting and satisfying the conditions laid down in the guidelines for processing Mineral Concession proposals issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Mines dated 24th June, 2009 and 30th October, 2014.

5. Existence of mineral contents for auction of mining lease under sub-section (3) of section 10B and sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Act.-

An area shall be considered to be having existence of mineral contents under sub-section (3) of section 10B or sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Act, if, in respect of such area,-

(a) at least General Exploration (G2) has been completed to establish Indicated Mineral Resource (332); and

(b) a geological study report has been prepared conforming to Part IV of the Schedule.

6. Grant of a mining lease through auction in respect of mining leases after expiry of the mining lease period and of leases which have been surrendered, determined or lapsed. -

Before notifying any area for grant of mining lease through auction, in respect of –

- (a) mining lease after expiry of the lease period; and
- (b) mining lease which has been surrendered, determined or lapsed,

a detailed reassessment of resources, in the area proposed to be auctioned shall be carried out in accordance with rule 5.

7. Existence of mineral contents for grant of composite licence.-

(1) An area may be notified for auction to grant a composite licence under sub-section (2) of section 10B or sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Act, if, in respect of such area, -

- (a) Preliminary Exploration (G3) has been completed to establish Inferred Mineral Resource (333); and
- (b) a geological study report has been prepared conforming to Part-IVA and Part IV-B of the Schedule.

(2) An area shall be considered to be having existence of mineral contents under sub-section (10) of section 11 of the Act, if, in respect of such area,-

- (a) at least General Exploration (G2) has been completed to establish Indicated Mineral Resource (332); and
- (b) at least a Pre-Feasibility Study (F2) report has been prepared to establish Probable Mineral Reserve (121 and 122) conforming to Part V of the Schedule, to plan mining operation for a period of five years from the date of commencement of mining lease and such report has been submitted to the State Government.

8. Relaxation. -

Depending upon the local geological setup, mode of occurrence and nature of mineralisation, the State Government may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, relax the exploration norms as specified in Part III of the Schedule, in whole or in part for any mineral or any area.

SCHEDULE

[See rule 3(f), 3(g), 4(1)(a)(ii), 4(1)(b)(ii), 5(b), 7(1)(b), 7(2)(b)]

The terms used, pertaining to levels of exploration and the category of resources and reserves achieved through various levels of exploration have been defined in Part-I of the Schedule. The parameters for establishing the existence of mineral content in an area in terms of quantity and grade have been specified in Part-II, Part-III, Part-IVA, Part-IVB, and Part-V of the Schedule.

**Part – I
Definitions**

1. The definitions and codes used in Part I of the schedule are drawn mainly from the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) version-1997 and Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) Template. To the extent found necessary, the definitions given here may be supplemented by reference to UNFC or CRIRSCO.

2. **The exploration for any mineral deposit** involves four stages namely, Reconnaissance Survey (G4), Preliminary Exploration (G3), General Exploration (G2) and Detailed Exploration (G1). These stages of exploration lead to four resource categories namely Reconnaissance Mineral Resource, Inferred Mineral Resource, Indicated Mineral Resource and Measured Mineral Resource, respectively reflecting the degree of geological assurance.

3. **Reconnaissance Survey (G4)** identifies areas of enhanced mineral potential based primarily on results of regional geological studies, regional geological mapping, airborne and indirect methods, preliminary field inspection, as well as geological inference and extrapolation. The objective is to identify mineralised areas worthy of further investigation towards deposit identification. Estimates of quantities should only be made if sufficient data are available and when an analogy with known deposits of similar geological character is possible, and then only within an order of magnitude.

4. **Preliminary Exploration (G3)** is the systematic process of searching for a mineral deposit by narrowing down areas of promising enhanced mineral potential. The methods utilised are outcrop identification, geological mapping, and indirect methods such as geophysical and geochemical studies. Limited wide spaced pitting/ trenching/drilling with sampling is made to identify a deposit which will be the target for further exploration. Estimates of quantities are inferred, based on interpretation of geological, geophysical, geochemical and geo-technical investigation results.

5. **General Exploration (G2)** involves the initial delineation of an identified deposit. Methods used include surface mapping, pitting/ trenching/drilling, followed by sampling for evaluation of mineral quantity and quality (including mineralogical tests on laboratory scale if required), and limited interpolation based on indirect methods of investigation. The objective is to establish the main geological features of a deposit, giving a reasonable indication of continuity and providing an initial estimate of size, shape, structure and grade.

6. **Detailed Exploration (G1)** involves the detailed three-dimensional delineation of a known deposit achieved through sampling, such as from outcrops, pits, trenches, boreholes, shafts and tunnels, etc. Sampling grids are closely spaced such that size, shape, structure, grade, and other relevant characteristics of the deposit are established with a high degree of accuracy. Processing tests involving bulk sampling may be required.

7. **Mineral Resource** is a concentration or occurrence of solid material of economic interest in or on the earth's crust in such form, grade or quality and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction. The location, quantity, grade or quality, continuity and other geological characteristics of a Mineral Resource are known, estimated or interpreted from specific geological evidence and knowledge, including sampling. Mineral Resources are subdivided, in order of increasing geological confidence into Reconnaissance, Inferred, Indicated and Measured resource categories.

8. **Reconnaissance Mineral Resource (334)** are estimates based primarily on indirect evidence and includes data and information generated through a reconnaissance survey. The quantity of data available is generally not sufficient to allow any reasonable estimates of Mineral Resource.

9. **Inferred Mineral Resource (333)** is that part of a Mineral Resource for which quantity and grade or quality are estimated on the basis of limited geological evidence and sampling achieved through a stage of preliminary exploration. An Inferred Resource has a lower level of confidence than that applying to an Indicated Mineral Resource and shall not be converted to a Mineral Reserve. The majority of Inferred Mineral Resources could be upgraded to Indicated Mineral Resources with continued exploration.

10. **Indicated Mineral Resource (332)** is that part of a Mineral Resource for which quantity, grade or quality, densities, shape and physical characteristics are estimated with sufficient confidence to allow the application of Modifying Factors in sufficient detail to support mine planning and evaluation of the economic viability of the deposit. Geological evidence is derived from adequately detailed and reliable exploration, sampling & testing and is sufficient to assume geological and grade or quality continuity between points of observation. An Indicated Mineral Resource has a lower level of confidence than that applying to a Measured Mineral Resource and may only be converted to a Probable Mineral Reserve.

11. **Measured Mineral Resource (331)** is that part of a Mineral Resource for which quantity, grade or quality, densities, shape, and physical characteristics are estimated with confidence sufficient to allow the application of Modifying Factors to support detailed mine planning and final evaluation of the economic viability of the deposit. Geological evidence is derived from detailed and reliable exploration, sampling and testing and is sufficient to confirm geological and grade or quality continuity between points of observation. A Measured Mineral Resource has a higher level of confidence than that applying to either an Indicated Mineral Resource or an Inferred Mineral Resource. It may be converted to a Proved Mineral Reserve or to a Probable Mineral Reserve.

12. **Mineral Reserve** is the economically mineable part of a Measured and Indicated Mineral Resource. It includes diluting materials and allowances for losses, which may occur when the material is mined or extracted and is defined by studies at Pre-Feasibility or Feasibility level as appropriate that include application of Modifying Factors.

Probable Mineral Reserve (121 and 122) is the economically mineable part of an Indicated, and in some circumstances, a Measured Mineral Resource.

The confidence in the Modifying Factors applying to a Probable Mineral Reserve is lower than that applying to a Proved Mineral Reserve.

Proved Mineral Reserve (111) is the economically mineable part of a Measured Mineral Resource. A Proved Mineral Reserve implies a high degree of confidence in the Modifying Factors.

Feasibility Mineral Resource (211) A 'Feasibility Mineral Resource' is that part of Measured Mineral Resource which is not economically mineable as , defined by studies at feasibility level. This material is identified as being possibly economically viable subject to changes in technological, economic, and environmental and/or other relevant conditions.

Pre-Feasibility Mineral Resource (221 and 222) A 'Prefeasibility Mineral Resource' is that part of an Indicated, and in some circumstances, Measured Mineral Resource, that has been found, by studies at Pre-feasibility level, as not economically viable. This material is identified as being possibly economically viable subject to changes in technological, economic, and environmental and/or other relevant conditions.

13. **A Geological Study (F3)** is an initial evaluation of Economic Viability. This is obtained by applying meaningful cut off values for grade, thickness, depth, and costs estimated from comparable mining operations. The purpose of the Geological Study is to identify mineralization, to establish continuity, quantity, and quality of a mineral deposit, and thereby define an investment opportunity. Economic viability categories, however, cannot in general be defined from the Geological Study because of the lack of details necessary for an Economic Viability evaluation. The resource quantities estimated may indicate that the deposit is of intrinsic economic interest, i.e. in the range of economic to potentially economic.

14. **Modifying Factors** are those factors which are taken into consideration while conducting a

Prefeasibility or feasibility study so as to convert Mineral Resources to Mineral Reserves. These include, but are not restricted to, mining, processing, end use, cut off grade, threshold value, metallurgical, infrastructure, economic, marketing, legal, environmental, social and governmental factors.

15. **A Pre-Feasibility Study (F2)** is a study of a range of options for the economic viability of a mineral project that has advanced to a stage where a preferred mining method, in the case of underground mining, or the pit configuration, in the case of an open pit, is established and an effective method of mineral processing is determined. It includes a financial analysis based on reasonable assumptions on the Modifying Factors and the evaluation of any other relevant factors which are sufficient, to determine if all or part of the Mineral Resource may be converted to a Mineral Reserve at the time of reporting. A Pre-Feasibility Study is at a lower confidence level than a Feasibility Study.

16. **A Feasibility Study (F1)** is a detailed comprehensive economic study of the selected development option for a mineral project that includes appropriately detailed assessments of applicable Modifying Factors together with any other relevant operational factors and detailed financial analysis that are necessary to demonstrate at the time of reporting that extraction is reasonably justified (economically mineable). The confidence level of the study will be higher than that of a Pre-Feasibility Study.

17. **Intrinsically Economic (E3)** Quantities, reported in tonnes or volume with grade/quality, estimated by means of a Geological Study to be of intrinsic economic interest. Since the Geological Study includes only a preliminary evaluation of Economic Viability, no distinction can be made between economic and potentially economic. These Resources are, therefore, said to lie in the range of economic to potentially economic.

18. **Potentially Economic (E2)** Quantities, reported in tonnes/volume with grade/quality, demonstrated by means of a Prefeasibility Study or Feasibility Study in order of increasing accuracy, not justifying extraction under the technological economic, environmental and other relevant conditions, realistically assumed at the time of the determination, but possibly so in the future.

19. **Economic (E1)** Quantities, reported in tonnes or volume with grade/quality, demonstrated by means of a Prefeasibility Study or Feasibility Study in order of increasing accuracy, that justify extraction under the technological, economic, environmental and other relevant conditions, realistically assumed at the time of the determination.

Part-II

Geological Parameters for exploration

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Aerial reconnaissance: Satellite imagery/ remote sensing/ airborne geophysical survey, etc. using appropriate technology (applicable mainly for reconnaissance exploration (G4) stage). |
| 2 | Topographic & Geological survey (Mapping): On 1 : 50,000 or smaller scale for reconnaissance (G4) stage; on 1:25000 to 1 : 10,000 or larger scale for preliminary exploration (G3) stage; 1:4000/1 : 5,000 or larger scale for general exploration(G2) stage; on 1 : 2,000 or larger scale for detailed exploration (G1) stage. |
| 3 | Ground Geophysical and Geochemical survey: Geophysical and geochemical survey using appropriate techniques as may be necessary. |

| | |
|----|---|
| 4 | <p>Technological : Exploration and sampling using appropriate techniques from locations such as outcrops, trenches, pits, old workings and drill holes. The sampling locations are spaced suitably (in a grid pattern to the extent possible and may be modified depending on structural complexity) for establishing existence of ore body and its lateral and vertical continuity. Part III of the schedule may be referred for further details.</p> <p>For General (G2) and detailed (G1) stages of exploration the depth continuity of mineralisation may be considered limited to the depth up to which direct evidence of mineralization is established.</p> <p>The lateral extension to be considered for resource assessment shall depend on geological considerations supplemented by geological continuity by mapping or by other means and in any case shall not be more than 50% of the grid spacing of the probe points.</p> <p>Assessment based on selected information such as isolated assays, isolated drill holes, assays of panned concentrates, etc. is not recommended.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Sampling & sub sampling: (a) Random grab/chip/channel sampling from surface exposure/escarpments/ nallah cuttings/ pit/channel, etc. for reconnaissance stage.</p> <p>(b) Systematic sampling from pits/trenches/outcrops/workings etc. spaced closely enough to confirm geological and grade continuity for other stages of geological assessment.</p> <p>(c) Geological logging and sampling of drill core/chip samples at regular interval, preferably meter wise or less for the mineralized portions.</p> <p>(d) The drill technique to be deployed shall depend on the rock type to be penetrated and with an aim to achieve maximum sample/core recovery.</p> <p>(e) The exploration samples including surface samples, drill core/ chip samples shall be preserved, for future use.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Assay data & Laboratory tests: Analysis of all samples generated for major radicals appropriate to the mineral under investigation. Analysis of byproducts such as Ga in bauxite, Ni, PGE in chromite, Au in iron ore, Ag in lead and zinc, Au in copper ore, etc. and other deleterious elements wherever necessary.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Petrographic & Mineragraphic studies: Petrographic analysis of mineralized portions to ascertain the rock types and mineral assemblages including grain size, texture, gaunge and its liberation characteristics, etc. if considered necessary.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Bulk density study: The bulk density must be measured by methods that adequately account for incipient void spaces (vugs, porosity, etc.)in mineral /ore body.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Bulk Sampling for Beneficiation studies: Bulk sampling if necessary for testing processing technology.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Environmental setting: Details about local infrastructure, host population, historical sites, forests, sanctuaries, national park and base line information on environmental setting of the area to be collected.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Any other relevant data: Groundwater, geotechnical and rock characteristics, etc. that may be relevant.</p> |

Part –III

Exploration Norms for different types of deposits

(The grid spacing given below are indicative. A closer spacing may be necessary depending upon the geological complexity of the deposit)

| Type of deposit & principal minerals | G4 stage | G3 stage | G2 stage | G1 stage | Remarks |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| I. Bedded Stratiform and tabular deposits of regular and irregular habit: Iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, limestone, chromite/potash and salt beds, etc. | Scout drilling, if necessary (In line with grid specified by the Central Government from time to time) | For limestone, bauxite, potash and salt beds the grid spacing of bore holes may be 800 m or closer for deposits of regular habit and 400 m or closer for irregular habit; for others the spacing may be 400 m or closer for regular and 200 m or closer for irregular habit. | For limestone, bauxite, potash and salt beds the grid spacing of bore holes may be 400 m or closer for regular habit and 200 m or closer for irregular habit; for others the spacing may be 200 m or closer for regular habit and 100 m or closer for irregular habit. | For limestone, bauxite, potash and salt beds the grid spacing of bore holes may be 200 m or closer for regular habit and 100 m or closer for irregular habit; for others the spacing may be 100 m or closer for regular habit and 50 m or closer for irregular habit. | For shallow surficial deposits continuing to a depth of up to 6 m from surface pitting in a grid pattern as per the grid spacing for various levels of prospecting may suffice. For deposits continuing further in depth drilling is recommended. |

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| <p>II. Lenticular bodies of all dimensions including bodies occurring en echelon, silicified linear zones of composite veins. Lenses, pockets, stockworks; irregular shaped modest to small sized bodies Iron and manganese ore bodies in lateritoid terrain, pocket bauxite and nickel-cobalt laterites, base metal sulphides of Cu-Pb-Zn-Sb-Hg, podiform chromite, auriferous quartz reefs, PGM, graphite lenses, molybdenum, tin bodies, pyrite, skarn bodies of scheelite, wollastonite, fluorite etc., vermiculite, magnesite, insitu silimanite and kyanite lenses etc.</p> | <p>Scout drilling, if necessary (In line with grid specified by the Central Government from time to time)</p> | <p>Borehole spacing along strike may be kept 200-100 m or closer interval.</p> | <p>Borehole spacing along strike may be kept 100-50 m or closer. In specific cases, depending on necessity, it may be brought down to 25 m or closer, especially for precious metals.</p> | <p>Borehole spacing along strike may be kept 50-25 m or closer interval</p> | <p>Exploratory mine openings- open pit or underground with bulk determination of grades wherever necessary at G2 and G1 stage.</p> |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| III. Gem- stones and rare metal pegmatites, reefs and veins/pipes: Tin-tungsten tantalumniobium-Molybdenum veins and pegmatites; Beryl, topaz, emerald deposits, diamond, wolframite deposits, pockets/lenses/veins of fluorite in carbonatites etc. | Scout drilling, if necessary (In line with grid specified by the Central Government from time to time.) | 8 to 10 pits/trenches per sq.km. Bore-holes to test the continuity of host rock, at 200 m or closer interval. | Trenching preferably at 50 m. interval Bore-hole to test continuity of host rock at 100-50 m or closer interval | Bore hole spacing may be kept closer to that of G2 stage | Exploratory Mine openings- open pit or underground with bulk determination of grades & recovery wherever necessary at G2 and G1 stage. |
| IV. Float or Placer deposits: Iron, manganese ore float; Placer tin and gold deposit; garnet, ilmenite, rutile, zircon; diamond, corundum, kyanite, sillimanite floats . | Scout drilling, if necessary (In line with grid specified by the Central Government from time to time) | 400 m along trend of the deposit and 200 m across. | 200 m* along trend of the deposit and 100 m across. | 100 m* along the trend of the deposit and 50 m across. | For shallow deposits pitting in grid may suffice. Stream sediment or placer sediment sampling as may be required at each stage. Laboratory scale separation and testing and analysis of concentrates. |

*In case replenishment is reported in placer deposit associated with beach sand, river sand, etc., periodic reassessment of resources may be necessary.

Part IV-A Reporting of Mineral Resources

A Geological Study Report for estimation and reporting of Mineral Resources integrating all data of exploration, sampling and testing generated through aerial, geophysical, geochemical, geological surveys and technological study may be undertaken for every stage of exploration, i.e., from G4 to G1 for assessing the resources. The study should incorporate the following contents among other things.

| Sl. No. | Contents | Explanation |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Title & Ownership | -Name, address of the prospector including E-mail ID, telephone number. -Details of period of prospecting/mineral right if any. -Details of exploration agency, qualification, experience of associated technical persons engaged in exploration. |

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| 2 | Details of the area - | Village, District, State - Survey of India Toposheet No., Geo-coordinates of the area of all corner points - cadaster details of the area with land use, area under forest with type of forest - mineral(s) under investigation |
| 3 | Infrastructure & Environment | -Local infrastructure, host population, historical sites, forests, sanctuaries, national park and environmental settings of the area. |
| 4 | Previous exploration | -Details of previous exploration carried out by other agencies/parties. - In case the area forms part of the area covered under earlier exploration then the same should be shown in a map with proper scale. |
| 5 | Geology | -Brief regional geology of the area outlining the broad geological, structural framework. -Deposit type, geological setting and details of dip, strike, old workings, surface exposures, etc. of the area under study also of adjoining nearby areas if the information is likely to have an impact on the area under study. -Reliable geological map of appropriate scale with geo-coordinates showing major lithological units, structural & tectonic features; extent of surface mineralisation, structure, location of boreholes, pits, trenches, old workings, etc. - Cross sections at suitable intervals showing vertical projections of litho-units and mineralization. - The extent and variability of the mineralization expressed as length (along strike or otherwise), plan width, and depth below surface to the upper and lower limits of the Mineral Resource. |
| 6 | Aerial/ground geophysical/ geochemical data | Details of aerial, geophysical & geochemical survey results taken up if any and their results. |
| 7 | Technological investigation | -Details of technological investigation (pitting/trenching/drilling, etc.) -Data spacing for reporting of Exploration Results: Whether the data spacing and distribution is based on part I and II of the schedule and is sufficient to establish the degree of geological and grade continuity appropriate for the Mineral Resource estimation procedure(s) and classifications applied. |
| 8 | Location of data points. | -Accuracy and quality of surveys used to locate drill holes (collar and down-hole surveys), trenches, mine workings and other locations used in Mineral Resource estimation. - Quality and adequacy of topographic control. |
| 9 | Sampling Technique | Nature and quality of sampling (e.g. cut channels, random chips, etc.) and measures taken to ensure sample representivity. |
| 10 | Drilling technique & drill sampling employed | - Drill type (e.g. core, reverse circulation, open-hole hammer, rotary air blast, auger, Bangka, sonic, etc.) and details (e.g. core diameter, triple or standard tube, collar R.L, azimuth, inclination, coordinates of boreholes, etc.). -Whether core and chip sample recoveries have been properly recorded and results assessed. -Measures taken to maximise sample recovery and ensure representative nature of the samples. - Whether a relationship exists between sample recovery and grade and whether sample bias may have occurred due to preferential loss/gain of fine/coarse material. Logging: -Whether core and chip samples have been logged to a level of detail to support appropriate Mineral Resource estimation, mining studies and metallurgical studies. |

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| 11 | Sub-sampling techniques and sample preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -If core, whether cut or sawn and whether quarter, half or all core taken. -If non-core, whether riffled, tube sampled, rotary split, etc. and whether sampled wet or dry. -For all sample types, the nature, quality and appropriateness of the sample preparation technique. -Quality control procedures adopted for all sub-sampling stages to maximize representivity of samples. -Measures taken to ensure that the sampling is representative of the in situ material collected. -Whether sample sizes are appropriate to the grain size of the material being sampled. |
| 12 | Quality of assay data and laboratory tests | <p>The nature, quality and appropriateness of the assaying and laboratory procedures used and whether the technique is considered partial or total.</p> <p>Nature of quality control procedures adopted (e.g. standards, blanks, duplicates, external laboratory checks) and whether acceptable levels of accuracy (i.e. lack of bias) and precision have been established.</p> <p>Check analysis of atleast 10% of samples may be analyzed from third party NABL accredited/or department of science & technology (DST) / BIS recognized laboratories or government laboratories for assessing the acceptable levels of accuracy.</p> |
| 13 | Moisture. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Whether the tonnages are estimated on a dry basis or with natural moisture, and the method of determination of the moisture content. |
| 14 | Bulk Density | <p>Whether assumed or determined. If assumed, the basis for the assumptions. If determined, the method used, whether wet or dry, the frequency of the measurements, the nature, size and representativeness of the samples.</p> |
| 15 | Resource estimation techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on sufficient data density to assure continuity of mineralization and synthesis adequate data base for estimation procedure used. -The nature and appropriateness of the estimation technique(s) applied and key assumptions, including treatment of extreme grade values, domaining, interpolation parameters, maximum distance of extrapolation from data points. -The basis for the classification of the Mineral Resources into varying confidence categories. -The assumptions made regarding recovery of byproducts. -Detailed description of the method used and the assumptions made to estimate tonnages and grades (section, polygon, inverse distance, geostatistical, or other method). -Description of how the geological interpretation was used to control the resource estimates. -Discussion of basis for using or not using grade cutting or capping. If a computer method was chosen, description of programmes and parameters used. -Geostatistical methods are extremely varied and should be described in detail. The method chosen should be justified. The geostatistical parameters, including the variogram, and their compatibility with the geological interpretation should be discussed. Experience gained in applying geostatistics to similar deposits should be taken into account. -Data verification and /or validation procedures used. |
| 16 | Further work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The nature and scale of planned further work (e.g. tests for lateral extensions or depth extensions or large scale step-out drilling). |

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| 17 | Annexures/ enclosures to the report | The report shall include all relevant data including maps, sections, logs, analysis reports, photographs, etc. in support of the estimates made. |
| 18 | Any other information | Any other information as may be available or required by any authority as prescribed. |

Part IV-B

Estimation and Reporting of Diamonds and other Gemstones

Criteria listed in Part IVA also apply to this group; additional guidelines are available in the 'Guidelines for the Reporting of Diamond Exploration Results' issued by the Diamond Exploration Best Practices Committee established by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum.

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| 1 | Indicator minerals | Reports of indicator minerals, such as chemically/physically distinctive garnet, ilmenite, chrome spinel and chrome diopside, should be prepared by a suitably qualified laboratory. |
| 2 | Source of diamonds | - Details of the form, shape, size and colour of the diamonds and the nature of the source of diamonds (primary or secondary) including the rock type and geological environment. |
| 3 | Sample collection | Type of sample, whether outcrop, boulders, drill core, reverse circulation drill cuttings, gravel, stream sediment or soil, and purpose, e.g. large diameter drilling to establish stones per unit of volume or bulk samples to establish stone size distribution. - Sample size, distribution and representativity. |
| 4 | Sample treatment | Type of facility, treatment rate, and accreditation. - Sample size reduction. Bottom screen size, top screen size and re-crush. - Processes (dense media separation, grease, X-ray, hand-sorting, etc.). - Process efficiency, tailings auditing and granulometry. - Laboratory used, type of process for micro diamonds and accreditation. |
| 5 | Carat. | One fifth (0.2) of a gram (often defined as a metric carat or MC). |
| 6 | Sample grade. | - Sample grade in this section is used in the context of carats per units of mass, area or volume. - The sample grade above the specified lower cut-off sieve size should be reported as carats per dry metric tonne and/or carats per 100 dry metric tonnes. For alluvial deposits, sample grades quoted in carats per square metre or carats per cubic metre are acceptable if accompanied by a volume to weight basis for calculation. - In addition to general requirements to assess volume and density there is a need to relate stone frequency (stones per cubic metre or tonne) to stone size (carats per stone) to derive sample grade (carats per tonne). |

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| 7 | Reporting of Bulk Exploration Results. | <p>- Complete set of sieve data using a standard progression of sieve sizes per facies. sampling results, global sample grade per facies. Spatial structure analysis and grade distribution. Stone size and number distribution. Sample head feed and tailings particle granulometry.</p> <p>- Sample density determination.</p> <p>- Per cent concentrate and undersize per sample.</p> <p>- Sample grade with change in bottom cut-off screen size.</p> <p>- Adjustments made to size distribution for sample plant performance and performance on a commercial scale.</p> <p>- If appropriate or employed, geostatistical techniques applied to model stone size, distribution or frequency from size distribution of exploration diamond samples.</p> <p>- The weight of diamonds may only be omitted from the report when the diamonds are considered too small to be of commercial significance. This lower cut-off size should be stated.</p> |
| 8 | Grade estimation for reporting Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves. | <p>- Description of the sample type and the spatial arrangement of drilling or sampling reporting Mineral designed for grade estimation.</p> <p>- The sample crush size and its relationship to that achievable in a commercial treatment plant.</p> <p>- Total number of diamonds greater than the specified and reported lower cut-off sieve size.</p> <p>- Total weight of diamonds greater than the specified and reported lower cut-off sieve size.</p> <p>- The sample grade above the specified lower cut-off sieve size.</p> |
| 9 | Value estimation. | <p>- Valuations should not be reported for samples of diamonds processed using total liberation method, which is commonly used for processing exploration samples.</p> <p>- To the extent that such information is not deemed commercially sensitive, Public Reports should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamonds quantities by appropriate screen size per facies or depth. • <i>Details of parcel valued.</i> • <i>Number of stones, carats, lower size cut-off per facies or depth.</i> • The average \$/carat and \$/tonne value at the selected bottom cut-off should be reported in US Dollars. The value per carat is of critical importance in demonstrating project value. • The basis for the price (e.g. dealer buying price, dealer selling price etc.). • An assessment of diamond breakage. |
| 10 | Classification. | <p>- In addition to general requirements to assess volume and density there is a need to relate stone frequency (stones per cubic metre or tonne) to stone size (carats per stone) to derive grade (carats per tonne). The elements of uncertainty in these estimates should be considered, and classification developed, accordingly.</p> |

Part-V

Contents of Prefeasibility Report

Contents of a Prefeasibility Report for Estimation and Reporting of Mineral Reserves based on a Geological Report prepared as per Part IV-A and Part IV-B. The Geological Study Report shall also form a part of the Prefeasibility Report.

| Sl. No. | Contents | Explanation |
|---------|---|---|
| | Mineral Resource estimate for conversion to Mineral Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of Mineral Resource estimate used as a basis for the conversion to a Mineral reserve. - Clear statement as to whether the Mineral Resources are reported additional to, or inclusive of, the Mineral Reserves. -The type and level of study undertaken to enable Mineral Resources to be converted to Mineral Reserves, i.e., Prefeasibility/Feasibility level. |
| | Cut off Parameters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The basis of the adopted cut-off grade(s) or quality parameters applied, including the basis, if appropriate, of equivalent metal formulae& the threshold values prescribed. |
| | Mining Factors or assumptions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The method and assumptions used to convert the Mineral Resource to a Mineral Reserve (i.e. either by application of appropriate factors by optimisation or by preliminary or detailed design supported with Conceptual plan for mining). - Anticipated Ore to OB ratio, mine recoveries, dilutions, etc. for both open cast and U/G workings. -The choice of, the nature and the appropriateness of the selected mining method(s), the size of the selected mining unit (length, width, height) and other mining parameters including associated design issues such as pre-strip, access, etc. -The assumptions made regarding geotechnical parameters (eg. pit slopes, stope sizes, etc.), grade control and pre-production drilling. -The major assumptions made and Mineral Resource model used for pit optimisation (if appropriate). -The mining dilution factors, mining recovery factors, and minimum mining widths used. -The infrastructure requirements of the selected mining methods. Where available, the historic reliability of the performance parameters. |
| | Metallurgical factors or assumptions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The metallurgical process proposed and the appropriateness of that process to the type of deposit. -The nature, amount and representativeness of metallurgical test work undertaken and the metallurgical recovery factors applied. -Any assumptions or allowances made for deleterious elements. -The existence of any bulk sample or pilot scale test work and the degree to which such samples are representative of the ore body as a whole. -The tonnages and grades reported for Mineral Reserves should state clearly whether these are in respect of material to the plant or after recovery. Comment on existing plant and equipment, including an indication of replacement and salvage value. |
| | Cost and revenue factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The derivation of, or assumptions made, regarding projected capital and operating costs. - The assumptions made regarding revenue including head grade, metal or commodity price(s) exchange rates, transportation and treatment charges, penalties, etc. - The allowances made for royalties payable, both Government and private. - Basic cash flow inputs for a stated period. -Yearly planned production, Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of the deposit, intrinsic value of the deposit based on annual projected production. |

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| Market assessment | <p>-The demand, supply and stock situation for the particular commodity, consumption trends and factors likely to affect supply and demand into the future.</p> <p>-A customer and competitor analysis along with the identification of likely market windows for the product.</p> <p>-Price and volume forecasts and the basis for these forecasts.</p> <p>-For industrial minerals the customer specification, testing and acceptance requirements prior to a supply contract.</p> |
| Other modifying factors | <p>-The effect, if any, of natural risk, infrastructure, environmental, legal, marketing, social or governmental factors on the likely viability of a project and/or on the estimation and classification of the Mineral Reserves.</p> <p>-The status of titles and approvals critical to the viability of the project, such as mining leases, discharge permits, government and statutory approvals.</p> <p>-Environmental descriptions of anticipated liabilities. Location plans of mineral rights and titles.</p> |
| Classification. | <p>-The basis for the classification of the Mineral Reserves into varying confidence categories.</p> <p>- Finalization of estimates of grade wise mineable quantities in contemplation with proposed preliminary mine design/conceptual plan subject to all necessary approvals/contracts have been confirmed or there are reasonable expectations that all such approvals/contracts will be obtained within a reasonable timeframe and with certification that Economic viability is not affected by short-term adverse market conditions provided that longer-term forecasts remain positive.</p> |

Source: The Gazette of India: extraordinary, PartII, Section-3(i) dt. 17.04.2015

2. **Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 406 (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, namely:—

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

- 1. Short title and commencement.**- (1) These rules may be called the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015.
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (a) “**Act**” means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957);
(b) “**Composite Licence**” means prospecting licence-cum-mining lease granted under rule 18;
(c) “**Mine Development and Production Agreement**” means the agreement referred to in sub-rule (4) of rule 10 or sub-rule (8) of rule 18;
(d) “**preferred bidder**” means the bidder referred to in sub-clause (iii) of clause (b) of sub-rule (4) of rule 9;
(e) “**qualified bidders**” means the bidder referred to in sub-clause (iv) of clause (a) of sub-rule (4) of rule 9;
(f) “**reserve price**” means the minimum percentage of value of mineral despatched as referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 8;
(g) “**section**” means section of the Act;

- (h) “**Schedule**” means a Schedule appended to these rules;
- (i) “**successful bidder**” means the bidder as referred to in sub-rule (3) of rule 10 or sub-rule (2) of rule 18;
- (j) “**technically qualified bidders**” means the bidder as referred to in sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) of sub-rule (4) of rule 9;
- (k) “**tender document**” means the tender document issued by a State Government for conduct of an auction referred to in sub-rule (2) of rule 9;
- (l) “**upfront payment**” means the payment referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 11;
- (m) “**value of estimated resources**” means an amount equal to the product of, -
- (i) the estimated quantity of mineral resources for which the mineral block is being auctioned, expressed in metric tonne; and
- (ii) the average price per metric tonne of such mineral as published by Indian Bureau of Mines for the relevant State for a period of twelve months immediately preceding the month of computation of the Value of Estimated Resources; and
- (n) “**value of mineral despatched**” shall have the meaning specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 8.
- (2) The words and expressions used in these rules but not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act or rules made thereunder.

3. Application.- These rules shall apply to all minerals, except minerals notified as minor minerals specified in clause (e) of section 3 and minerals specified in Part A and Part B of the First Schedule to the Act.

4. Grant of concession.- (1) Where mineral contents of an area has been established as specified in the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015, mining lease shall be granted in the manner specified under Chapter II with respect to any notified minerals referred to in sub-section (3) of section 10B or with respect to any minerals other than notified minerals referred to in sub-section (2) of section 11.

(2) A Composite Licence with respect to an area where requirements specified in rule 7 of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 have been satisfied, shall be granted in the manner specified under Chapter III with respect to any notified minerals referred to in sub-section (2) of section 10B or with respect to any minerals other than notified minerals referred to in sub-section (3) of section 11.

CHAPTER II GRANT OF MINING LEASE

5. Prerequisites for auction of Mining Lease.- (1) The State Government may initiate an auction process for grant of a mining lease with respect to an area within the State if the mineral contents in such area has been established in accordance with the provisions of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015.

(2) The State Government shall, prior to issuance of the notice inviting tender with respect to mineral auction, identify and demarcate the area where a mining lease is proposed to be granted through auction by using total station and differential global positioning system and the area so demarcated shall be classified into forests land, land owned by the State Government and land not owned by the State Government.

(3) The extent of area so demarcated shall include area required for all the activities falling under the definition of 'mine' as defined in clause (j) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Mines Act 1952 (35 of 1952).

6. Eligibility for Mining Lease.- (1) For the purpose of participating in the auction of mining lease, an applicant shall meet the requirements as specified in section 5 and the terms and conditions of eligibility as specified in Schedule I.

(2) The State Government may having regard to article 244 and the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (40 of 1996); and the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), make such amendments to Schedule I as it may deem necessary.

(3) The powers of Central Government under the proviso to sub-section (6) of section 10B shall be exercised by the State Government for reservation of particular mine or mines for any particular end use including the end use as specified in Schedule II and the State Government may earmark certain percentage of mines for end use.

(4) Where the State Government reserves a mine or mines for any particular specified end use, them minerals extracted under the mining lease shall, -

(i) be utilised solely for the specified end use; and

(ii) not be sold or transferred or otherwise disposed of, either directly or indirectly.

(5) The eligibility for participating in the auction shall be determined as per the terms and conditions of eligibility for participating in the auction and the Successful Bidder shall be decided solely on the basis of financial bids submitted by the eligible bidders.

7. Electronic Auction.- (1) An auction shall be conducted only through an online electronic auction platform.

(2) The State Government may utilise any online electronic auction platform which meets the minimum technical and security requirements as specified in the Guidelines for compliance to Quality requirements of e- Procurement Systems issued by the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification Directorate, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India.

8. Bidding parameters.- (1) The State Government shall specify in the tender document the minimum percentage of the value of mineral despatched, which shall be known as the "reserve price".

(2) The value of mineral despatched shall be an amount equal to the product of,-

(i) mineral despatched in a month; and

(ii) sale price of the mineral (grade-wise and State-wise) as published by Indian Bureau of Mines for such month of despatch.

(3) The bidders shall quote, as per the bidding parameter, for the purpose of payment to the State Government, a percentage of value of mineral despatched equal to or above the reserve price and the successful bidder shall pay to the State Government, an amount equal to the product of,-

(i) percentage so quoted; and

(ii) value of mineral despatched.

(4) Where an area is being auctioned for more than one mineral, the percentage of value of mineral despatched as quoted by the successful bidder under sub-rule (3) shall be applicable for the purpose of payment to the State Government in respect of each such mineral.

(5) If subsequent to grant of a mining lease, one or more new minerals are discovered, the percentage of value of mineral despatched as quoted by the successful bidder under sub-rule (3) shall be applicable for the purpose of payment to the State Government in respect of each such mineral.

9. Bidding Process.- (1) Subject to the provisions of rule 5, the State Government shall issue a notice inviting tender, including on their website, to commence the auction process and such notice shall contain brief particulars regarding the area under auction, including,-

(a) particulars of the area identified and demarcated using total station and differential global positioning system divided into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government; and

(b) estimated mineral resources and brief particulars regarding evidence of mineral contents with respect to all minerals discovered in the area during exploration in accordance with the provisions of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015.

(2) The tender document issued by the State Government shall contain,-

(a) geological report pursuant to the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 specifying particulars and estimated quantities of all minerals discovered in the area; and

(b) revenue survey details of the area identified and demarcated using total station and differential global positioning system divided into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government.

(3) The bidders shall be provided a fixed period, as notified by the State Government, to study the tender document and such reports and the bidding process shall commence only on expiry of such period.

(4) The auction shall be an ascending forward online electronic auction and shall comprise of the following rounds, namely:-

(a) First Round of Auction to be held in the following manner, namely:-

(i) the bidders shall submit -

(A) a technical bid comprising amongst others, documentary evidence to confirm eligibility as per the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder to participate in the auction, bid security and such other documents and payments as may be specified in the tender document; and

(B) an initial price offer which shall be a percentage of value of mineral despatched;

(ii) only those bidders who are found to be eligible in accordance with the terms and conditions of eligibility specified in rule 6 and whose initial price offer is equal to or greater than the reserve price, referred to as “technically qualified bidders”, shall be considered for the second round of auction;

(iii) the highest initial price offer amongst the technically qualified bidders shall be the floor price for the second round of online electronic auction;

(iv) the technically qualified bidders shall be ranked on the basis of the descending initial price offer submitted by them and the technically qualified bidders holding the first fifty per cent. of the ranks (with any fraction rounded off to higher integer) or the top five technically qualified bidders, whichever is higher, shall qualify as qualified bidders for participating in the second round of electronic auction:

Provided that where the total number of technically qualified bidders is less than three, then no

technically qualified bidder shall be considered to be qualified bidder and the auction process shall be annulled:

Provided further that the State Government may, in its discretion, decide not to annul the auction process if even in the third or subsequent attempt the total number of technically qualified bidders continues to be less than three and the State Government may, in such case, decide to consider the technically qualified bidders as qualified bidders so as to continue with the bidding process:

Provided also that if the number of technically qualified bidders is between three and five, then all the technically qualified bidders shall be considered as qualified bidders:

Provided also that in the event of identical initial price offers being submitted by two or more technically qualified bidders, all such technically qualified bidders shall be assigned the same rank for the purposes of determination of qualified bidders and in such case, the aforementioned fifty per cent. shall stand enhanced to fifty per cent. plus the number of technically qualified bidders, whose initial price offers are identical less the number of such identical initial price offers.

Illustration:

In the event there are a total of ten technically qualified bidders, and each technically qualified bidder submits different initial price offer, then the technically qualified bidders holding the first fifty per cent. of ranks shall be considered to be qualified bidders. If three such technically qualified bidders submit the same initial price offer and are ranked in first fifty per cent. of the total number of ranks, then, all the three technically qualified bidders shall be considered to be qualified bidders and the total number of qualified bidders shall stand increased by two.

(b) Second Round of Auction to be held in the following manner, namely:-

(i) the qualified bidders may submit their final price offer which shall be a percentage of value of mineral despatched and greater than the floor price:

Provided that the final price offer may be revised till the conclusion of the auction as per the technical specifications of the auction platform;

(ii) The auction process shall be annulled if none of the qualified bidders submits a final price offer on the online electronic auction platform;

(iii) the qualified bidder who submits the highest final price offer shall be declared as the “preferred bidder” immediately on conclusion of the auction.

10. Grant of Mining Lease.- (1) The preferred bidder shall submit the first installment being ten per cent. of the upfront payment as per rule 11.

(2) Upon receipt of the first installment of the upfront payment, the State Government shall issue a letter of intent to the preferred bidder.

(3) The preferred bidder shall be considered to be the “successful bidder” upon,-

(a) continuing to be in compliance with all the terms and conditions of eligibility;

(b) payment of the second installment being ten per cent. of the upfront payment;

(c) furnishing performance security as specified in rule 12;

(d) satisfying the conditions specified in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 5 with respect to a mining plan; and

(e) satisfying such other conditions as may be specified by the State Government with the prior approval of the Central Government.

(4) The successful bidder shall sign the Mine Development and Production Agreement with the State Government upon obtaining all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections and the like as may be required under applicable laws for commencement of mining operations.

(5) The successful bidder shall pay the third installment being eighty per cent. of the upfront payment subsequent to execution of the Mine Development and Production Agreement, and upon such payment the State Government shall grant a mining lease to the successful bidder.

(6) The Mining Lease Deed shall be executed by the State Government within thirty days of the date of

completion of the conditions specified in sub-rule (5) and shall be subject to the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(7) The mining lease shall be for minerals found in the area pursuant to exploration prior to the auction: Provided that where, subsequent to the auction, any new mineral is discovered, then the holder of mining lease shall follow the provisions of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for inclusion of such new mineral in the Mining Lease Deed.

(8) Where, prior to the auction or subsequent to the auction, presence of minor mineral is established or discovered, such minor minerals shall be dealt in accordance with such rules made by the State Government under section 15.

(9) The date on which a duly executed Mining Lease Deed is registered shall be the date of commencement of the mining lease.

11. Upfront payment for mining lease. - (1) An amount equal to 0.50% of the value of estimated resources shall be the upfront payment.

(2) The upfront payment shall be payable to the State Government in three installments of ten per cent.; ten per cent.; and eighty per cent. as specified in the tender document and shall be adjusted in full against the amount paid under sub-rule (3) of rule 8 within the first five years of commencement of production of mineral as specified in the tender document.

12. Performance security for mining lease.—(1) The successful bidder shall provide a performance security of an amount of 0.50% of the value of estimated resources and the performance security shall be adjusted every five years so that it continues to correspond to 0.50% of the reassessed value of estimated resources.

(2) The performance security provided through bank guarantee in the format as specified in Schedule III or through security deposit, may be invoked as per the provisions of –

- (i) the Mine Development and Production Agreement; and
- (ii) the Mining Lease Deed.

13. Payments under mining lease.—(1) The lessee shall pay royalties and dead rent to the State Government as specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(2) The lessee shall pay the applicable amount quoted under rule 8 to the State Government on a monthly basis.

(3) The lessee shall contribute such amounts as may be required under the Act to –

- (a) the designated account of the National Mineral Exploration Trust; and
- (b) the designated account of the District Mineral Foundation.

(4) The lessee shall also pay such other amounts as may be required under any law for the time being in force to the concerned authorities.

14. Payment of Interest.—The State Government shall charge simple interest at the rate of twenty four per cent. per annum on any payment due to State Government under these rules the payment of which is delayed beyond sixty days from the due date thereof.

15. Time Period.—The time period for compliance of rules 10 to 14 shall be as specified in the tender document.

CHAPTER III GRANT OF COMPOSITE LICENCE

16. Prerequisites for auction of Composite Licence.—(1) The State Government may initiate an auction process for grant of a Composite Licence with respect to an area within the State in accordance with the provisions of the Act and this Chapter subject to the condition that the requirements of rule 7 of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 have been satisfied:

Provided that in case of an auction with respect to a notified mineral, prior approval of the Central Government shall be required.

(2) The State Government shall, prior to issuance of the notice inviting tender with respect to auction, identify and demarcate the area where a Composite Licence is proposed to be granted through auction using total station and differential global positioning system and the area so demarcated shall be classified into forests land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government.

17. Auction for Composite Licence.—(1) The auction process as specified in rules 6 to 9 shall be applicable for conduct of auction for grant of a Composite Licence subject to the following, namely:—

(a) the State Government shall not make any reservation on the basis of end use;

(b) the State Government shall subject to compliance of rule 16, issue a notice inviting tender, including on their website, to commence the auction process and such notice shall contain brief particulars regarding the area under auction, including,-

(i) particulars of the area identified and demarcated using total station and differential global positioning system divided into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government; and

(ii) estimated mineral resources with respect to all minerals discovered in the area and brief particulars regarding satisfaction of the requirements specified in rule 7 of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015;

(c) the tender document issued by the State Government, shall contain,—

(i) geological report specifying particulars and estimated quantities of all minerals discovered in the area during exploration pursuant to Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015; and

(ii) revenue survey details of the area identified, demarcated using total station and differential global positioning system divided into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government;

(d) the bidders shall be provided a fixed period, as prescribed by the State Government, to study the Tender Document and such reports and the bidding process shall commence only on expiry of such period.

18. Grant of Composite Licence.—(1) Upon completion of the auction process, the preferred bidder shall submit a performance security in the manner specified in sub-rule (1) of rule 19 and upon receipt of such performance security, the State Government shall issue a letter of intent to the preferred bidder.

(2) On receipt of the letter of intent the preferred bidder shall be considered to be the successful bidder upon fulfillment of the following conditions, namely:—

(a) compliance with all the terms and conditions of eligibility;

(b) obtaining all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections and the like as may be required under applicable laws for commencement of prospecting operations; and

(c) submitting the Scheme of prospecting.

(3) Upon fulfillment of the conditions specified in sub-rule (2), the State Government shall grant a Composite Licence to the successful bidder and such Composite Licence shall be subject to the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder, as applicable to a prospecting licence and mining lease.

(4) The minimum area for grant of a Composite Licence shall not be less than the minimum area for which a mining lease may be granted in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and the maximum area shall be in accordance with section 6 as applicable to a prospecting licence.

(5) The holder of a Composite Licence shall conduct geological exploration of the area under the Composite Licence so as to ascertain evidence of mineral contents and shall submit periodic reports in accordance with the Act and rules made thereunder, as applicable to a prospecting licence and all reports, studies and other documentation related to the geological exploration of the area under the Composite Licence shall be submitted to the State Government and Indian Bureau of Mines.

(6) If a holder of a Composite Licence,—

(a) fails to complete prospecting operations in accordance with sub-section (9) of section 11 or fails to establish the existence of mineral contents in accordance with sub-section (10) of section 11, and the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015, such holder shall not be eligible to receive a mining lease and the Composite Licence shall be terminated;

(b) completes prospecting operations in accordance with sub-section (9) of section 11 resulting in determination of evidence of mineral contents conforming to the Mineral (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015, such holder shall make an application to the State Government for grant of a mining lease accompanied with the first installment, being ten per cent of the upfront payment:

Provided that the mining lease shall be granted only with respect to the area for which evidence of mineral contents has been found and shall not be for an area larger than the maximum area for which a mining lease may be granted under the Act:

Provided further that any excess area shall be deemed to be surrendered by the holder of Composite Licence after completing its reclamation.

(7) Upon receipt of the duly completed mining lease application and the first installment of the upfront payment as specified in clause (b) of sub-rule (6), the State Government shall issue a letter of intent for mining lease.

(8) A Mine Development and Production Agreement shall be executed between the State Government and the holder of Composite Licence if the holder of a Composite Licence—

(a) continues to comply with the terms and conditions of eligibility;

(b) pays the second installment being ten per cent of the upfront payment;

(c) furnishes the enhanced performance security as specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 19;

(d) satisfies the conditions specified in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 5 with respect to a mining plan;

(e) obtains all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections and the like as may be required under applicable laws for commencement of mining operations; and

(f) satisfies such other conditions as may be specified by the State Government with the prior approval of the Central Government.

(9) The holder of the Composite Licence shall pay the third installment being eighty per cent of the upfront payment, subsequent to execution of the Mine Development and Production Agreement, and upon such payment, the State Government shall execute a Mining Lease Deed with the holder of the Composite Licence within thirty days of the date of completion of all the conditions specified in sub-rule (8).

(10) The mining lease shall be subject to the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(11) The mining lease shall be for minerals found in the area pursuant to exploration prior to the auction: Provided that where subsequent to the auction, any new mineral is discovered, then the holder of the mining lease shall follow the provisions of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for inclusion of such new mineral in the Mining Lease Deed.

(12) Where prior to the auction or subsequent to the auction, presence of minor mineral is established or discovered, such minor minerals shall be dealt in accordance with such rules as may be made by the State Government under section 15.

(13) The date on which a duly executed Mining Lease Deed is registered shall be the date of commencement of the mining lease.

19. Performance Security for Composite Licence.—(1) An amount of 0.25% of the value of estimated resources shall be payable by the preferred bidder as performance security prior to the issuance of the Composite Licence.

(2) The amount of performance security shall be revised, prior to the issuance of the mining lease, to an amount of 0.50% of the value of estimated resources.

(3) The performance security provided under sub-rule (2) shall be adjusted every five years so that it continues to correspond to 0.50% of the reassessed value of estimated resources.

(4) The performance security may be invoked as per provisions of,-

- (i) the Mine Development and Production Agreement; and
- (ii) the Mining Lease Deed.

CHAPTER IV MISCELLANEOUS

20. Power to rectify apparent mistakes.—Any clerical or arithmetical mistake in any order passed by the Government or any authority or officer under these rules and any error arising therein due to accidental slip or omission, may be corrected by the Government, the concerned authority or officer, as the case may be:

Provided that no rectification order prejudicial to any person shall be passed unless such person has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

21. Special provisions relating to minerals specified in Part B of the First Schedule to the Act.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules—

(a) if the holder of a Composite Licence or mining lease discovers any mineral specified in Part B of the First Schedule to the Act and not specified in such licence or lease, in the area granted under such licence or lease, the discovery of such mineral shall be reported to the Director, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad within sixty days from the date of discovery of such mineral;

(b) the licensee or lessee shall not win or dispose of any mineral specified in Part B of the First Schedule to the Act unless such mineral is included in the licence or lease or a separate licence or lease for the purpose has been obtained;

(c) the quantities of any mineral specified in Part B of the First Schedule to the Act recovered incidental to such prospecting or mining operations shall be collected and stacked separately and a report to that effect shall be sent to the Director, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad

every month for such further action by the licensee or lessee as may be directed by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research.

(2) The licensee or lessee referred to in sub-rule (1) shall, within sixty days from the date of discovery of any mineral specified in Part B of the First Schedule to the Act, apply to the Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai, through the State Government, for grant of a licence to handle such minerals under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962) and the rules made thereunder and the Department of Atomic Energy shall intimate to the State Government regarding issue of the licence in this regard.

22. Exploration Obligation.—The holder of a mining lease shall complete detailed exploration (G1 level exploration) and prepare a detailed feasibility study report conforming to Part IV and V of the Mineral (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 over the entire area under the mining lease, within a period of five years from the date of commencement of such mining lease.

SCHEDULE I
Terms and conditions of eligibility
[See rules 6(1) and 6(2)]

1. The following net worth requirements shall be applicable for an auction of mining lease depending on the Value of Estimated Resources,—

(a) If the Value of Estimated Resources is more than Rupees 25 crore, the applicant, including an individual, shall have a net worth more than 4% of Value of Estimated Resources.

(b) If the Value of Estimated Resources is less than or equal to Rupees 25 crore, the applicant, not being an individual, shall have a net worth more than 2% of Value of Estimated Resources.

(c) If the Value of Estimated Resources is less than or equal to Rupees 25 crore, the applicant, being an individual, shall have a minimum net worth of 1% of the Value of Estimated Resources.

2. In case of auction of Composite Licence, the applicant must have a net worth of more than 1% of the Value of Estimated Resources.

Explanation:

(1) In case an applicant is a subsidiary of another company incorporated in India, the net worth of such holding company may also be considered:

Provided that, in such case, the applicant must continue to be a subsidiary of such holding company until such time the applicant meets the aforementioned net worth threshold.

(2) In case of a Company, the Net worth shall be the sum of paid up share capital and the free Reserves as per the audited Balance Sheet of the immediately preceding financial year.

(3) In case of an individual, the Net worth shall be the closing cash balance on the last date for submission of application, and such amount may include amount in Savings Bank accounts in Scheduled Bank/ Post Office, free and un-encumbered Fixed Deposits in Scheduled Banks, Post Office, Listed Companies/Government Organisation/Public Sector Undertaking of State and Central Government, Kisan Vikas Patra, National Saving certificate, Bonds, Shares of Listed Companies, Listed Mutual Funds, Unit Linked Insurance Plan, Public Provident Fund, Surrender Value of Life Insurance policies in the name of Applicant.

SCHEDULE II
Indicative list of specified End Use
[See rule 6(3)]

| Sl. No. | Mineral/Ore | End Use |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Bauxite | Alumina Refinery |
| 2 | Iron ore | Integrated steel plants |
| 3 | Limestone | Cement Plant |

SCHEDULE III
Format of Performance Security
[See rules 12(2)]

[Reference number of the bank]

[date]

To

The Governor of [Name of State]

[address]

WHEREAS

A. [Name of the Successful Bidder] incorporated in India under the Companies Act, [1956/2013] with corporate identity number [CIN of the Successful Bidder], whose registered office is at [address of registered office], India and principal place of business is at [address of principal place of business, if different from registered office] (the “**Successful Bidder**”) is required to provide an unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee for an amount equal to INR [figures] (Indian Rupees [words]) as a performance security valid until [date of expiry of performance bank guarantee] (“**Expiry Date**”).

B. The Performance Security is required to be provided to **The Governor of [Name of State]**, (the “**State**”) for discharge of certain obligations under the Tender Document dated, [date] with respect to auction of [particulars of auction] and the Mine Development and Production Agreement to be executed between the State and the Successful Bidder (collectively the “**Agreement**”).

C. We, [name of the bank] (the “**Bank**”) at the request of the Successful Bidder do hereby undertake to pay to the State an amount not exceeding INR [figures] (Indian Rupees [words]) (“**Guarantee Amount**”) to secure the obligations of the Successful Bidder under the Agreement on demand from the State on the terms and conditions herein contained herein.

NOW THEREFORE, the Bank hereby issues in favour of the State this irrevocable and unconditional payment bank guarantee (the “**Guarantee**”) on behalf of the Successful Bidder in the Guarantee Amount:

1. The Bank for the purpose hereof unconditionally and irrevocably undertakes to pay to the State without any demur, reservation, caveat, protest or recourse, immediately on receipt of first written demand from the State, a sum or sums (by way of one or more claims) not exceeding the Guarantee Amount in the aggregate without the State needing to prove or to show to the Bank grounds or reasons for such demand for the sum specified therein and notwithstanding any dispute or difference between the State and Successful Bidder on any matter whatsoever. The Bank undertakes to pay to the State any money so demanded notwithstanding any dispute or disputes raised by the Successful Bidder in any suit or proceeding pending before any Court or Tribunal relating thereto the Bank’s liability under this present being absolute and unequivocal.

2. The Bank acknowledges that any such demand by the State of the amounts payable by the Bank to the State shall be final, binding and conclusive evidence in respect of the amounts payable by Successful Bidder to the State under the Agreement.

3. The Bank hereby waives the necessity for the State from demanding the aforesaid amount or any part thereof from the Successful Bidder and also waives any right that the Bank may have of first requiring the State to pursue its legal remedies against the Successful Bidder, before presenting any written demand to the Bank for payment under this Guarantee.

4. The Bank further unconditionally agrees with the State that the State shall be at liberty, without the Bank's consent and without affecting in any manner the Bank's obligation under this Guarantee, from time to time to:

(i) vary and/or modify any of the terms and conditions of the Agreement;

(ii) extend and / or postpone the time for performance of the obligations of the Successful Bidder under the Agreement, or

(iii) forbear or enforce any of the rights exercisable by the State against the Successful Bidder under the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

and the Bank shall not be relieved from its liability by reason of any such act or omission on the part of the

State or any indulgence by the State to the Successful Bidder or other thing whatsoever which under the law relating to sureties would, but for this provision, have the effect of relieving the Bank of its obligations under this Guarantee.

5. Any payment made hereunder shall be made free and clear of and without deduction for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, levies, imposts, duties, charges, fees, commissions, deductions or withholdings of any nature whatsoever.

6. The Bank agrees that State at its option shall be entitled to enforce this Guarantee against the Bank, as a principal debtor in the first instance without proceeding at the first instance against the Successful Bidder.

7. The Bank further agree that the guarantee herein contained shall remain in full force and effect during the period that specified in the Agreement and that it shall continue to be enforceable till all the obligations of the Successful Bidder under or by virtue of the said Agreement with respect to the Performance Security have been fully paid and its claims satisfied or discharged or till the State certifies that the terms and conditions of the Agreement with respect to the Performance Security have been fully and properly carried out by the Successful Bidder and accordingly discharges this guarantee. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, unless a demand or claim under this guarantee is made on the Bank in writing on or before the Expiry Date the Bank shall be discharged from all liability under this guarantee thereafter.

8. The payment so made by the Bank under this Guarantee shall be a valid discharge of Bank's liability for payment thereunder and the State shall have no claim against the Bank for making such payment.

9. This Guarantee is subject to the laws of India. Any suit, action, or other proceedings arising out of this Guarantee or the subject matter hereof shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of courts at the State of [respective State].

10. The Bank has the power to issue this Guarantee in favour of the State. This guarantee will not be discharged due to the change in the constitution of the Bank.

11. The Bank undertakes not to revoke this Guarantee during its currency except with the previous consent of the State in writing.

12. The State may, with prior intimation to the Bank, assign the right under this Guarantee to any other departments, ministries or any governmental agencies, which may act in the name of the Governor. Save as provided in this Clause 12, this Guarantee shall not be assignable or transferable.

13. Notwithstanding anything contained herein,

a. the liability of the bank under this bank guarantee shall not exceed the Guarantee Amount.

b. This bank guarantee shall be valid up to the Expiry Date.

14. The Bank is liable to pay the guaranteed amount or any part thereof under this bank guarantee only and only if the State serves upon the Bank a written claim or demand on or before the Expiry Date. Dated the [day] day of [month] [year] for the Bank.

In witness whereof the Bank, through its authorized officer, has set its hand and stamp.

(Signature)

(Name and Designation)

(Bank Stamp)

Source: The Gazette of India: extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 20.05.2015

3. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 407 (E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 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 Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, namely :—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2015.

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

2. In the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, in rule 3, for clause (c), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) "authorised officer" means any officer of the Indian Bureau of Mines duly authorised in writing by the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines or an officer authorised in this behalf by the State Government to perform the functions under these rules;”.

Source: The Gazette of India: extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 20.05.2015

4. Ministry of Mines, Notification, S.O. 1352 (E). —Whereas, the Central Government having been satisfied that the public interest so requires that in pursuance of the provisions of sub-clause (vi) of the clause (n) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947), the services in Industry 'Iron Ore Mining Industry' which is covered by item 16 of the First Schedule to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947) to be a Public Utility Service for the purpose of the said Act, as was notified for a period of six months with effect from 18th December 2014 vide this Ministry's Notification dated 10.12.2014.

And whereas, the Central Government is of opinion that public interest requires the extension of the said period by a further period of six months. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-clause (vi) of clause (n) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Central Government hereby declares the said Industry to be a Public Utility Service for the purpose of the aforesaid Act, for a period of six months with effect from 18th June, 2015.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3 Sub-section (ii) dt. 20.05.2015

5. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 516(E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (qqh) of sub-section (2) of section 13 read with section 10C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These rules may be called the Mineral (Non-exclusive Reconnaissance Permits) Rules, 2015.

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

2. Definition.—(1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, “Act” means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957).

(2) Words and expressions defined in the Act and used, but not defined in these rules, shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Act.

3. Grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit.—(1) The State Government may grant a non exclusive reconnaissance permit in respect of any mineral other than a mineral notified as a minor mineral as defined in clause (e) of section 3 and minerals specified in Part A and Part B of the First Schedule to the Act, subject to such terms and conditions specified in these rules.

(2) The State Government shall establish an online system for receipt of applications and grant of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit.

(3) An application may be made to a State Government in the format specified in Schedule I annexed to these rules for grant of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit over any area,-

(i) which is not held under a reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence, a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, a mining lease; or

(ii) where the State Government has not initiated auction process for grant of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or mining lease.

(4) The State Government may grant more than one non-exclusive reconnaissance permit over any area.

(5) An applicant for grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall meet the eligibility conditions specified in section 5 of the Act for grant of a reconnaissance permit and shall submit an online application for grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit as per the format specified in Schedule I alongwith an online payment of a fee calculated at the rate of one thousand rupees per square kilometre.

(6) An online acknowledgment shall be provided to the applicant on submission of an application under the provisions of sub-rule (5).

(7) The State Government shall dispose of the application made under the provisions of sub-rule (5) within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of a duly completed online application and may either issue a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit or reject the application for reasons to be recorded in writing and the letter to grant or reject the non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall be posted online which shall be available for download by the applicant:

Provided that in case an application is rejected, the fee made under sub-rule (5) shall be refunded to the applicant after deduction of an amount of ten per cent of such fee.

(8) The non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall be issued in the format specified in Schedule II and shall be subject to the terms and conditions specified therein.

(9) The maximum area for grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall not exceed the maximum area for reconnaissance permit specified in section 6 of the Act and the period for grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall be as specified in sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Act for reconnaissance permit.

(10) The State Government shall allow the Indian Bureau of Mines to access the online system for grant of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit and shall also communicate in writing to the Indian Bureau of Mines the grant or rejection of the non-exclusive reconnaissance permit made under sub-rule (7).

(11) The grant of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit over any area shall not prohibit the State Government from notifying all or any part of such area for grant of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease and upon such notification the validity of all non-exclusive reconnaissance permits over such notified area will stand automatically terminated:

Provided that the State Government shall communicate in writing such automatic termination to every holder of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit over such notified area.

4. Findings of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit.—(1) The holder of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit may choose to submit its findings to the State Government and may request the State Government to conduct auction for grant of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or a mining lease based on such findings.

(2) Upon receipt of a request for auction under sub-rule (1), the State Government shall have the right to seek further information including documents regarding such findings and the State Government may decide to conduct auction for grant of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or a mining lease based on such findings.

(3) The State Government upon being satisfied regarding,-

(a) the existence of evidence of mineral contents as specified in the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents), Rules 2015 may conduct an auction for grant of mining lease; or

(b) the requirements specified in rule 7 of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 may conduct an auction for grant of a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules 2015.

SCHEDULE I
(See sub-rule (3) of rule 3)

Format for online submission for Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit (**NERP**) application under sub section (1) of section 10C of the Act

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Details and name of the applicant |
|---|-----------------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Name | Mr./Mrs./Ms./M/s (Whichever applicable) | is | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Address | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | District | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e-MAIL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Pin Code | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Landline Numbers | |
|------------------|--------|
| STD Code | Number |

| FAX Numbers | |
|-------------|--------|
| STD Code | Number |

| Mobile Numbers | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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|---|-----------------------|--|------|--|------|--|-----------|--|------------|--|-----|--|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Status of Application | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Individual | | CPSU | | SPSU | | Public Co | | Private Co | | Fim | | Association | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|-----|--|------|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3 | Name of Mineral (s) for which applicant intends to apply for Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit (notified & non-notified separately) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i) | | ii) | | iii) | | iv) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | v) | Others | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------|--|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 4 | Extent of area applied for Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit (in Sq km) | | | | 7 | Boundary of the area applied for (GPS/ DGPS Coordinates) | | | | | |
| 5 | Period for which Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit is required | | | | S. No. | Latitude | | | Longitude | | |
| 6 | Details of the area applied for | | | | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| | State | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | S.No. | Village(s) | District | Area (km ²) | 2 | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | 4 | | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| | 4 | | | | 6 | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | 7 | | | | | | |
| | 6 | | | | 8 | | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|--|--|-----------------------|----|
| 8 | Does the applicant already possess any NERP in the same State where applied for | | Yes | No |
| 9 | If so, give details in a separate sheet | | Yes | No |
| 10 | The proposed exploratory works to be undertaken for proving the existence of mineral along with their annual physical targets & anticipated minimum annual expenditure : | | | |
| | Nature of work | | Expenditure (in lakh) | |
| | (i) | | | |
| | (ii) | | | |
| | (iii) | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----|
| 11 | Application Fees Payment Details | Amount Payable | Rs. | Amount Paid | Rs. |
| | Deposited on | D D M M | Y Y Y Y | Mode of payment: | |
| | Other payment details viz. DD No | | | | |

I/We do hereby declare that the particulars furnished above are correct and am/are ready to furnish any other details including accurate plans and security deposit, as may be required by you.

Yours faithfully,

Place:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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Date:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Signature of the applicant

Instructions for filing Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit (NERP) applications under Section 10C of the Act

| Sl. No. in form | Instructions |
|-----------------|---|
| 2 | In case the applicant is, - (a) an individual, proof of the nationality shall be enclosed; (b) a company, a self-attested copy of the certificate of incorporation of the company shall be enclosed; and (c) Firm or Association, proof of the nationality of all the partners of the firm or members of the association shall be enclosed. |
| 6 and 7 | An applied area map duly demarcated with geo reference co-ordinates |
| 6 and 7 | A cadastral Map of the area superimposed with the area applied for Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance permit showing name of the Tehsil, District, State and Survey of India Toposheet number and area in Square kilometers of each field and part thereof if available. |
| 6 and 7 | In the case of forest maps the area should be marked on the geo referenced forest map showing the range and felling series if available. |
| 8 and 9 | A statement duly supported by affidavit giving particulars of the area mineral-wise in the State for which the applicant or any person joint in interest with him,- (a) already holds under a reconnaissance permit or non-exclusive reconnaissance permit; and (b) has already applied for reconnaissance permit or non-exclusive reconnaissance permit but not granted. |

Note:-

- (1) The application for grant of Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit (NERP) should be made to the respective State DMG through on-line. Only an online application will be accepted.
- (2) Printout of online application may be taken and submitted with the enclosures of above mentioned documents to State Government within 15 days of submission as a hard copy of application.

**SCHEDULE II
(See sub-rule (8) of rule 3)**

Format of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit

THE GOVERNMENT OF [STATE]

[address]

To

[name of holder of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit]

[address].

Sub: Grant of a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Government of [State] is pleased to grant a non-exclusive reconnaissance permit to [name of holder

of nonexclusive reconnaissance permit] (“**NERP Holder**”), pursuant to section 10C of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) and the rules made thereunder, subject to the terms and conditions specified below:

(1) This non-exclusive reconnaissance permit is being granted pursuant to the application number [number] dated [date] submitted by the NERP Holder. If any information submitted in such application is found to be incorrect, incomplete or misleading in any manner whatsoever, this non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall be revoked.

(2) This non-exclusive reconnaissance permit is being granted for the following area:

| # | Item | Particulars |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Size of the area in square kilometers | |
| 2 | Details of area | |
| 3 | District | |
| 4 | Village | |
| 5 | Taluka | |
| 6 | Revenue survey number | |
| 7 | Survey of India toposheet no | |
| 8 | Minerals expected to be discovered | |

(3) This non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall be valid for a period of [number] [months/years], unless terminated earlier pursuant to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) or the rules framed thereunder.

(4) This non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall be subject to all the terms and conditions relating to reconnaissance permit or non-exclusive reconnaissance permit specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder, and the following general terms and conditions:

(a) the NERP holder shall follow the minimum expenditure commitment and physical targets as indicated in the application;

(b) the non-exclusive reconnaissance permit is subject to all clearances, permits and any other statutory provision as may be required for carrying out reconnaissance operations by the NERP holder;

(c) the State Government may, with the approval of the Central Government, impose such further conditions in the non-exclusive reconnaissance permit;

(d) the NERP holder shall report to the State Government the discovery of any mineral not specified in the nonexclusive reconnaissance permit along with full particulars of the nature and position of each such finding, within a period of 60 days from the date of such finding;

(e) the NERP holder shall not be entitled to make any claim for the grant of any Composite Licence or Mining Lease on the basis of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit;

(f) every NERP holder shall submit to the State Government a Scheme of reconnaissance operations indicating the manner in which the NERP holder proposes to carry out reconnaissance operations in the area covered by the non-exclusive reconnaissance permit, which shall incorporate the following:

(i) particulars of the area such as aerial extent, boundaries;

(ii) the scale of the plan and the area of geological mapping; and

(iii) the particulars of the machines and instruments to be used;

(g) the Scheme of reconnaissance may be modified at any time by the NERP holder during continuance of the non-exclusive reconnaissance permit. Any such modification(s) carried out to the Scheme of reconnaissance may be intimated to the State Government; and

(h) the NERP holder shall inform the State Government the date of commencement of the reconnaissance operations.

Source: The Gazette of India: extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 29.06.2015

6. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 538(E). — In pursuance of the second proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government hereby notifies the following entities for the purposes of the second proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, namely:—

- (i) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited;
- (ii) Steel Authority of India Limited;
- (iii) NMDC Limited;
- (iv) KIOCL Limited;
- (v) MOIL Limited;
- (vi) Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited; and
- (vii) Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited.

2. This notification shall be subject to the condition that the data generated by the prospecting operations be made over to the State Government.

3. This notification shall come into force with effect from 16th February, 2015 with respect to: (i) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited; (ii) Steel Authority of India Limited; (iii) NMDC Limited; (iv) KIOCL Limited; and (v) MOIL Limited, and shall come into force with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette with respect to: (i) Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited; and (ii) Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited.

Source: The Gazette of India: extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 06.07.2015

7. Ministry of Finance, Notification, G.S.R. 568(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts cut and polished diamonds falling under Chapter 71 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), when imported (for grading or certification and re-export out of India) by the laboratories and agencies (hereinafter referred to as the said laboratories and agencies) notified in the Foreign Trade Policy and mentioned in the Table below, from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon which is specified in the said First Schedule, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions, namely:—

| Sl. No. | Name of laboratory/agency |
|---------|--|
| 1. | Gemological Institute of America (GIA), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India |
| 2. | Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, Gujarat, India |
| 3. | International Institute of Diamond Grading & Research India Pvt. Ltd., Surat, Gujarat, India |

(i) the said laboratories and agencies shall furnish a general bond to the satisfaction of the Assistant Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner of Customs at the port of import, undertaking to properly account for the diamonds, to follow the procedure specified in paragraph 4.75 of the Handbook of Procedures and to re-export diamonds within the period as mentioned in the said paragraph of Handbook of Procedures;

(ii) the import shall be allowed under bill of entry having the detailed description of the diamonds, including inter alia, the dimensions, weight, colour, caratage, specification, approximate value, etc. of each piece of diamonds;

(iii) the bill of entry should carry the endorsement “only for certification and grading”;

(iv) the said laboratories and agencies while taking the diamonds in their unit, shall allot a ‘unique control number’ for identification purposes and maintain a separate account for such diamonds;

(v) after grading or certification, the diamonds shall be re-exported under a shipping bill containing the detailed description as was mentioned at the time of their import;

- (vi) cross reference of bill of entry shall be endorsed in the shipping bill;
- (vii) the said laboratories and agencies shall submit alongwith the shipping bill, a certificate to the effect that the diamonds being re-exported are the same as those imported;
- (viii) the said laboratories and agencies shall obtain Guaranteed Remittance (GR) waiver in respect of import and reexport as per the procedure laid down by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and realise the foreign exchange for the service charges in terms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines;
- (ix) the Custom Officers may visit the premises of the said laboratories and agencies for audit or checks;
- (x) the diamonds imported for certification or grading shall be re-exported within a period of three months from the date of their import;
- (xi) the said laboratories and agencies shall submit a quarterly statement by 25th of the month following the particular quarter and the statement shall reflect the bill of entry number, date, details of diamonds and details of re-export, etc.; and
- (xii) re-export shall be allowed only from the port through which import took place.

Explanation. - For the purposes of this notification,—

- (a) “Foreign Trade Policy” means the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015 - 2020 notified by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3, Subsection
- (ii) vide notification No. 01/2015-2020, dated the 1st April, 2015;
- (b) “Handbook of Procedures” means the Handbook of Procedures notified by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-I, Section 1 vide Public Notice No. 01/2015-2020, dated the 1st April, 2015.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 21.07.2015

8. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 632(E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) of section 9C and section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) These rules may be called the National Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2015.

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

2. Definitions.- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) “**Act**” means the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957);
- (b) “**Chairperson, Executive Committee**” means the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the National Mineral Exploration Trust established under sub-section (1) of section 9C of the Act;
- (c) “**Chairperson, Governing Body**” means the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the National Mineral Exploration Trust established under sub-section (1) of section 9C of the Act;
- (d) “**Executive Committee**” means the Executive Committee of the Trust;
- (e) “**Fund**” means the fund referred to in rule 6;
- (f) “**Governing Body**” means the Governing Body of the Trust;
- (g) “**Member, Executive Committee**” means the member of the Executive Committee of the Trust;
- (h) “**Member, Governing Body**” means the member of the Governing Body of the Trust;
- (i) “**obvious geological potential areas**” means the area identified by the Geological Survey of India from time to time; and
- (j) “**Trust**” means the National Mineral Exploration Trust established by the Central Government under subsection (1) of section 9C of the Act.

(2) Words and expressions used and not defined in these rules but defined in the Act shall have the same meanings as assigned to them in the Act.

3. The Functions of the Governing Body and the Executive Committee.- (1) The Governing Body shall lay down the broad policy framework for the functioning of the Trust and review its working.

(2) The Governing Body shall approve the annual plan and annual budget of the Trust upon the recommendations of the Executive Committee and it shall meet at least once in a year.

(3) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the Trust and shall also monitor and review the expenditure of the Trust fund at regular intervals.

(4) The Executive Committee shall, while discharging its functions, follow the policy framework and the directions of the Governing Body from time to time.

(5) The Chairperson of the Executive Committee may vary the term of office of any nominated member or remove him from the Executive Committee before the completion of his term.

4. Membership of Governing Body.- (1) The members of the Governing Body shall be *ex officio* members.

(2) Special invitees, if any, of the Governing Body shall be entitled to such sitting fee, conveyance and out of pocket expenditure as the Governing Body may decide.

5. Membership of Executive Committee.- (1) The *ex officio* members only shall have voting rights. (2) Members, other than *ex-officio* members including special invitees shall have no voting rights but shall be entitled to such sitting fee, conveyance and out of pocket expenditure as the Governing Body may decide.

6. Constitution of a fund under the Trust.- (1) The Central Government shall, by order, set up a fund under the Trust to be called as the “National Mineral Exploration Trust Fund” to be managed by the Executive Committee of the Trust.

(2) The Trust Fund shall receive monies to be paid in accordance with the provisions of rule 8 and may also receive contributions from such other sources as may be approved by the Central Government.

7. Contribution to Trust Fund.- (1) The Trust shall have power to open and operate bank accounts in its own name at any Scheduled Bank as specified in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (2 of 1934).

(2) The Trust shall communicate the particulars of its bank account to the State Government for the purposes of payments required to be made under sub-section (4) of section 9C of the Act.

(3) The holders of mining lease and prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall make payments for contribution to the Trust Fund of amount payable under sub-section (4) of section 9C of the Act to the State Government simultaneously with payments of the royalty.

(4) The State Government shall deposit the amount collected from such payments into the bank account of the Trust.

(5) The deposit referred to in sub-rule (4) by the State Government into the designated bank account of the Trust, shall be made as soon as possible, but in any case not later than tenth day of the succeeding month in respect of the amount collected in any particular month.

(6) The responsibility of collection and depositing the amount so collected in the Trust Fund and maintaining necessary accounts to be shared with the Central Government shall be that of the State Government.

(7) The State Government shall provide information regarding amounts paid pursuant to sub-section (4) of section 9C of the Act and royalty payments to the Indian Bureau of Mines on a monthly basis.

(8) The Indian Bureau of Mines shall maintain an updated record of the monies transferred to the bank account of the Trust along with a database of royalty payments and provide such information to the Trust on a periodic basis.

8. Office and bank account.- (1) The office of the Trust shall be situated at Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Central Secretariat, New Delhi 110 001 or at such other place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

(2) The bank accounts of Trust shall be opened and operated through the Member Secretary or any other Member of the Executive Committee or any officer of the Central Government, as may be authorised by the Executive Committee.

9. Objects and Functions of the Trust.- (1) The Trust shall carry out regional and detailed exploration for minerals and it shall undertake such activities as may be deemed necessary by the Governing Body to achieve its objects including,-

(a) funding special studies and projects designed to identify, explore, extract, beneficiate and refine deep-seated or concealed mineral deposits;

(b) undertaking studies for mineral development, sustainable mining adoption of advanced scientific and technological practices and mineral extraction metallurgy;

(c) taking up exploration of areas for regional and detailed exploration, giving priority particularly to strategic and critical minerals;

(d) consulting Central Geological Programming Board to decide the priorities for exploration of the Trust;

(e) facilitating exploration activities in such a manner that areas explored can be taken up for grant of mineral concessions in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder;

(f) facilitating completion of brownfield regional exploration projects in obvious geological potential areas (G3) including conducting high-risk exploration for deep-seated mineral deposits through modern technologies;

(g) promoting completion of detailed exploration (G2 or G1) across India in the areas where G3 stage exploration has been completed;

(h) facilitating geophysical, ground and aerial, survey and geochemical survey of obvious geological potential areas and rest of India;

(i) facilitating a national core repository for encouraging research in earth sciences and for evaluation of the mineral prospects;

(j) organizing capacity building programmes to raise technical capability of personnel engaged in or to be engaged in exploration; and

(k) using the Trust Fund for such other purposes that the Governing Body may decide, or authorise the Executive Committee, to be necessary or expedient in the interest of conservation, development and exploitation of mineral resources of India, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act.

(2) In furtherance of the objectives referred to in sub-rule (1), the Governing Body may employ or hire personnel, own and dispose off property, including intellectual property, incur administrative expenses and execute documents as may be necessary.

10. Management of the Trust.- (1) The overall control, periodical reviews and policy directions the Trust shall vest with the Governing Body.

(2) The Executive Committee shall manage, administer and supervise the day to day activities of the Trust.

(3) The Governing Body may authorise the Executive Committee to exercise any or all of its powers as mentioned in sub-rule (1).

(4) The Executive Committee shall formulate and finalise the scheme for delegation of financial powers.

11. Committees.- (1) The Executive Committee may constitute committees or sub-committees to undertake such tasks that may be assigned or delegated by the Executive Committee to such committees or sub-committees.

(2) The committee or sub-committee constituted under sub-rule (1) shall devise its own procedure in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities under these rules and in exercise of such powers and functions as may be specified by the Executive Committee.

12. Implementation of projects by the Executive Committee.- (1) The Executive Committee may implement the projects consistent with the objectives of the Trust on its own accord or upon receipt of a project proposal from a State Government or any other entity, including private sector entities.

(2) In implementation of the projects referred to in sub-rule (1), the Executive Committee may devise its own procedure consistent with the Act and the rules made thereunder.

13. Monitoring of projects.- (1) The Trust shall monitor implementation of the projects either by itself or by engaging any government entity, including the Indian Bureau of Mines.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), the Trust may devise its own procedure consistent with the Act and the rules made thereunder.

14. Meetings of the Governing Body.- (1) The Governing Body shall meet at least once in a year.

(2) The meetings of the Governing Body shall be presided by the Chairperson, Governing Body and in the absence of the Chairperson, Governing Body, the ex-officio Members of the Governing Body may elect an officiating Chairperson, from among themselves.

(3) All decisions or resolutions including circular resolutions of the Governing Body shall be made or adopted by consensus.

(4) In case of any disagreement or dissent, the ruling of the Chairperson, Governing Body shall be final.

15. Meetings of the Executive Committee.- (1) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every three months.

(2) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presided by the Chairperson, Executive Committee and in the absence of the Chairperson, Executive Committee, the ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee may elect an officiating Chairperson, from among themselves.

(3) The meetings of the Executive Committee may be either physical or virtual or by circulation or by combination of both: Provided that the meeting by circulation shall not apply for adoption of accounts of the Trust, recommendation to Governing Body for approval of annual plan, annual budget and annual report of the Trust.

(4) All decisions or resolutions including circular resolutions of the Executive Committee shall be made or adopted by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting.

(5) In case of equality of votes, the Chairperson, Executive Committee, or in his absence, the member presiding over such meeting as the Chairperson shall have a casting vote:
Provided that no member shall vote or take part in the discussion of any matter coming up for consideration at a meeting of the Executive Committee or any of its committees or sub-committees, if the matter is one in which such member has any direct, indirect or pecuniary interest.

16. Notice and agenda for meeting of the Governing Body and Executive Committee.- (1) The Chairperson or the Convenor of the Governing Body with the consent of the Chairperson, Governing Body, shall convene the meeting of the Governing Body by giving a minimum fifteen days' notice to all the members:

Provided that the Chairperson, Governing Body may authorise to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

(2) The Chairperson or the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee, with the consent of the Chairperson shall convene the meeting of the Executive Committee by giving a minimum seven days' notice to all the Members:

Provided that the Chairperson of the Executive Committee may authorise to convene a meeting with a shorter notice period.

(3) Notice for any meeting may include an agenda for that meeting, draft minutes of the earlier meeting and action taken report on the minutes of the earlier meeting.

17. Quorum for meeting.- (1) The quorum for any meeting of the Governing Body shall be six, excluding the special invitees.

(2) The quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee, including a virtual meeting, shall be seven, excluding the nominated members.

18. Powers, Duties and Responsibilities of the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee.- (1) There shall be a Member Secretary of the Executive Committee to discharge the functions of the Executive Committee.

(2) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall,-

(a) administer and manage the Trust subject to the superintendence, control and direction of the Executive Committee.

(b) exercise such administrative and financial powers as may be delegated by the Executive Committee or as may be assigned by the Chairperson, Executive Committee.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities, without prejudice to the generality of sub-rule (2) and (3), namely:-

(a) to cause the preparation of the annual plan and related annual budget and submit them to the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Governing Body;

(b) to ensure that due diligence has been exercised before considering proposals or projects to be undertaken by the Trust in accordance with the practices, procedure, rules or directions of the Executive Committee;

(c) to ensure that the activities of the Trust are being conducted in accordance with the annual plan and related annual budget; and

(d) to submit to the Governing Body the approved annual plan and related annual budget for each financial year to the Central Government, by the end of January of previous financial year.

19. Annual Plan.- (1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, at the beginning of each financial year, cause preparation of plans for short term projects and long term projects proposed to be undertaken by the Trust in the relevant financial year, to be referred as the **annual Plan**, together with details of the activities to be undertaken or completed by the Trust during such time, the expected time for completion of the projects and cost for such projects.

(2) The annual plan shall contain all projects, programmes, activities proposed to be undertaken by the Trust for achieving its objective and shall have clearly demarcated milestones.

20. Annual Budget.- The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, at the beginning of each financial year, cause preparation of an annual budget containing the details of the proposed income and expenditure on activities covered in the annual plan for that particular financial year, including the legal, administrative and other costs and expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Trust together with details of the funding requirements in this regard, to be referred as the **annual budget**.

21. Approval of the Annual Plan and the Annual Budget.- (1) The annual plan and the annual budget shall be laid before the Governing Body for its approval.

(2) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, on receipt of the copies of the duly approved annual plan and the related annual budget from the Convener of the Governing Body, submit the same to the Central Government within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of approval of the Governing Body.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-rule (2), the Trust may undertake expenditures for activities that are not approved in the annual plan subject to specific approval by the Chairperson, Governing Body, which shall be laid before the Governing Body with the next annual budget.

(4) The annual plan and related annual budget may be amended at any time subject to the approval of the Chairperson, Governing Body, which shall be laid before the Governing Body with the next year annual plan or budget.

22. Annual Report.- (1) The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall, within ninety days of the end of each financial year, submit an annual report containing such information as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

(2) The annual report shall be approved by the Executive Committee and shall contain details, *inter alia*, of the activities completed by the Trust during the financial year and the expenditure incurred by the Trust during such financial year.

(3) A copy of the annual report shall be sent to the Central Government within a period of thirty days from the date of its approval by the Executive Committee.

23. Financial year. - (1) The accounting or financial year of the Trust shall be from the 1st of April to the 31st of March.

(2) The first year of operations of the Trust may be a partial year.

24. Maintenance and Audit of Accounts.- (1) The accounts of the Trust shall be maintained in the form, mode and manner as may be decided by the Central Government.

(2) The accounts of the Trust Fund shall be audited in such manner as may be decided by the Central Government.

(3) After the audit referred to in sub-rule (2), the Trust shall submit the annual report to the Central Government.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 14.08.2015

9. G.S.R.633(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 9C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby establishes a Trust to be called as the National Mineral Exploration Trust with a Governing Body and an Executive Committee.

(I) The Governing Body shall consist of the following members, namely:-

(a) Union Minister In-charge of Ministry of Mines —Chairperson, *ex officio*;

(b) Union Minister In-charge of Ministry of Coal or his nominee —Member, *ex officio*;

(c) Union Minister In-charge of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas or his nominee —Member, *ex officio*;

(d) Minister of State for Atomic Energy or his nominee —Member, *ex officio*;

(e) Minister of State for Mines —Member, *ex officio*;

(f) Six Ministers of State Governments, holding charge of Mines and Geology to be nominated by the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the National Mineral Exploration Trust, on rotation basis, for a term not exceeding two years at a time with the eligibility for re-nomination —Members, *ex officio*;

(g) Secretary, Ministry of Mines —Convener, *ex officio*.

(h) Special invitees having experience in the relevant field to be invited by the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the National Mineral Exploration Trust.

(II) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members, namely:-

(a) Secretary, Ministry of Mines —Chairperson, *ex officio*;

(b) an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy —Member, *ex officio*;

- (c) an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal —Member, *ex officio*;
- (d) an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas —Member, *ex officio*;
- (e) Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor of Ministries of Mines or Coal —Member, *ex officio*;
- (f) Director General of Geological Survey of India or any other representative to be nominated by the Central Government —Member, *ex officio*;
- (g) Controller General of Indian Bureau of Mines or any other representative to be nominated by the Central Government —Member, *ex officio*;
- (h) One representative from any four State Governments, as decided by the Central Government, not below the rank of Secretary to the State Government or equivalent, on rotation basis, for a term not exceeding two years at a time, with the eligibility for re-nomination —Members, *ex officio*;
- (i) Joint Secretary, in-charge of Exploration, Ministry of Mines —Member Secretary, *ex officio*;
- (j) five persons, from among persons with experience in exploration or in research in a related field at least for a period of two years, to be nominated by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the National Mineral Exploration Trust.
2. This Notification shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 14.08.2015

10. Ministry of Mines, Resolution, No. 1/17/2015-MVI. (vol-iii).—A Granite Development Council (GDC) for overseeing the development of the Granite Industry was reconstituted by the Government of India vide its Resolution No. 1/1/98-MVI (vol-iii) dated 30.7.2004 for a period upto 31.3.2009 and again upto 31.3.2014 . The Government of India has come to the view that it will be in the interest of development of granite industry and export of granite to reconstitute the Granite Development Council, for a period of three years from the date of issue of this resolution, with following terms of reference (TOR) and composition:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India | - Chairman. |
| 2. Joint Secretary (Mineral Policy & Legislation) Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India | - Member |
| 3. Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India | - Member. |
| 4. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India | - Member. |
| 5. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Revenue, Govt. of India | - Member |
| 6. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Govt. of India | - Member |
| 7. Secretary, Industries & Commerce Deptt., Govt. of Andhra Pradesh | - Member |
| 8. Secretary, Mines Deptt., Govt. of Rajasthan | - Member |
| 9. Secretary, Industries Deptt., Govt. of Tamil Nadu | - Member |
| 10. Principal Secretary, Steel & Mines Deptt., Govt. of Orissa | - Member |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 11. Secretary, Commerce & Industries Deptt., Govt. of Karnataka | - Member |
| 12. Secretary, Industries & Mines Deptt., Govt. of Gujarat | - Member |
| 13. Director General, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata | - Member |
| 14. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur | - Member |
| 15. Director, National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Karnataka. | - Member |
| 16. President, All India Granite and Stone Association, Bangalore. | - Member. |
| 17. Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, New Delhi. | - Member |
| 18. CAPEXIL World Trade Centre, Kolkatta. | - Member |
| 19. M/s. Gem Granites, Chennai (Tamilnadu) | - Member |
| 20. M/s. Krishna Sai Granites (A. P.) - Member | - Member |
| 21. M/s. Pallava Granites Industry (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Tamil Nadu) | - Member |
| 22. M/s. Pokarna Limited (A.P.) | - Member |
| 23. Director, (Mineral Policy & Legislation), Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. | - Member Secretary |

3. The **Terms of Reference** of the Granite Development Council will be as follows:

- (i) To assess and review periodically the status of granite mines and recommend measures for speedy development of the mineral.
- (ii) To assess technology employed in the mines and recommend measures for up-gradation of technology and scientific exploitation of the mineral.
- (iii) To assess present taxation and royalty structure on granite and suggest measures to make investment in granite more attractive.
- (iv) To recommend measures for increasing value addition in granite and to realize its export potential.
- (v) Any other aspect which the Council deems important in the interest of development of granite mining and industry in the country.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part-I, Section-1 dt. 01.09.2015

11. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 715 (E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by sub sections (5) and (6) of Section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules specifying the amount to be paid by holder of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, in addition to the royalty, to the District Mineral Foundation of the district established by the concerned State Government by notification, in which the mining operations are carried on, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These rules may be called as the Mines and Minerals (Contribution to District Mineral Foundation) Rules, 2015.

(2) These rules shall be deemed to have come into force on the 12th day of January, 2015.

2. Amount of contribution to be made to District Mineral Foundation.—Every holder of a mining lease or a prospecting licence-cum-mining lease shall, in addition to the royalty, pay to the District Mineral Foundation of the district in which the mining operations are carried on, an amount at the rate of (a) ten per cent of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) (herein referred to as the said Act) in respect of mining leases or, as the case may be, prospecting licence-cum-mining lease granted on or after 12th January, 2015; and (b) thirty per cent of the royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule to the said Act in respect of mining leases granted before 12th January, 2015.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3(i) dt. 17.09.2015

B. Court Decisions:

1. Bajri lease LOI Holders Welfare Society, Petitioner v. state of Rajasthan & ors. , Respondents, AIR 2015, Rajasthan 49, Vol.102, Part 2016, April 2015.

Subject:

Challenging the order dated 11.2.14 passed by the Collector and District Magistrate to fix the sale price of Bajri.

Facts:

For excavation of minor mineral 'Bajri', under the Proviso to Rule 63(3) of the Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1986 (for short, 'the Rules of 1986'), made under Section 15 of the Act of 1957, no concession by way of any lease, license or permit was provided. Anyone could excavate 'Bajri' in the State of Rajasthan, but while crossing check posts, he had to pay royalty and permit fees. In view of the judgment of the Supreme Court in Deepak Kumar And Another Vs. State of Haryana And Others, (2012) 4 SCC 629, dated 27.02.2012, providing for environmental clearance, to be given by the Ministry of Environment and Forest(MOEF), for mining in any area, even if it was less than five hectares, an amendment was made by the State Government on 25.05.2012, for grant of mining leases for minor mineral 'Bajri'. The provisions however were not made effective, as vide Notification dated 21.06.2012, it was provided that until grant of mining leases, existing system of excavation of minor mineral 'Bajri' will continue.

In a writ petition being D.B. Civil Writ Petition (PIL) No.13189/2012- Nature Club of Rajasthan Vs. State of Rajasthan, a Division Bench of this Court allowed six months time to the State Government, to give effect to the amended Rules for grant of mining leases for minor mineral 'Bajri'. The application for extension of time was dismissed by this Court on 21.10.2013. The State Government, on rejection of its application for extension of time on 21.10.2013, filed SLP (Civil) No.34134/2013, in which a direction was issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 25.11.2013, that till the end of February, 2014, the letter of intent (LOI) holders for grant of leases, who had submitted their applications to the MOEF for clearance (numbering 82 only), can carry on mining operations in accordance with the Notification dated 21.06.2012, issued under the Rules of 1986.

It is submitted that 82 persons, who are the members of the petitioner-Association, were given LOI in a bidding process for grant of leases of respective areas. They had deposited 10% of the bid price, where bids were invited and accepted for mining in an auction for mining leases, and had further deposited 15% of the bid price within three days of the acceptance of the bid. The LOIs were issued with the conditions, namely (i) submission of duly approved mining plan prepared by the competent authority; (ii) submission of environmental clearance from the MOEF; and (iii) filing of an affidavit in respect of financial assurance under Section 37(J). All the formalities, except environmental clearance, for which the applications were duly made, were completed. The environmental clearance could not be granted on account of delay in the procedure for grant of such certificates. The members of the petitioner-Association, in view of the order of the Supreme Court, dated 25.11.2013, in SLP(Civil) No.34134/2013, started excavating minor mineral 'Bajri', pending execution of the lease deed for a period of five years, on deposit of further amount of 25% of the bid amount. All the members of the petitioner-Association, as LOI holders, have thus paid 50% of the premiums up till now for execution of lease deeds. The delay in formulating a policy for excavation of minor mineral 'Bajri', and issuance of environmental clearance certificate, caused scarcity of 'Bajri' in the State of Rajasthan, on which its prices started rising.

In exercise of powers under the Rajasthan Act, 2014, the State of Rajasthan has made the Rajasthan Goods (Licensing and Control of Production, Supply, Distribution and Trade and Commerce) Order, 2014, whereby 'Bajri' was declared as goods under the Rajasthan Act, 2014, regulating 'Bajri' for storage and sale over and above the notified quantity, for which a license is required to be taken out.

In exercise of powers vested in the Collectors and District Magistrates under Section 5(c), (e) and (f) of the Rajasthan Act, 2014, vide Notification dated 07.02.2014, the Collectors and District Magistrates of Districts Jhunjhunu and Tonk, have passed the orders on 11.02.2014, fixing the maximum sale price per tonne of mineral 'Bajri' in the market and pit mouth. The Collector and District Magistrate, Jhunjhunu, by order dated 11.02.2014, fixed the sale price per tonne of 'Bajri' at pit mouth in respect of Udaipurwati, Nawalgarh, Khetri and Buhana. Similarly, the Collector and District Magistrate, Tonk, has also, in the same manner, fixed the price of mineral 'Bajri', giving rise to the present writ petition.

It is submitted by learned counsel appearing for the petitioner-Association that the inclusion of mineral 'Bajri' under the category of 'declared goods' under Section 4(1) of the Rajasthan Act, 2014, and consequent orders passed in relation to the regulation and fixation of price of mineral 'Bajri', are beyond the legislative competence of the State Government.

It is submitted that 'Bajri' is a notified minor mineral, and the Parliament has power to make laws in respect of minor minerals by virtue of Entry 54 of List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. In view of the provisions of Section 2(b) and 2(d) of the Rajasthan Act, 2014, the State Government could not have issued any declaration under Section 4 with respect to 'Bajri'. The orders and the Notifications are, thus, violative of Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India.

Learned counsel for the petitioner-Association has relied on the judgments of the Supreme Court in State of Orissa And Another Vs. M/s M.A. Tulloch And Co., AIR 1964 SC 1284, Baijnath Kedia Etc. Vs. State of Bihar And Others (AIR 1970 SC1436), India Cement Ltd. And Others Vs. State of Tamil Nadu And Others (AIR 1990,SC 85), M/s. Orissa Cement Ltd. Vs. State of Orissa and others (AIR 1991 SC 1676) Federation of Mining Associations of Rajasthan Vs. State of Rajasthan And Another (AIR 1992

SC 103), P.Kannadasan etc. Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and others (AIR 1996 SC 2560), Sandur Manganese And Iron Ores Limited Vs. State of Karnataka And Others, (AIR 2011 SC 1206), varying it was held that the State does not have any power under entries in List II or List III, to legislate regulating the mines and minerals, on the declaration of the Union Government on enactment of the Act of 1957.

Learned Advocate General submitted that the Act of 1957, enables control over regulation of mines and mineral development. The declaration does not take away the power of the State Government, to enact laws for licensing and fixing the price of such minerals, in public interest. He submits that regulation of mines and mineral development does not include power to license, to exercise control over the storage beyond a particular limit, and for control of price, where prices for any reason, have increased in the markets, detrimental to the public interest. He has defended the Rajasthan Act, 2014, and the Notifications issued under it, to include 'Bajri' as declared good, under the powers of the State Government, given under Entry 26 and 27 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

It was further submitted that the legislation does not fall under any of the subjects mentioned in Entry 33 of List III, and that the subject matter of Rajasthan Act, 2014, is within the exclusive competence of the State legislature. Apart from this, Entry 34 of List III, clearly authorizes the State legislature, to make laws with regard to price control.

Decision:

The High Court has stated that the Rajasthan Act, 2014 has been enacted under Entry 26 and 27 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, and not under any of the subjects mentioned in Entry 33 of List III. Entry 34 of List III, authorizes the State legislature to make laws with regard to price control of any of the items/goods, on which it has enacted under Entries 26 and 27 of List II of the Seventh Schedule.

The High Court has further stated that the 'Bajri' is a minor mineral, in respect of which regulation and control of stocks, sale, supply and distribution, has not been made by the Parliament under the Act of 1957, or the Rules made thereunder in Section 15 by either the Central Government or the State Government, or by virtue of any of the entries of List I of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The challenge to legislative powers of the State Government to enact the Rajasthan Act, 2014, is thus devoid of any substance.

The High Court held that a challenge to these Notifications will require the establishment of the facts, for which the members of the petitioner-Association are given liberty to file separate writ petition, on such facts and circumstances, which may be brought before the Court, at the relevant time.

Accordingly, the writ petition is dismissed.

Petition dismissed.

2. Rajendra Singh, Petitioner v. State Of U.P. & Others, Respondents, AIR 2015, Allahabad 93, Vol.102, Part 1217, May 2015.

Subject:

Writ petition file for extension of time for removal of the collected sand.

Facts:

The Subdivisional Magistrate, Sarila, District- Hamirpur alongwith other officers of mines department had found illegal storage of sand and moram of about 3,000 cubic meter by the petitioner. The sand was seized and was given in Supurdagi of the petitioner.

The petitioner has stated that he had purchased the sand from a lease holder after making payment of consideration. It is further his case that an offence was committed by him by storing sand, in view of Section 4 (1A) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereinafter referred to as the Act 1957). The petitioner made a representation on 13.08.2014 before the respondent no. 2, District Magistrate, Hamirpur for compounding the offence. He offered to pay royalty and the cost of the sand in accordance with law and for release of the sand in his favour. Since the application was not considered, the petitioner filed Writ Petition No. 47730 of 2014. The writ petition was disposed of vide order dated 06.09.2014, permitting the petitioner to make a fresh application before the respondent. The application was directed to be disposed of in accordance with law specifically in the light of Section 23-A of the Act 1957 by means of reasoned and speaking order.

The District Magistrate, Hamirpur in compliance of the order passed by the High Court, referred to above, has proceeded to pass an order for releasing 3000 cubic meter of sand/moram on payment of Rs. Rs.2, 25,000/- as royalty, Rs. 11, 25, 000/- as costs of the sand and compounding fees of Rs. 25, 000/- (Total money demanded was Rs. 13, 75, 000/-) with the conditions that on deposit of the said money, the sand may be released in favour of the petitioner and he may transport the sand within one month thereafter.

Learned Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the District Magistrate should have extended the period for transportation of the seized sand which had been released in his favour as per the provision of Section 23 A read with Section 21 (4) and (4A) of the Act 1957.

Decision:

The High Court found out that under the Act 1957 no power has been conferred upon the District Magistrate or for that purpose on any other authority to dispose of the seized good except upon the Court under Section 21 (4A).

The High Court held that the release of the mineral (sand) in the facts of the case as directed by the District Magistrate, itself is without authority. The seized minerals have to be placed before the Court concerned for confiscation and disposal in view of Section (4A) of the Act 1957.

The High Court has further directed that a copy of this order may be forwarded to the State Government for necessary information to all the District Magistrates to act strictly in accordance with provision applicable and not to release any seized tool, plant, machinery, vehicles, mineral, etc., which are involved in an offence under Section 21 of the Act 1957. Confiscation and disposal of such plant and machinery, tool, mineral, vehicle, etc. must be effected only under the order of the competent Court as provided under Section 21(4A) of the Act. Accordingly, the writ petition is dismissed.

Petition dismissed.

3. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration and others, Appelants v. Javed Hussain, Respondent, AIR 2015 Calcutta 86, Vol. 102 Part 1217, May 2015.

Subject:

The appeal is filed against the judgment and order dated 12.2.2014 passed by the learned single judge allowing the writ application and set aside the order dated 22.8.2013 of the Commissioner- cum-Secretary (Revenue) and direct in the respondent-administration to renew the permit dated 2.5.2011

issued to the petitioner on the same terms and conditions for 1 year and renewal thereafter, within 3 months from the date of communication of the said order.

Facts:

For the permit dated 2.5.2011 directions for renewal for a further term of one year have been issued, the respondent was permitted to quarrying stone and also to operate stone crushing until 31.12.2011. Learned counsel for the appellants contended that the order under appeal was beyond the scope of the prayers in the writ petition where there was no prayer for renewal of permission to quarry. The respondent filed the writ petition praying for quashing of the order dated 23.11.2012 of the Commissioner- cum-Secretary (Revenue), the earlier order dated 6.9.2011 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman District and furtherer sought orders directing the Deputy Commissioner as well as the Tahasilder not to restrain the petitioner from operating the crushing unit installed in the land bearing survey No. 1/P measuring 0.2 hectares situated in Brookshabad, Port Blair.

In view of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Minor Minerals Rules, 2012, quarry lease are to be granted to the highest bidder by open auction. Knowing this, the respondent did not seek extension of quarrying rights.

The crusher was all along being operated at survey No. 1/P where quarry operations were being carried out. The right to quarry has now been given to a different party not even impleaded in the writ petition. There can be no question of the respondent being allowed to operate to crusher on the aforesaid land.

Learned Council for the Respondent submitted that the crusher unit can be operated at which is presently being operated or be dismantled and operated at some other places subject to permission being given by the respondent authorities to permit the petitioner-respondent herein to operate a crusher. The operation of crusher unit is governed by the guidelines notified vide Notification No. 257 dated 23rd November, 2012. The criteria for setting up of Stone Crusher Unit is mentioned in the said guidelines. It is also pointed out that two other crusher units have been allowed to continue. However, even any crusher unit has wrongly been allowed to continue, the permission to continue may be cancelled. There can be any right to equality to wrongful permission in contravention to guidelines.

The learned council for the appellants submitted that there were 26 crusher units so have been allowed to operate as they have tie-up agreement with those granted quarrying rights. In the instant case, the respondent did not have any tie-up agreement.

Decision:

The High Court has ordered/stated that the respondent neither has right to carryout quarrying which has not even been claimed in the writ petition nor has any right to operate a crusher on plot of land to which the respondent has no right whatsoever. However, in the event, the petitioner is able to enter into a tie-up arrangement for operation of the crusher unit with the persons having quarrying rights or with lease holders, it will be open to the petitioner to renew its prayer for permission to operate the crusher unit and such prayer shall be considered in accordance with guidelines.

Accordingly, The High Court has set aside and quashed the order and disposed of the appeal.

Order accordingly.

4. Hari Prakash Gupta, Petitioner v. Union of India, Respondent, AIR 2015 Madhya Pradesh 57, Vol. 102 Part 1217, May 2015.

Sub:- Challenging the order dated 14.8.2013 passed by the respondent No. 2, where by the revision filed by the petitioner, against the order of the State Government, proposing to grant prospecting licence to respondent No. 5, has been rejected on the ground of non-deposit of the necessary amount of Rs. 5,000/-

Facts:-

The petitioner had submitted a Demand Draft drawn on Central Bank of India, Sihora Branch for a sum of Rs. 5000/- dated 20.10.2012, however, as the spelling of the word "Mines" was wrongly spelt as "Mince" in the said Demand Draft, therefore, the draft was not accepted and the revision was dismissed on the ground of non-deposit of the necessary amount of Rs.5,000/- . The petitioner was not given any prior intimation nor was he given any further opportunity to rectify the mistake and furnish a fresh Demand Draft.

The respondent No.5 has stated that he was given requisite notice and intimation to rectify the defects in his revision in spite of which he did not do so and, therefore, the Revisional Authority had no option but to dismiss the revision.

Decision:-

The High Court has stated that the petitioner should have been given an opportunity to submit a correct Demand Draft after rectifying the defect by the Revisional Authority respondent No. 2 and the revision should not have been dismissed by the revisional authority on the ground of such a minor technical defect and ought to have heard and decided the revision on merits in order to do complete justice. The High Court has further stated that the present case was not one of non-deposit of the necessary pre-deposit amount but was one of minor spelling mistake in the demand draft submitted by the petitioner.

The High Court has made clear that in case the petitioner fails to deposit the Demand Draft within 10 days from today, the Authority would thereafter be obliged to dismiss the revision on that count alone and the right of the petitioner to assail the same shall thereafter stand foreclosed.

The High Court has directed/ordered that the respondent No.2- Revisional Authority shall decide the matter as expeditiously as possible preferably within a period of two months from the date of deposit of the Demand Draft.

The High Court has also made clear that the Revisional Authority would also be at liberty to decide the matter of granting any interim relief to the petitioner till the decision of the revision and for that purpose the interim order granted by this court shall continue to remain in operation only for a period of ten days from today.

Order accordingly.

5. M/s. Muneer Enterprises, Appellant v. M/s Ramgad Minerals and Mining Ltd. & Ors., Respondents, AIR 2015 Supreme Court 1834, Vol. 102 Part 1218, June 2015.

Subject:

The appeal preferred against the judgment dated 10.11.2004 by which the transfer of mining lease from the original licensee to and in favour of the first respondent was set aside.

Facts:

The mining lease with reference to M.L. No.2010 was granted on 25.11.1953 for 30 years and the extent of land was 331.50 hectares covering 819.20 acres of forest land in Jaisinghpur village R.N. Block, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District. The said initial lease period expired on 24.11.1983 and by order dated 07.03.1986 the lease was renewed for another 20 years retrospectively from 25.11.1983, which was to expire by 24.11.2003. The relevant fact to be noted is that by the time the lease expired on 24.11.1983, the Forest Act 1980 had come into force and under Section 2 of the Forest Act in order to carry on any further mining activity in the entirety of the 331.50 hectares of land covered by M.L.No. 2010, the prior approval of the Central Government was necessary and required. It is not in dispute that when the mining lease was renewed by order dated 07.03.1986 by the Department of Mines of the State Government, Section 2 of the Forest Act of 1980 was not complied with. It remained unnoticed till the issue came to be considered by this Court in the judgment concerned in Godavarman-I. By virtue of the direction issued by this Court all the mines, which did not comply with the requirement of Section 2 of the Forest Act were directed to stop all their mining activities. Consequently, by order dated 25.01.1997 the second respondent herein namely Director of Mines and Geology called upon M/s. Dalmia to stop all mining activities pertaining to M.L. No.2010 and the mining activities were stopped by M/s. Dalmia. Thereafter, by the Godavarman-II judgment, which is reported in (1997) 3 SCC 312, the MOEF was directed to consider those applications for ex post facto approval. Pursuant to the said direction of this Court, by order dated 24.12.1997, MOEF granted conditional in-principle stage-I approval for the renewal of M/s. Dalmia's mining lease for an extent of 201.50 hectares of forest land. The said stage-I approval was subject to fulfillment of specific conditions within six months from the date of the order. It was also specifically mentioned that only after receipt of compliance report of the conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval, consideration for grant of final approval under Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act would be made and issued. After the receipt of the order dated 24.12.1997 M/s. Dalmia surrendered 196.58 hectares of land out of 331.50 hectares to the forest department of the State Government through

their letter dated 16.04.1999. By virtue of the said surrender made by M/s. Dalmia out of 331.50 hectares the M/s. Dalmia can be said to have retained only 134.92 hectares for its mining operations. Be that as it may, on 27.03.2001 M/s. Dalmia wrote to the Directors of Mines and Geology expressing its decision to determine the lease and surrender the remaining area and gave notice as required under the terms of the mining lease deed for determination of the lease. In the said letter M/s. Dalmia mentioned that such determination of lease would take effect upon expiry of 12 months notice period from 01.04.2001 or earlier if permitted by the State Government.

In response to the said communication of M/s. Dalmia, the State Government through the office of the Director of Mines and Geology in its letter dated 25.05.2001 addressed to the Senior Geologist of the State Government stated that M/s. Dalmia has stopped all its mining activities from 1997 and that it has now expressed in its letter dated 27.03.2001 to surrender the lease, namely, M.L.No. 2010 even earlier than the 12 months period and called upon the said officer to intimate as to whether any arrears were due and payable by M/s. Dalmia for taking further action. Copy of the said communication dated 25.05.2001 was also sent to M/s. Dalmia for information and also by way of instructions to surrender the lease deed book in respect of M.L.No. 2010 along with the mining plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines immediately for taking further action. In response to the said letter of Director of Mines and Geology M/s. Dalmia forwarded its letter dated 16.06.2001 directly addressed to the Director of Mines and Geology mentioning that as instructed by the said authority, they surrender the lease deed book, namely, M.L.No. 2010. The said letter further stated that the mining plan was not available with them. It was specifically mentioned at the bottom of the said letter that mining lease deed book was being enclosed along with the said letter.

Mr.Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant contended that once M/s.Dalmia surrendered its lease in respect of M.L.2010, which surrender has become final and conclusive, there was no scope for transfer of such surrendered mining lease in favour of the first respondent herein. The learned senior counsel then contended that assuming the surrender has not come into effect, at the time of first renewal when in-principle stage-I approval was granted by the Central Government through MOEF in its order dated 24.12.1997, imposing very many conditions and since M/s.Dalmia failed to comply with those conditions within five years of the said order viz., 23.12.2002 and that the first renewal so granted also expired in November 2003, by which time also the conditions imposed in the in-principle stage-I approval was not complied with, there was factually no renewal of the mining lease which stood expired initially on 24.11.1983 and in any event after the expiry of the first renewal viz., 24.11.2002.

The learned senior counsel further contended that there should have been no second renewal or grant of in-principle stage-I clearance after 23.12.2002 as well as by the present order dated 13.09.2006. The learned senior counsel contended that under Rule 59 of Mineral Concession Rules, when once the mining lease was surrendered by M/s. Dalmia and when surrender has come into effect thereafter, for subsequent grant of mining lease, the procedure prescribed in the said Rule has to be followed and the

order of the State Government in having passed its order dated 16.03.2002 transferring the mining lease from M/s. Dalmia to the first respondent was wholly illegal and void ab initio.

The learned senior counsel by referring to Rule 37 and Rule 29 of the Mineral Concession Rules, submitted that in the light of the surrender of the mining lease by M/s. Dalmia, there was no right in M/s. Dalmia to apply for transfer in favour of the first respondent. He further contended that by virtue of the provision contained in Rule 29 of the Mineral Concession Rules, the mining lease was determined by M/s.Dalmia and in such circumstances by virtue of Section 19 of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulations Act any mining lease in contravention of the Act and Rules would be void ab initio. The learned senior counsel contended that, therefore, the so-called acquisition of mining lease of M/s.Dalmia by the first respondent was void.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Advocate-on-Record appearing for the State of Karnataka submitted that the requirement of 12 months notice for determining the lease at the instance of a lessee is mandatory. By referring to Rule 27(2)(1), the learned counsel submitted that the said sub-Rule mandates delivery of possession of land and mines on surrender of the lease and that Clause 4 of Part VIII of Form-K viz., the lease deed specifically states that such determination will take effect after the expiry of such notice. By referring to the communication dated 27.03.2001 of M/s. Dalmia's application for surrender, letter of the Director of Mines to the Senior Geologist dated 25.05.2001, the M/s. Dalmia's letter dated 16.06.2001, surrendering the lease deed book as well as no due certificate issued by the Department of Mines on 31.01.2002, the learned counsel submitted that, in spite of all these communications a specific order of acceptance of surrender was still required which was never issued. To support the said submission, the learned counsel placed reliance upon the earlier communications in the office of the Mining Department pertaining to various other mining lease viz., those dated 12.03.1965, certain other orders passed in December, 1988 and 11.04.1989 and the Notification dated 19.06.1965 and contended that those communications disclosed specific order of acceptance of surrender issued by the State Government. The learned counsel would, therefore, contend that in the case on hand, since such a specific order of acceptance of surrender was not issued, it cannot be stated that the surrender as applied for by M/s.Dalmia had taken place.

Point of issues:

Whether M/s. Dalmia surrendered the mining lease bearing No.M.L.2010 and whether such surrender has become final leaving no scope for M/s. Dalmia to transfer it in favour of the first respondent?

Whether for the purpose of surrender of a mining lease to come into effect the expiry of the period of 12 months from the alleged date of surrender is mandatory or not?

Whether there was surrender of 196.58 hectares of forest land made by M/s. Dalmia on 16.04.1999 out of the total extent of 331.50 hectares and thereby what remained with M/s. Dalmia was only 134.92 hectares for which also there was no ex post facto approval by the MOEF?

Whether the act of surrender in order to become complete should have been accepted by the State?

Whether pursuant to the act of surrender, delivery of possession is mandatory under Rule 27(2)(1) of the Mineral Concession Rules?

Even if surrender has not taken place by reason of the non-compliance of in- principle stage-I approval granted in the order dated 24.12.1997 whether the mining lease stood automatically expired on 24.11.2003?

Whether by virtue of Rules 29 and 37 of the Mining Concession Rules read with Section 19 of the MMDR Act any mining lease in contravention of the Act become void ab initio?

Whether after the coming into force of the Forest Act of 1980 when approval under Section 2 of the said Act is mandatory, can it be said that there could be any scope for ex post facto approval in violation of the said provision. Whether the order of Godavarman case can be relied upon for subsequent renewals?

Whether after the newly amended Forest Conservation Rules 6, 7 and 8 non- compliance of Section 2 of the Forest Act would still make the lease void ab initio?

Whether right of renewal of the lease under MMDR Act and the action of grant of approval under the Forest Act are independent and one does not affect the other?

Whether based on the requirement of Central Government approval under Section 5 of the MMDR Act which was existing prior to the coming into force of the Forest Act, 1980, can it be said that such a requirement is now made as a mandatory one under Section 2 of the Forest Act for a mining lease to remain valid?

Whether Section 10(1) and the second proviso to Section 11 of the MMDR Act as well as Rule 37 and 59 of the Mineral Concession Rule mandatory to the effect that any transfer applied for under Section (1)(a) cannot be automatically granted?

Whether the order of transfer dated 16.03.2002 was bonafide taking into account the sequence of events?

Whether the transfer of lease by order dated 16.03.2002 can be held to be valid since such transfer order came to be passed before the expiry of the first renewal, namely, before 24.11.2003?

Whether the stage-I approval dated 13.09.2006 and the final approval dated 09.09.2010 can be held to be valid in the light of the order of this Court dated 26.10.2005?

Decision:

The Supreme Court has stated that the very fact that the Director of Mines and Geology was authorized to sign the lease deed on behalf of the Governor of State of Karnataka, it was

quite explicit that he was the only authority who was competent to authenticate the grant of the lease as well as for its determination. Unless there was any other Authority prescribed to carryout the said task as a statutory requirement. It is stated that such a decision taken and communicated by M/s. Dalmia to the Director of Mines and Geology was valid in law and was in consonance with the prescription contained in sub-Rule (1) of Rule 29.

The decision made by the Director of Mines and Geology in its communication dated 25.5.2001 addressed to the Senior Geologist with a copy marked to M/s. Dalmia to determine the lease earlier and for that purpose directed M/s. Dalmia to surrender mining lease book, namely, M.L. No.2010 along with the mining plan was a pointer to the effect that the surrender was decided to be accepted on behalf of the State Government instantaneously which was also not prohibited either under the Rules or under the terms of the lease deed or under any other statutory provision.

The Supreme Court held that M/s. Dalmia surrendered its mining lease M.L. No.2010 in respect of the entire extent of 331.50 hectares in Jaisinghpur village, R.M. Block, Sandur Taluk, Bellary, State of Karnataka which surrender was duly accepted by and on behalf of State of Karnataka which had come into effect on acknowledgment of the receipt of the sum of Rs.22,332/- towards arrears in respect of the said mining lease in the acknowledgment letter dated 31.1.2002. When once such surrender had come into effect, it must be stated that there was no scope for M/s. Dalmia to resile from the said surrender and contend that it still had a right to transact with the said M.L. No.2010 for any other purpose including for effecting any transfer in favour of anyone much less in favour of the first respondent.

It is also held that the Director of Mines and Geology was the competent authority to receive a proposal for determination of lease by M/s. Dalmia. Acceptance of surrender is impliedly mandated under Rule 29 read along with paragraphs 4 and 5 of Part VIII of the mining lease, there was a factual acceptance on behalf of the State of Karnataka of the mining lease M.L. No.2010. For a mining lease to remain valid, twin requirements of the approval of the Central Government under the proviso to Section 5(1) of MMDR Act and Section 2 of the Forest Act of 1980 have to be fulfilled. After the first renewal, there was a serious violation of failure to get the prior approval under Section 2 of the Forest Act, 1980 i.e. when the renewal order was passed on 07.03.1986. Therefore, if we strictly apply Section 19, it must be stated that even as on 07.03.1986, for violation of Section 2 of the Forest Act, 1980 it must be stated that, in law, there was no mining lease at all in existence as it became void on the expiry of the initial period of the original lease granted in 1953.

The Supreme Court further held that the mining lease which was held by M/s.Dalmia in M.L.No.2010 became void and inoperative for violation of the mandatory requirements of the conditions. Therefore, on this ground as well, it must be held that there was no scope at all for the State Government to consider the application made by M/s.Dalmia for transferring of its mining lease in favour of the first respondent. There was no scope for holding that there was a valid transfer made by M/s.Dalmia in favour of the first respondent on 16.03.2002. The said lease was duly surrendered by M/s. Dalmia and accepted

by the State Government. There was total lack of bonafides on the part of the State government in taking a sudden U-turn for passing the order of transfer dated 16.3.2002 in favour of the first respondent. The order of the learned Single Judge in setting aside the said order dated 16.03.2002, was perfectly justified and the interference with the same by the Division Bench by the order impugned is required to be set aside.

The Supreme Court held that when once M.L. No.2010 had come to an end by virtue of the surrender effected by M/s. Dalmia and accepted by the State Government, there was no legal right or power with the State Government or any authority acting on behalf of the State Government to consider the very application for transfer made at the instance of M/s. Dalmia on 4.2.2002 and for passing the order of transfer dated 16.3.2002. It can only be stated that such a decision taken and passed in the order dated 16.3.2002 was in total violation of the provisions of the MMDR Act and the Mineral Concession Rules.

The Supreme Court has stated that apart from the act of surrender made by M/s.Dalmia which became final and conclusive due to non-compliance of the conditions imposed in the in-principle Stage I clearance dated 24.12.1997, M/s.Dalmia lost its right to retain the lease and the consequence of it rendered the lease itself void as per Rule 37(1A) and on this ground as well, there was no scope for the State Government or any other Authority acting on its behalf to have considered the transfer application of M/s.Dalmia with reference to a lease which ceased to exist as from 31.01.2002 due to the act of surrender and in any case from 24.12.2002 when the 5 year period to comply with the conditions imposed in the order dated 24.12.1997 expired.

The Supreme Court has further stated that mines and mineral being national wealth, dealing with the same as the largesse of the State by way of grant of lease or in the form of any other right in favour of any party can only be resorted to strictly in accordance with the provisions governing disposal of such largesse and could not have been resorted to as has been done by the State Government and the Director of Mines and Geology of the State of Karnataka by passing the order of transfer dated 16.3.2002. Such a conduct of the State and its authorities are highly condemnable and, therefore, calls for stringent action against them.

The Supreme Court has also held that subsequent stage-I in-principle approval dated 13.09.2006 and the final approval dated 09.09.2010 based on the acceptance of the transfer of lease in the order dated 16.03.2002 cannot survive and the same are set aside.

The Supreme Court has observed that whatever statutory payments made in compliance of the said orders are refundable to the party who made the payments. We, however, make it clear that the payments made in pursuance of the in-principle stage-I approval or final approval of the first renewal granted ex post facto, covering the period from 1983 to 2003 shall not be refundable. The Supreme Court has directed that the Mining as well as Forest Authorities to ensure that the entire extent of 331.44 hectares of land covered by M.L. No.2010 is surveyed, demarcated and its physical possession by the

State/Forest Authorities be ensured by removing whatever encroachments, if any, exist in the said land. The Supreme Court has also directed that in order to insure that no further encroachments take place into the said land, necessary steps as required under Rule 59 of Mineral Concession Rules are taken for leasing out the lands in accordance with law and by following the required statutory procedure.

Thus, the appeal is allowed by the Supreme Court and set aside the order of the Division Bench with the said direction, without any costs.

Appeal allowed.

6. Gulab Chandra Mishra, Petitioner v. State of UP & Ors., Respondents, AIR 2015 Allahabad 106, Vol. 102, Part 1218, June 2015.

Subject:

Writ petitions filed - (i) to quash the Notifications published by the District Magistrate of Various districts of State of U.P. issued under Rule 72 of the U.P. Minor Mineral (Concession) Rules, 1963. (ii) To challenge Rule 34 sub-rules (4) and (5) as amended under 36th amendment to the Concession Rules, 1963 as well as Rule 9-A as introduced by 37th amendment to the Concession Rules, 1963. It is also prayed that the State Government may be directed not to proceed with reference to the Government Order dated 22nd October, 2014 without making suitable comprehensive amendments in the Concession Rules, 1963 in consonance with the Model Minor Minerals Conservation and Development Rules, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as 'Model Rules, 2010') as directed by the Apex Court in the Deepak Kumar v. State of Haryana (AIR 2012 SC 1386).

Facts:

The petitioners claim to be engaged in mining business and to have experience in excavation of sand and other minor mineral. It is also their case that most of them had been granted lease by the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Concession Rules, 1963. The petitioners are in favour of excavation of minor minerals as it is a natural resource for the State Government.

After the judgment of the Apex Court in the case of Deepak Kumar (AIR 2012 SC 1386) the State of U.P. issued Government Order dated 31st May, 2012 declaring the availability of vacant areas throughout the State of U.P. for the purpose of grant of leases for minor minerals under Rule 23(1) of the Concession Rules, 1963 through the process of auction/tender. With the issuance of the notification under Section 23(1), the provisions contained in Chapters II, III and IV of the Concession Rules, 1963 ceased to be applicable.

The Government Order dated 31st May, 2012 was subjected to challenge before the High Court by means of various writ petitions. The State Government issued Notification dated 26th February, 2013 to supplement 35th amendment and the Government Order provided for environmental clearance being obtained by the project proponent. This Government Order dated 26th February, 2013 was again subjected to challenge by means of Writ Petition No.3199 of 2013. The State Government came out with two further notifications dated 09.02.2014 and dated 08.07.2014 providing for guidelines in the matter of mining leases to be granted through E-Tendering and the lessee to be the person who shall obtain environmental

clearance before excavation under the lease. The State Government vide 36th amendment, as per notification on 26th February, 2014, amended Rule 23 and Rule 34 of the Concession Rules, 1963. On 22nd October, 2014 the State Government notified 37th Amendment to the Concession Rules, 1963. By means of this amendment, besides other, Rule 9-A was added to the Concession Rules, 1963. Rule 9-A, which is under challenge in the present writ petition.

On the same date, i.e., 22nd October, 2014 the State Government issued a Government Order whereby it decided to cancel the earlier notifications dated 31.5.2012, dated 26.1.2013 dated 9.6.2014 and dated 08.7.2014 issued under Section 23(1) of the Concession Rules. All applications received in response to the said notifications were rejected. It went on to declare that the vacant areas are available for grant of mining leases under Chapters-II, III and VI of the Concession Rules. Meaning thereby that the procedure for grant of mining lease through auction tender/tender-cum-auction/e-tender was withdrawn, and the procedure contemplated by Chapter-II and Chapter-VI of Concession Rules would apply in the matter of grant of leases of minor mineral throughout the State of U.P. in respect of vacant areas. It is with reference to this Government Order dated 22nd October, 2014 that the District Magistrates of various districts throughout the State have published the impugned notifications inviting applications in accordance with Rule 9-A of Concession Rules, as amended by 37th amendment for grant of mining lease for minor mineral in respect of plot specified for a period of three years. Petitioners before this Court submitted that amendment to Rule 34, which requires obtaining of environment clearance by the project proponent, is illegal being contrary to the observations made by the Divisional Bench of the High Court in the case of Pravesh Kumar v. State of U.P., (2013(5) ALJ(NOC) 448 (ALL).

Counsels for the petitioners vehemently contended that the very idea of lease holder being treated as project proponent under Rule 34 is misconceived. Learned Counsels for the petitioners submits that what cannot be done directly cannot be permitted to be done indirectly. It is pointed out that Rule 9-A and Rule 23, as they stand, cannot be harmonized. The State Government must make suitable amendments in the Concession Rules, 1963.

Learned counsels for the petitioners also contended that deeming fiction created in respect of approval of mining plan after expiry of the period mentioned under Rule 34 is bad, as it defeats the very purpose for which mining plan is required to be approved. He submits that the Apex Court in the case of Deepak Kumar (AIR 2012 SC 1386) (supra), has specifically laid down that the Model Rules of 2010 have to be applied in toto by all States. These Model Rules mandate that there cannot be any lease for mining of minor minerals unless there is a duly approved mining plan by the competent authority. The Model Rules, 2010 provide that approval of the mining plan complete in all respect is a condition precedent for grant of lease of minor minerals. Therefore, unless there is an order in writing approving the mining plan by the competent authority, there cannot be any lease for excavation of minor minerals. The deeming fiction in the matter of such approval cannot be sustained.

The Learned Advocate General of the State contended that a transparent and fair method has been adopted in the matter of selection of candidate for grant of mining lease under the Government Order dated 22nd October, 2014 and is in the best interest of revenue. Therefore, this Court may not interfere with the advertisement published by the District Magistrate impugned in the present writ petition.

It is pointed out that in view of the Model Rules, 2010 and in view of the judgment of the Apex Court in the case of Deepak Kumar, (AIR 2012 SC 1386) (Supra), the State Government is obliged to create a fund for the trust to be established. The money which is collected by the State Government as offered by the prospective applicant in Envelope-B shall be utilized for the said purpose.

The Learned Advocate General submitted that an applicant for grant of mining lease would also answers the description of project proponent. For the purpose he refers to Rule 34 (I) proviso of Concession Rules, 1963 as amended, which provides that a lessee shall start mining operation only after Environmental Clearance if required under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14th September, 2006, as amended from time to time has been obtained. Second proviso to Rule 34 (1) explains that the application in that regard is to be made by the project proponent or end user Agency as the case may be. On simple reading of the rule it is clear that the application for grant of mining lease will answer the description of the project proponent or at least that of an end user as provided under Rule 34 of Rules, 1963 for seeking environmental clearance. The State Government has powers to frame the rules and to lay down the terms and conditions for grant of mining lease. The state has decided that the selected applicant for grant of lease for minor minerals may make an application for grant of environmental clearance/approval of mining plan with the condition that no mining activity shall be started or carried on without such clearance. No wrong can be said to have been committed by the State.

Decision:

The High Court opined that the word “lease” in Rule 34(1) proviso, which requires obtaining of Environmental Clearance Certificate and also in Rule 34 (2) which requires submission of the mining plan, must be read to mean the ‘selected applicant’ and the State Government may carry out necessary amendments in Rule 34 accordingly.

The High Court further opined that from Model Rules, 2010 as well as from the reading of the judgment of the Apex Court in the case of Deepak Kumar, (AIR 2012 SC 1386) (Supra) it cannot be said that it is the state in every case which must get the mining plan approved before inviting application in the matter of the grant of mining lease.

The High Court further opined that the selected applicant for a particular plot in the matter of excavation of minor minerals can also make such application for approval of this mining plan. It is only when the mining plan prepared by the qualified recognized person is approved by the competent authority that a lease for excavation of minor minerals can be executed in favour of the applicant. It is on the execution of such lease that he can start mining operations. Any other method, it followed by the state in the matter, would be per se illegal and in teeth of the model Rules, 2010, which have been directed to be dully incorporated by the State Governments in the respective concession Rules as per the judgment of the Apex court in the case of Deepak Kumar. (AIR 2012 SC 1386) (Supra). The High Court has also opinion that the two rules i.e. Rule 9-A and Rule 23(3) cannot be harmonized. There is a direct conflict between the two. The State Government, while adding Rule 9A to Chapter II of the Minor Mineral Concession Rules has failed to take note of Rule 23(3) of the Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1963. The

High Court has opined that the introduction of Rule 9A by 35th amendments is illegal being in direct conflict with Rule 23 of the Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1963.

The High Court has stated that Model Rules do not contemplate any deemed approval of mining plan, therefore the State Government is not justified in introducing a deeming fiction qua approval of mining plan under Rule 34(4) as per 36th amendment.

Accordingly, the High Court has allowed all the Writ Petitions and directed as follows:

(I) The word “lease” as used in Rule 34 of the Concession Rules in the matter of making of the application for environmental clearance/approval of the mining plan may be read to mean “selected applicant” only and if required the State Government may make necessary amendments therein.

(II) No mining lease under the Notification dated 22.10.2014 shall be executed by the State Government, unless there is an approved mining plan complete in all respect, as contemplated by Model Rules, 2010, prepared by a recognized qualified person and duly approved by the competent authority. Approval of the mining plan in writing is a condition precedent for execution of the mining lease. The deeming provision as contained in Rule 34(4) is held and is quashed.

(III) No mining operations can be done in the absence/contrary to the mining plan prepared by a recognized qualified person and approved by the competent authority, as contemplated by Model Rules, 2010 read with Rule 34 of the Minor Mineral Concession Rules as amended up to date.

(IV) Rule 9A, as introduced by 37th Amendments, is held to be bad being in conflict with Rule 23(3) of the Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1963.

(V) All the notifications issued by the District Magistrate, included that dated 5th December, 2014, inviting applications from the prospective applicants in envelope-A and envelope-B cannot be legally sustained and are quashed.

(VI) The State Government may lay down the time period for the selected candidate to make the application for approval of mining plan and for such approval being examined and decided in a time bound manner by the competent authority.

Petitions allowed.

7. M/s Kushwaha Clay Products, East Singhbhum, Petitioner v. The State of Jharkhand & Ors., Respondents, AIR 2015 Jharkhand 53, Vol. 102 Part 1218, June 2015.

Subject: Writ Petition file for quashing the Notification dated 03.04.2013 issued by the Department of Environment and Forests, fixing “scrutiny fee” for granting environmental clearance by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

Facts:

The petitioner is manufacturing brick kiln in its unit situated in the district of East Singhbhum. For establishing a brick kiln unit, permission under Rule 31 of the Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules is required. Before 1999, brick manufacturers were permitted to install mobile chimneys however,

vide notification dated 05.10.1999 the Central Government prohibited the mobile chimney and made provision for installing fixed chimneys. The petitioner was granted permission under Rule 31 of the Jharkhand Mineral Concession Rules, 2004. After the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court whereunder requirement of environmental clearance was made mandatory even for minor minerals, though the State Government was required to frame Rules however, without framing any Rule, the Government of industries are required to apply for grant of environmental clearance in a prescribed format along with "scrutiny fee".

The learned counsel for the petitioner(s) submitted that the power conferred upon the State Government under Section 15 of the MMDR Act is only confined to fixing and calculating royalty in respect of minor minerals and under Section 15 of the MMDR Act, even the State Government cannot frame any Rule relating to the environmental issue or requiring from the applicants to deposit "scrutiny fee".

It is submitted that a tax or fee can be imposed only under an authority of law and by a notification, tax or fee cannot be imposed by the State Government/ Authority. He relies on a decision in "*Attorney General Vs. Built United Durg Limited*", reported in (1922) 127 LT 822. It is further submitted that though in the neighbouring State of Orissa, the scrutiny fee of Rs. 5,000/is being charged from the applicants, in the State of Jharkhand vide Notification dated 03.04.2013 scrutiny fee for projects up to Rs. 5 crore has been fixed at Rs. 1 lac which is exorbitant, arbitrary and liable to be quashed.

Learned AAG submitted that the SEIAA, Jharkhand in its meeting dated 07.05.2013 deliberated upon the simplification of procedure for environmental clearance and pursuant thereof necessary guideline was formulated.

It is submitted that the guidelines framed by SEIAA under in its meeting held on 07.05.2013 is valid and does not require any interference by this Court. It is further submitted that since the applicants are required to borne expenses for processing their applications, the applicants cannot challenge charging of scrutiny fee for processing their applications.

Decision:

The High Court has opined that the guidelines contained in Minutes of Meeting dated 07.05.2013 do not suffer from any illegality or jurisdictional error. The High Court has further opined that the petitioners cannot contend that no application fee should be charged from them for processing their application by SEIAA. The High Court has stated that even though the specific rule has not been framed for charging scrutiny fee from the petitioners, the scrutiny fee can be validly levied for processing the applications of the petitioners.

The High Court has further stated that Vide Notification dated 21.12.2013, the scrutiny fee has been reduced to Rs. 50,000/from Rs. 1 lac. However, if the petitioners feel that charging of Rs. 50,000/as scrutiny fee is exorbitant, it is open to the petitioners to approach the State Government by making representation in this regard.

Accordingly, the High Court has dismissed all the Writ Petitions for want of merit.

Petition dismissed.

8. Prabha Exim Pvt.Ltd.,Thru. Kshitij Garg, Petitioner v. Public Works Department, Respondents, AIR 2015 Madhya Pradesh 90, Vol. 102 Part 1219, July 2015.

Subject: Challenging the insistence for production of the royalty clearance certificate by the contractor engaged in contraction work.

Facts:-

The petitioner is a Class-B Civil Government Contractor. It is alleged that after lapse of months respondents have not finalized the final bill of the petitioner for want of Royalty Clearance Certificate as per terms and conditions of the agreement executed between the petitioner and Department.

According to the petitioner, in view of the law laid down by this Court as well as at Principal Seat, Jabalpur in various cases for production of the Royalty Clearance Certificate is illegal.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the amended provisions of Rule 68 of M.P. Minor Mineral Rules, 1996 (in short "Rules of 1996") will be applicable to quarry permit holder/contractor as defined in the Rules of 1996. It is submitted that the present petitioner is neither have quarry lease or quarry permit not through auction any trade quarry contract has been awarded by the Collector for lifting of minor mineral. Learned Govt. Advocate submitted that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 15 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the State Government amended the M.P. Minor Mineral Rules, 1996 w.e.f. 23rd March, 2013 and as per 3rd Provisio of sub-rule (1) of Rule 68, the Contractor engaged in construction work shall obtain certificate of no mining dues to ensure payment of royalty for the mineral used in construction work for the mineral excavated from quarry permit area or used by purchasing from open market. Certificate of no mining dues shall be issued by Mining Officer/officer in-charge of mining section, after verification of documents submitted by contractor/quarry permit holder engaged in construction work.

Decision:

The High Court has stated that the State Government, in order to check the pilferage of mineral and evasion of Royalties, amended Rule 68, M.P. Minor Mineral Rules, 1996. By virtue of these amendments, the petitioner/contractor are required to submit Royalty Clearance Certificate before passing their bills. Under Rule 68 of the M.P. Minor Mineral Rules,1996, it is incumbent that the contractor engaged in construction work shall obtain certificate of no mining dues to ensure payment of royalty for the mineral used in construction work, for the mineral excavated from quarry permit area or used by purchasing from open market. Thus, it is incumbent to the petitioner to obtain certificate and for that they have to maintain the correct accounts showing the quantity and other particulars of all minerals obtained and purchased from the mine owner or from the open market and the same can be examined by the Mining Officer/Officer in charge of mining.

The High Court has further stated that the State Government can ask information regarding accounts showing the quantity dispatched and royalty paid and in order to regulate that proper accounts is maintained and proper dispatch register is maintained for that purpose, this power has been conferred on the State Government. The High Court held that the petitioner/contractor is required/obtained no mining certificate under Rule 68 of Rules of 1996.

Lastly, the High Court has dismissed the Writ Petition for want of merits.

Petition dismissed.

9. Hemant Singh, Petitioner v. The State of Madhya Pradesh & another, Respondents, AIR 2015 Madhya Pradesh 95, Vol. 102 Part 1219, July, 2015.

Subject:-

Challenging the orders/ notices dated 13.01.2014 and 17.09.2013 passed by the Collector (Mining), District Ujjain, thereby intimating about the information for cancellation of the lease-deed along with the confiscation of the deposited amount in failure of submitting the environmental approval from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

Facts:-

A trade quarry was granted to the petitioner after auctioned by the collector, for a period of two years with effect from 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2014 over an area of 4.00 hectares of village Hapakheda of District Ujjain for lifting of sand, because his highest bid of Rs. 11,25,000/- per annum was accepted by the Granting Authority. The power to control the trade quarries mentioned in Rule 7(1) of M.P. Minor Mineral Rules, 1996 shall vest with the Collector. Chapter VI deals with grant of trade quarries. It is submitted that on 17.09.2013 notice was issued by the respondent thereby intimating about the information of trade quarry to be cancelled along with confiscation of the deposited amount, in failure of granting the environmental approval from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

The stand of the respondents that after allotment of the trade quarry to the petitioner, Hon'ble Supreme Court was pleased to issue directives in the matter of Deepak Kumar v. State of Haryana & other (AIR 2012 SC 1386) and as per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the leases of the minor mineral, including the renewal for an area of less than 5 hectares, be granted by the State/Union Territories only after getting environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environmental & Forest, Government of India, New Delhi. In due compliance of the directives issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, instructions were issued by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mineral Resources Department vide communication dated 24.04.2012.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that he, in pursuance to the statutory notice of auction issued by the Collector, in statutory Form XV under Rule 36(2) of the Madhya Pradesh Minor Mineral Rules, 1996, participated in the auction and he being the highest bidder, his bid was accepted on 07.04.2012 and in the auction notice, at the relevant point of time, no such provision was there, and therefore, his security deposit amount be refunded. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submitted that at the time of auction, no sanction/permission from SEIAA was required, otherwise, he could not have participated in the auction. It is also submitted that for the year 2013-14, the Ministry of Mineral Resources Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh issued directions and directed all the Collectors of the State of Madhya Pradesh, that in those auction where possession of the quarry has not been delivered for want of necessary sanction/permission from SEIAA, their earnest money/security

deposit/installments be refunded to them. It is submitted that similar facility has to be provided to the petitioner and thus, the action of forfeiture of security deposit is illegal and prays for quashment of the same.

Learned Deputy Government Advocate submitted that circular dated 09.02.2015 issued by respondent No.1 will not be applicable in the present facts and circumstances of the case, because in the case in hand, an agreement was executed on 11.04.2012 and thereafter, possession of the quarry was handed over to the petitioner, and thus, he will not get any benefit from the aforesaid circular. It is further submitted that the petitioner for the first time on 03.05.2012 came to know that permission/sanction from SEIAA is a must, but in spite of number of opportunities granted to the petitioner, he failed to obtain environmental approval from SEIAA nor deposited the installments, and thus, the action of the respondents is just and proper.

Decision:

The High Court has stated that at the time of auction, no such condition was there. After execution of the agreement of trade quarry, for the first time, instructions were issued to get environmental permission/sanction from the SEIAA on 24.04.2012. As per Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and M.P. Minor Mineral Rules, 1996, there is no provision to obtain environmental permission/sanction from the SEIAA. The petitioner, as per the terms and conditions of the auction, participated in the auction and submitted his bid, and thus, he cannot be forced to obtain environmental permission from SEIAA nor for want of environmental permission, his security deposit can be forfeited. It is the duty of the State Government also to provide all assistance to the petitioner in obtaining necessary environmental permission/approval from the SEIAA. No document or any material has been filed to prove that the State Government, immediately after coming to know of the directives of the Supreme Court, co-operated the petitioner obtaining environmental sanction/ approval from SEIAA.

The High Court has further stated that the State Government could not impose terms and conditions, according to its own whims, ignoring or disregarding the statutory rules, which are binding on it. There is no provision under the Act and Rules that if the petitioner fails to submit environmental approval/sanction from SEIAA, his security deposit or earnest money will be forfeited. It is the duty of State Government to obtain all the environmental clearance from the SEIAA in favour of the petitioner, in terms of the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which they have failed to do so and blaming the whole responsibility to the petitioner. Even otherwise, for the year 2013-14, a circular was issued on 09.02.2015, directing all the Collectors of the State of Madhya Pradesh to refund the amount of earnest money/security deposit/installments for want of environmental clearance from SEIAA.

The High Court held that the impugned action of the Collector (Mining), Ujjain (respondent No.2) is illegal. Accordingly, the High Court has quashed the orders dated 17.09.2013 and 13.01.2014. The High Court has directed that if it is found for want of environmental approval/sanction from SEIAA, he has not carried out any mining operation over the trade quarry in question; and if it is found that during the trade quarry period, he had carried out mining operation and lifted sand, then he is not entitled for relief in respect of payment of installments, as per terms and conditions of the trade quarry agreement.

Thus, the High Court has allowed the Writ Petition in part without any order as to costs.

Petition allowed.

10. Jayaswal Neco Industries Ltd., Appellant v. Sarda Energy And Minerals Ltd & Ors., Respondents, AIR 2015 Delhi 115, Vol. 102 Part 1220, August 2015.

Subject: Challenging the rejection of application for grant of Prospecting Licence by the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Facts: M/s. Jayaswal Neco Industries Ltd. (the appellant in both the appeals) filed an application for Prospecting License (PL) on 22.05.1990 for the purpose of exploring iron ore deposits over an area of 154.700 hectares in Boria Tibbu area of Rajnandgaon District in the State of Madhya Pradesh (subsequently formed as State of Chhattisgarh). In terms of Rule 11(1) of Mineral Concession Rules 1960 (for short 'the Rules'), as it stood at the relevant point of time, the application dated 22.05.1990 was deemed to have been rejected and aggrieved by the same, the appellant (hereinafter referred to as 'Jayaswal Neco Ltd') filed a revision which was allowed by order dated 22.10.1994 and the matter was remanded to the State Government for consideration afresh.

In the meanwhile, in pursuance of the order dated 31.12.1997 granting PL in favour of Sarda Minerals Ltd, the necessary approval of the Central Government in terms of Section 5(1) of the Act was granted on 06.10.1998. However, their request for grant of clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was kept pending for a long time and ultimately, the same was granted on 22.05.2003 by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forest.

While so, the State of Chhattisgarh, which was formed on 01.11.2000 by virtue of Madhya Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2000, took up the issue of grant of PL over the Boria Tibbu area treating the applications of both Jayaswal Neco Ltd, dated 22.05.1990 and Sarda Minerals Ltd. dated 25.04.1995 as pending. On 01.02.2002, it was decided by the State of Chhattisgarh to reject the application of Sarda Minerals Ltd. dated 25.04.1995 and to grant PL to Jayaswal Neco Ltd, Apparently, while taking the said decision, the State of Chhattisgarh did not take note of the fact that the State of Madhya Pradesh by its order dated 12.04.1999 had already rejected Jayaswal Neco Ltd's application dated 22.05.1990 and the same was confirmed on Revision by the Mines Tribunal by order dated 31.12.2001.

In pursuance of its decision dated 01.02.2002, the State of Chhattisgarh by letter dated 05.03.2002 sought approval of the Central Government for grant of PL in favour of Jayaswal Neco Ltd. over an area of 86.380 hectares in Compartment No.534 and 536 of Rajnandgaon District and the approval was accorded by the Central Government on 08.08.2002. Accordingly, PL was granted to Jayaswal Neco Ltd, on 28.02.2003.

The above said decision of the State of Chhattisgarh was informed to Sarda Minerals Ltd by letter dated 03.04.2003 stating that its PL application was rejected since a mining lease had been granted to it for iron ore in the said area. Immediately, thereafter, by letter dated 15.04.2003 Sarda Minerals Ltd

informed the State of Chhattisgarh that on the basis of its application dated 25.04.1995, the State of Madhya Pradesh had already granted PL in its favour on 31.12.1997 and that the approval of the Central Government and the clearance as required under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were granted on 06.10.1998 and 22.05.2003, respectively. It was also pointed out that the revision application of Jayaswal Neco Ltd against the order of State of M.P. rejecting its application dated 22.05.1990 was dismissed by the Mines Tribunal by order dated 31.12.2001 and that it remained unchallenged.

On 06.06.2003, Sarda Minerals Ltd had also filed a Revision Petition along with an application for stay before the Mines Tribunal assailing the rejection of its PL application by the State of Chhattisgarh. While filing its response to the said revision, the State of Chhattisgarh enclosed the copies of the orders dated 04.03.2002 rejecting the PL application of Sarda Minerals Ltd dated 25.04.1995. The Mines Tribunal by order dated 05.02.2008 dismissed the revision application of Sarda Minerals Ltd holding that the order of the State of Chhattisgarh dated 04.03.2002 did not suffer from any legal infirmity. As against the order of the Mines Tribunal dated 05.02.2008, Sarda Minerals Ltd filed W.P.(C) No.2757/2008 and the same was allowed by the learned Single Judge by order dated 28.01.2011.

It may also be mentioned that in the meanwhile Jayaswal Neco Ltd made an application dated 07.04.2003 for grant of Mining Lease (ML) in respect of 51 hectares in Boria Tibbu area out of 86.38 hectares for which PL was granted in its favour. The said application was forwarded by the State of Chhattisgarh on 04.06.2003 seeking prior approval of the Government of India as required under Section 5(1) of the Act for grant of Mining Lease over an area of 47 hectares. In pursuance thereof, the Government of India granted the approval by order dated 30.06.2003. Thereafter, by order dated 28.07.2003, the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) had also approved the Mining Plan submitted by Jayaswal Neco Ltd in terms of Rule 22(4) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and on 01.07.2004, the forest clearance was granted by the Ministry of Environment & Forest.

It was primarily contended by Sarda Minerals Ltd/petitioner in W.P.(C) No.2757/2008 that the State of Chhattisgarh ought not to have reopened the issue of grant of PL over the Boria Tibbu area and could not have reviewed the order of the State of Madhya Pradesh granting PL in favour of Sarda Minerals Ltd. It was also contended that there were no pending applications by the date of formation of State of Chhattisgarh and, therefore, the question of rejecting the application of M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd and granting PL in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd did not arise at all.

On the other hand, it was contended by M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd that the writ petition itself had been rendered infructuous since the PL granted in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd had already been worked out and on the basis of the report of prospecting M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd was granted Mining Lease on 04.06.2003 which remained unchallenged. It was also contended that the State of Chhattisgarh was justified in taking up the issue of grant of PL afresh after the formation of the State of Chhattisgarh since by virtue of the order dated 31.12.1997 passed by the State of MP, M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd was allowed prospecting operations only for a period of 2 years within which period M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd failed to obtain Forest Clearance and did not carry out the prospecting operations. The further contention

was that the order dated 31.12.1997 by the State of MP being an administrative order, the power to review such an order was always available and the State of Chhattisgarh had rightly reconsidered the issue of grant of PL in respect of the area in question.

The learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant that the order dated 31.12.1997 recommending grant of PL to M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd by the State of MP was void in view of Section 19 read with Section 11(2) of the MMDR Act. It is also contended that M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd having participated in the proceedings for consideration of the applications for grant of PL by the State of Chhattisgarh without raising any objection for such reconsideration, is stopped from challenging the order of the State of Chhattisgarh granting PL in favour of the appellant.

The learned senior counsel further contended that since M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd did not challenge the subsequent order of the State of Chhattisgarh dated 04.06.2003 granting ML in favour of the appellant, the learned Single Judge ought to have dismissed the writ petition in limine declining to grant any relief to the petitioner.

Points of issues:-

- i) Whether the conclusion of the learned Single Judge that the action of the State of Chhattisgarh in reconsidering the applications of M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd and M/s Sarda Energy and Minerals Ltd for grant of PL which were already disposed of by the State of Madhya Pradesh is without authority of law suffered from any infirmity.
- ii) Whether the learned Single Judge is justified in deciding the validity of the PL granted in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd rejecting the contention that the said PL worked itself out since M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd was already granted mining lease on the basis of the report of prospecting in respect of the very same area.

Decision:

The High Court has stated that the order dated 31.12.1997 passed under Rule 12(1) by the State of M.P. is a quasi judicial order and cannot be reviewed by the State of Chhattisgarh. Particularly, in view of the provisions of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 2001 which was notified in terms of Section 79 of Madhya Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2000, the State of Chhattisgarh is bound by the order of the State of M.P. dated 31.12.1997. It may be true that M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd failed to carry out the prospecting operations since there was delay in grant of forest clearance as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, however, the same cannot be a ground for rejection of the PL that was already approved by the Central Government under Section 5(1) of the Act. It is also relevant to note that the rejection order passed by the State of Chhattisgarh dated 04.03.2002 was not on the ground that M/s Sarda Minerals Limited failed to carry out the prospecting operations pursuant to the PL granted by the State of M.P.

The High Court has further stated that the fresh decision by the State of Chhattisgarh in March, 2002 to reject the application of M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd. and to grant PL in favour of M/s Jayaswal Neco

Ltd was evidently taken without notice to M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd As noticed above, Rule 12(1) of the Rules expressly provides for giving an opportunity of being heard to the applicant before his application for PL is refused. Since no such opportunity was given, the order of rejection dated 04.03.2002 on the face of it is against the mandatory statutory provision apart from being in violation of the principles of natural justice.

The High Court has also stated that the conclusion of the learned Single Judge is based on findings of fact which were recorded on proper appreciation of the material available on record. In exercise of the powers of the appellate Court under the Letters Patent such findings of fact warrant no interference by the Division Bench.

The High Court held that once the PL granted by the State of Chhattisgarh is held to be illegal and the PL granted in favour of M/s Sarda Minerals Ltd by the State of MP stood revived, the ML that has been granted in favour of the appellant has been rendered void. The mere approval of the mining plan submitted by the appellant by IBM as required under Rule 22 of the Rules is of no consequence since the very basis of the grant of ML is held to be illegal. The High Court further held that the contention that the order dated 31.12.1997 is void in view of Section 19 of the Act is without any substance. At any rate, since the order dated 31.12.1997 was upheld by the Mines Tribunal by order dated 04.02.1999 and the same remained unchallenged and attained finality, it is not open to the appellate to re-agitate the said issue at this stage.

The High Court also held that the contention of the appellant that it is not open to this Court to go into the validity of the PL granted over the area in question is untenable and the same is accordingly rejected.

The High Court do not find any justifiable reason to hold that the order of the learned Single Judge dated 28.01.2011 in W.P.(C) No.2757/2008 suffered from any infirmity warranting interference by the Court.

The High Court has stated that so far as the order dated 18.02.2011 in W.P.(C) No.1038/2011 which is assailed in LPA No.205/2011 is concerned, evidently the said writ petition was filed challenging the order of the Mines Tribunal that was passed ten years ago. The only explanation offered by the petitioner was that he did not realise that it was required to challenge the impugned order dated 31.12.2001 passed by the Mines Tribunal. As rightly held by the learned Single Judge the said explanation is not at all satisfactory and unacceptable. Hence, the learned Single Judge is justified in dismissing the writ petition on the ground of laches. The said order which is in accordance with the settled principles of law warrants no interference on any ground whatsoever.

Accordingly, the High Court has dismissed both the appeals without any orders as to costs.

Appeal dismissed.

11. Steel Authority of India Limited, Petitioner v. The State Of Jharkhand & Others, Respondents, AIR 2015 Jharkhand 68, Vol. 102 Part 1220, August 2015.

Subject: Seeking a direction from the Court for commencing mining operations.

Facts:

The petitioner- Steel Authority of India Limited approached this court in W.P. (C) No. 5368 of 2010 seeking a direction upon the respondent.

State of Jharkhand for issuance of an order in terms of Section 8(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, in respect of Durgaiburu Mining lease of Gua Iron ore Mines. Vide order dated 16.10.2014 an interim mandamus was issued directing the respondent State of Jharkhand to take a decision on application seeking grant of second renewal of Durgaiburu Mining lease of Gua Ore Mines. And consequently, the State of Jharkhand issued letter dated 22.10.2014 which contained certain conditions. Objecting to the conditions contained in letter dated 22.10.2014, the petitioner preferred another Writ Petition being W.P. (C) No. 5640 of 2014. Finally, vide order dated 13.11.2014, the petitioner was directed to submit an undertaking and a direction was issued to the respondent-state of Jharkhand to issue an express order in terms of Section 8(3) of the MMDR Act, 1957.

The petitioner was permitted to start mining operations, 7 days after submission of undertaking as directed by this court. The petitioner has preferred the present writ petition challenging the conditions imposed in letter dated 22.10.2014 which also contains conditions similar to the conditions imposed in respect of Durgaiburu Mining lease of Gua Ore Mines. Now, the petitioner has prayed for an interim direction to the respondent state of Jharkhand for issuing an express order in terms of Section 8(3) of MMDR Act, 1957 and permitting the petitioner to start mining operations in Manoharpur Mines.

The learned Additional Advocate General submitted that in "Goa Foundation", the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that all mining carried out without grant of second or subsequent renewals, are illegal. Relying on a decision in "Karnataka Rare Earth & Anr. Vs. Senior Geologist, Department of Mines and Geology & Anr." (2004) 2 SCC 783, the learned Additional Advocate General submits that the petitioner-company cannot claim any right over the land and mines belonging to the State. Without grant of mining lease, the petitioner cannot insist to commence mining operations in Manoharpur Mines. As held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, there is no concept of deemed renewal in cases of second or subsequent renewal of mining lease and therefore, if an allottee is permitted to commence mining without an express order, such mining would be illegal. The learned Senior Counsel further submits that so long as the petitioner does not accept the conditions imposed vide letter dated 22.10.2014, it cannot be permitted to commence mining operations. The learned Additional Solicitor General of India further submitted that letter dated 22.10.2014 does not refer to Rule 24A (6) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and therefore, the petitioner is not required to challenge the said Rule.

Decision:

The High Court has referred to the decision given in the cases Bharat Coking Coal Limited v.

State of Bihar and ors. (1990) 4 SCC 557; State of WB v. Kesoram Industries Ltd. And ors. (AIR 2004 SC 1646); Goa foundation case; Morgan, Stanley fund v. Kartick Das (AIR 1994 SCW 2801); Deoraj v. State of Maharashtra and ors. (AIR 2004 SC1975); "Andi Mukta Sadguru Shree Muktajee Vandas Swami Suvarna Jayanti Mahotsav Smarak Trust & Ors. v. V.R. Rudani & Ors.(1989) 2SCC 691 and stated that the petitioner satisfies the triple test of prima facie satisfaction, balance of convenience and irreparable loss for grant of an interim order. The petitioner should not be restrained further, from starting its mining operations. The High Court has directed to the Petitioner to submit an undertaking similar to the undertaking filed in W.P.(C)No. 5368 of 2014. The learned Additional Solicitor General of India submits that the petitioner is ready and willing to comply with any other or further conditions imposed by this Court. The High Court has also directed to the respondent State of Jharkhand to issue an express order in terms of Section 8(3) of MMDR Act, 1957, forthwith. The petitioner after submitting the undertaking and upon furnishing a copy of this order to the respondent No.1 and respondent No.4 may start its mining operations. The operation of order dated 04.09.2014 shall remain stayed, till the currency of this order. The High Court has ordered to post the matter after decision in W.P. (C) No. 5640 of 2014.

Order accordingly.

12. State of Bihar and others, Appellants v. Ajay Singh, Respondent, AIR 2015 Patna 159, Vol. 102 Part 1220, August, 2015.

Subject:-

Appeal filed for challenging the order, dated 17-12-2013, for setting aside the order of cancellation of lease, dated 6-10-2012, passed by the Collector, Rohtas, and further directing authorities to grant the licence to the petitioner.

Facts:-

Pursuant to a public notice, published in Hindi daily 'Hindustan, on 6-2-2008, informing the general public of an auction to be held on 20-03-2008, at 11.00 a.m., in the Rohtas Collectorate, for settlement of blocks for mining of stone, in the district of Rohtas under the provisions of Rr. 9(a) and 52 of the Bihar Minor Minerals Rules, 1972. The writ petitioner participated at the open auction held and his bid was highest, i.e., Rs. 12.01 crore. The Assistant Director, Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, directed the writ petitioner to deposit the amount, as mentioned in the letter, and, consequently, the writ petitioner deposited Rs. 50,75,000/- by way of Bank draft. The petitioner was, thereafter, further directed to deposit Rs. 21,02,000/- by way of security and also Rs. 2,00,20,000/- on account of first installment of settlement amount of the lease. However, the petitioner deposited only Rs. 15,75,000/-. Because of the writ petitioner's failure to deposit the security and also the first installment of the settlement amount, the lease, granted in favour of the writ petitioner, was cancelled and intimation of the same was sent to him by letter, dated 30-7-2008, issued under the signature of the Assistant Director, Mines and Geology, Rohtas.

The writ petitioner, then, filed Revision Case No. 40 of 2008 before the Mines Commissioner against the order, dated 30-7-2008, aforementioned. By order, dated 15-5-2009, the Mines Commissioner

disposed of the revision application with certain observations to the effect that if the writ petitioner failed to make the necessary payments, the block, in question, would be put to re-auction. Against the order, dated 15-5-2009, passed by the Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar, the writ petitioner came to this Court with the writ application made under Article 226 of the Constitution of India and accordingly, C.W.J.C. No. 7055 of 2009 was born, which was disposed of, on 12-11-2009, by a learned single judge of this Court with consent of the writ petitioner, setting aside the order of the Mines Commissioner and directing the Commissioner of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, as well as the Collector, Rohtas, to ensure timely compliance with both sides and with further observation that in case of non-compliance of the order, the lease agreement, made in favour of the writ petitioner, shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the amount, already deposited by the writ petitioner would stand forfeited and no claim for refund of the same would be entertained by the authority concerned.

Soon thereafter, the Police conducted a raid at the office of the writ petitioner and recovered huge quantity of explosives from the said premises, the explosives having been kept therein without any licence, and, hence, the police registered Sasaram P.S Case No. 451, on 15-5-2010, against the writ petitioner. By Memo No. 189, dated 21-2-2011, issued by the District Magistrate, Rohtas, the mining lease of the petitioner was, thereafter, cancelled on two grounds, namely, that the writ petitioner had dues and, secondly, that he had not obtained a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar. The Memo No. 189, dated 21-2-2011, was, again, put to test before this Court in C.W.J.C. No. 5103 of 2011, but the said writ petition was disposed of on 8-4-2011, with liberty to the writ petitioner to file revision before the Mines Commissioner. Though a revision was accordingly filed by the writ petitioner, the same was dismissed, on 12-1-2012, by the Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar. Against the order, dated 12-1-2012, dismissing the revision, a writ petition was filed, which was disposed of by remitting back the matter to the Collector, Rohtas, to take a decision afresh on the question of cancellation of lease and, upon giving a detailed hearing to the petitioner, the Collector, Rohtas, cancelled the mining lease of the petitioner once again, on 6-1-2012, in Misc. Case No. 02 of 2012.

The learned single Judge repelled the contention of the State that consent from the Water Resources Department was required by the Mining Department, which was not available to the petitioner, leading, thus, to the cancellation of the lease, Consequently, the learned single Judge has gone on to hold that if the State did not desire the lessee to continue with the lease, it was up to them to refund, with interest, all that the lessee had paid and if the State was not in a position to do so, then, it ought to allow the writ petitioner unhindered access to mining under the lease including grant of licence to use explosives so as to make the lease meaningful.

The writ petitioner/respondent contended that the State did not inform the writ petitioner, as a lessee, that a 'No Objection Certificate' was required to be obtained by him at the time of execution of the lease deed. It is also contended that since the licence to use explosive, in question, was not issued in favour of the petitioner, the writ petitioner suffered great losses. It is also contended that on account of illegal mining being conducted in the area, the writ petitioner was prevented by sufficient cause from operating in the area/block and though he had invested a huge amount towards implementation of the mining lease allotted to him, he was unable to conduct the mining operation in the said area. Learned counsel for the writ petitioner/respondent further contended that the writ petition was wholly unaware of

the fact that in order to obtain a 'No Objection Certificate' from the raiyats/owners of the land and consequently, the cancellation of the lease by the appellants was wholly illegal and arbitrary. The appellants contend that as per Rule 9(8) of the BMMC Rules, it was necessary that 'No Objection Certificate' be obtained from the owners of the land before operating prospective operation, which was not taken by the writ petitioner.

Decision:

The High Court has referred to Rules 9(8), 52(5), 53 of the BMMC Rules and stated that any lease, granted in favour of any party under Rule 9 read with Rule 52, would be permitted to be continued for the further remaining period/term for which the lease has been granted, but would not be renewed thereafter. It is also evident that in pursuance of the order passed by this Court, the writ petitioner/respondent had deposited the first installment of the lease, but thereafter, he did not honour his own commitment made before this Court. The respondents also took the plea that the application for licence for use of explosive had remained pending with the Collector for an unusual period of three years and the Collector, having himself granted the mining lease to the writ petitioner, was required to deal with the petitioner's application seeking explosives licence. It was also contended that the writ petitioner was arrested in connection with an F.I.R. lodged against him under the Explosives Act, 1884, for being in possession of the explosives, at his premises, during the continuance of the said lease. This action, according to him, had been initiated against him by his rivals in the business, who were aware of the shortfall of the petitioner. Since the petitioner was in custody, he was unable to deposit the money. It was under such circumstances that the petitioner was prevented from making payment of the subsequent installments and when the same was not done, notice was, again, issued asking him to show cause as to why his lease be not cancelled on two grounds, namely, (i) for not having deposited any payment of installments as required by him, (ii) for not having furnished the 'No Objection Certificate' from the Water Resources Department, i.e., which was the raiyat of the land, in question.

The High Court opined that there was no fault on the part of the State Government and its functionaries in creating the present situation, but the petitioner had exploited the lease without depositing the installments due, which necessitated the State to issue the cancellation order. The petitioner's lease for mining of the quarry had been cancelled squarely because of default being made consistently by the writ petitioner and, therefore, under the changed circumstances, there was no need for any grant of explosive licence to the petitioner by the District Magistrate. Accordingly, his application for issuance of licence to use explosives was not processed and, ultimately, rejected by the Collector, Sasaram. This explanation, offered by the State can, thus, be well accepted.

The High Court held that the petitioner had been consistently defaulted and, for his own fault, was prevented from exploiting the lease and the cancellation order passed by the State cannot be said to be without any justification. Thus, the action of the State authorities can well as sustained in the eyes of law. The writ petitioner was thus, not entitled to the relief for the loss sustained by him and, accordingly, the learned single Judge clearly erred in holding that the writ petitioner be refunded the money with appropriate interests accruing thereon.

The High Court further held that the order, under appeal, with regard to the refund of money with interest on all the amounts, which lessee had paid, cannot, therefore, be sustained. So far as the

continuance of the lease is concerned, it is evident that the period has already lapsed and no order need be passed in that regard. The High Court also held that the claim for compensation cannot be entertained. Thus the High Court allowed the appeal and set aside the order, dated 17-12-2013, passed in C.W.J.C. No. 2864 of 2013 and also dismissed the writ petition.

Appeal allowed.

13. Om Prakash Agarwal, Petitioner v. State of Chhattisgarh & Others, Respondents AIR 2015 Chhattisgarh 140, Vol. 102 Part 1221, September, 2015.

Subject:

Challenging the order dated 12.1.2012 passed by the Revisional Authority dismissing their revision applications to affirm the order dated 4.2.2010 passed by the State of Chhattisgarh rejecting their applications for grant of Prospecting Licence and allowing the application of the respondents for grant of mining lease for iron ore over an area of 32.360 hectares comprising in forest compartment.

Facts :

The area admeasuring 921.00 hectares bearing forest compartment No.139 (new forest compartment No.608), village Kachche, forest range and forest division Bhanupratappur, District North Bastar, Kanker, was initially allotted to the Bhilai Steel Plant for a period of 30 years ending on 17.3.1993. Bhilai Steel Plant surrendered the area on 22.12.1998. The State Government, thereafter, issued a notification under Rule 59 (1)(ii) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (for short "the MCR, 1960") on 10.1.2003 throwing the said area open for award of mineral concession rights inviting applications after 30 days from the date of notification.

The respondent/Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (for short 'the CMDC') and the Godawari moved applications for award of mineral concession rights pursuant to which vide order dated 5.5.2005 the State Government recommended in favour of the CMDC for grant of prospecting licence over 664.654 hectares of land and similarly recommended in favour of the Godawari for grant of mining lease over an area of 106.60 hectares. Lease in favour of the Godawari has been executed on 30.9.2008. By moving applications on 19.6.2007 petitioner Om Prakash Agrawal applied for grant of prospecting licence over an area of 195.00 hectares whereas petitioner Raj Kumar Dammani applied for prospecting licence for an area of 200.00 hectares. Godavari applied for grant of mining lease for an area of 32.360 hectares on 4.5.2009.

The State Government, after considering the applications of the petitioners and the respondent Godavari, passed an order dated 4.2.2010, inter alia, stating that by State Governments notification dated 2.2.1981 the State Government has reserved the area, however, it is also provided therein that the mineral concession rights can also be granted to such private institutions who have established iron ore based industry in the State of Chhattisgarh, but since the petitioner Om Prakash Agrawal has not established any iron ore based industry in the State nor the area applied for by him is contiguous, his application deserved to be dismissed. Similarly, the area applied for by the petitioner Raj Kumar Dammani has already been awarded to the CMDC, thus the area being not available for further consideration, his application also deserves to be dismissed. It was stated in the order that the Godawari has already established iron ore based DRI plant having annual capacity of production of sponge iron up to 4.95 lakh tonnes, production of steel up to 4.00 lakh tones together with captive power plant of 53 MW and the area applied for by the

Godwari is encircled on 3 sides by the area admeasuring 106.60 hectares for which the mining lease has already been granted to it, therefore, the applied area being contiguous and the proposed user for its existing plant, the said respondent Godawari deserves to be granted mining lease with the condition that the Godawari shall use the iron ore for its plant located in the State of Chhattisgarh and shall not be entitled to sell the iron ore elsewhere.

Feeling aggrieved by the said grant in favour of the respondent Godawari, both the petitioners preferred revision applications under Section 30 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (for short 'the MMDR Act, 1957') read with Rule 55 of the MCR, 1960 before the Central Government. The said revision applications preferred by both the petitioners have been dismissed by the impugned common order.

Learned Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner is also covered by the notification dated 2.2.1981 because he also intends to establish an iron ore based industry in the State of Chhattisgarh. He has further submitted that the petitioner has not been afforded proper and effective opportunity of hearing and further that when the matter was under consideration before the State Government, petitioner was heard by some officer, but the order was passed by the some other officer, therefore, the order of State Government is vitiated. The State has passed an arbitrary order to benefit the respondent Godawari.

Learned Dy. Advocate General submitted that proper opportunity of hearing was provided by the State Government to both the petitioners and, thereafter, a reasoned order has been passed, therefore, principles of natural justice have not been violated. It is further submitted that the Government has taken a decision to grant mining lease to the Godawari for proper utilization of its resources to augment an industry established and functional in the State of Chhattisgarh, therefore, the same being in furtherance of its industrial policy.

Learning Counsel for the respondent CMDC submitted that the order passed by the State Government on 4.2.2010 was not at all concerned with the CMDC and moreover, the CMDC was never made a party by any of the petitioner in their revision applications before the Central Government, therefore, the writ petitions against the CMDC is not maintainable.

Learned Counsel appearing for the respondent Godawari submitted that the Godawari having already established an iron ore based plant in the State of Chhattisgarh its application has rightly been held more suitable for grant of mining lease. It is further submitted that the petitioner Om Prakash Agrawal applied for mining lease in individual capacity although the company, which desires to establish plant in Chhattisgarh, was registered on 6.1.2006, i.e., much before the application filed by him on 19.7.2007.

It is also submitted that the company of which Om Prakash Agrawal is a director has its plant in the State of Andhra Pradesh and not in the State of Chhattisgarh, therefore, it is not covered within the notification dated 2.2.1981. It is further submitted that Godawari has rightly been recommended in accordance with the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the MCR, 1960 and in furtherance of the industrial policy of the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

Decision:

The High Court has stated that the State Government was dealing with the application for grant of Mineral Concession. The provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 or the MCR,1960 confers power for a decision on application for mineral concession on the State Government and not on any specified officer, therefore, the decision was to be taken by the State Government. It is a case of institutional decision and as such, merely because some officer other than one who heard the petitioner, has passed the order, would not render the decision illegal or vitiated. Moreover, the entire note sheet of the proceedings undertaken by the State Government has been placed on record, which would reveal that elaborate exercise has been undertaken by the State Government. In view of the above, the first ground of challenge regarding violation of principle of natural justice fails to impress this code and is, therefore, rejected.

The High Court has further stated that the notification dated 2.2.1981 provides that grant of mineral concession of iron ore in Bastar and Durg Districts shall also be considered for such establishment/enterprise or industry, who have established their iron ore based industry in the state of Chhattisgarh. State Industrial Policy dated 18.2.2001 has also to the effect that preferential rights for allotment of mineral concession in the state would be granted to those, who had established their plants/industries in the state of Chhattisgarh itself. Thus, the decision of the State Government holding Godavari, as more suitable than the petitioner, is in accordance with the Government Policy.

The High Court has referred to sub-sections (3) & (4) of Section 11 of the MMDR Act,1957 and stated that the State Government, while considering suitability of the applicants has found that the respondent Godavari is more suitable for grant of mining lease on the basis of its net worth of Rs. 380 crore supported by its annual return and balance-sheet and the financial investment in contrast to the application moved by the petitioner in his individual capacity and his plant of two companies of which he is Director being situated in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is also mentioned in the revisional order the main that the petitioner does not have any previous experience of carrying out prospecting/mining operation.

The High Court has referred to the decision in Sandur Manganese and Iron Ore Limited v. state of Karnataka (AIR 2011SC(C) 1206) and stated that the main provision of Section 11(2) use preference to a prior applicant for grant of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease over later applicants where the State Government has not issue any notification. The analysis of the Report makes it clear that the main provision in Section 11(2) applies to virgin areas. It further makes it clear that to the extend that an area that is previously held or reserved would require a notification for it to become available. Thus, the area being notified, inviting applications, the petitioner was not entitled for any preferential treatment.

The High Court has further stated that the writ petition filed by the petitioner Rajkumar Dammani is concerned, it has been observed by the Revisional Authority that the entire area applied by him has already been granted to CMDC, therefore, the area was not at all available for grant of mineral concession. Moreover, CMDC has not been made a party before the Revisional Authority or in the writ petition filed by him before this Court. Thus, the application filed by the petitioner Rajkumar Dammani has rightly been rejected by the State Government.

Lastly, the High Court has dismissed the writ petitions without any order as to costs.

Petition dismissed.

SECTION -2

Trend in Mining, Prospecting and Reconnaissance

2.1 TREND IN MINING

A. Mining Lease Granted

During the period under review, the information pertaining to the grant of 27 leases covering an area of about 3872.30 ha was received. Of these, Limestone accounted for 10 leases followed by Bauxite 05, Laterite 3, Dolomite & Manganese ore (2 each) and China clay & White clay (1 each). In addition to these, mining leases granted in respect of two or more minerals in association (i.e.Group of Minerals) are 03.

Reviewing areawise, mining leases granted for Limestone covered an area of 3679.16 ha followed by Bauxite 65.79 ha, Manganese ore 53.08 ha, Laterite 11.58 ha, Dolomite 8.08 ha, China clay 4.10 ha and White clay 1.61 ha. Mining leases granted in respect of Group of Minerals covered an area of 48.90 ha.

Reviewing statewise, number of Mining leases and area granted, Madhya Pradesh accounted for 14 MLs with 2682.37 ha area followed by Gujarat 7 with 65.60 ha, Telangana 4 with 17.06 ha and Chhattisgarh & Tamil Nadu (1 each) with 1085.35 ha & 21.92 ha area respectively .

The mineralwise number of mining leases granted together with lease area and details of mining leases granted are given in Tables 1 A & 1 B, respectively.

**Table - 1 A: Details of Mining Leases Granted
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No. of Mining Leases Granted | Area in ha |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Bauxite | 5 | 65.79 |
| China clay | 1 | 4.10 |
| Dolomite | 2 | 8.08 |
| Laterite | 3 | 11.58 |
| Limestone | 10 | 3679.16 |
| Manganese ore | 2 | 53.08 |
| White clay | 1 | 1.61 |
| Group of Minerals | 3 | 48.9 |
| Total | 27 | 3872.30 |

Table – 1 B: Details of Mining Leases Granted

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Grant | Period in years | Name & Address |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Bauxite | Gujarat Kheda | Sorna | 26.21 | 01.07.2015 | 30 | Sanjaykumar Trikamlal Shah, At. Ghodasar, Ta. Mahemdabad, Distt. Kheda, Gujarat. |
| Bauxite | Gujarat Devbhumi Dwarka | Mevasa | 4.70 | 01.07.2015 | 20 | Giriraj Calcine Bauxite & Refractories Pvt. Ltd, National Highway, Bhatiya, Distt. Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat. |
| Bauxite | Gujarat Devbhumi Dwarka | Virpur | 4.00 | 01.07.2015 | 20 | Giriraj Calcine Bauxite & Refractories Pvt. Ltd, National Highway, Bhatiya, Distt. Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat. |
| Bauxite | Gujarat Sabarkantha | Degharota | 20.00 | 04.07.2015 | 20 | Alimiya Ismailali Saiyad, Opp. Sub jail, Near Nani Vohravad, Himatnagar, Distt. Sabarkantha, Gujarat. |
| Bauxite | Madhya Pradesh Katni | Padrehi | 10.88 | 25.06.2015 | 50 | Rajendra Prasad Gupta, S/o Shri Shyam Prasad Gupta, Bhatta Mohalla, Katni, Madhya Pradesh. |
| China clay | Gujarat Kutch | Nadapa | 04.10 | 26.03.2015 | 20 | Dhanabhai Karshanbhai Mata, At & PO : Nadapa, Taluka Bhuj, Distt. Kutch, Gujarat. |
| Dolomite | Telangana Warangal | Nawabpet | 4.04 | 13.05.2015 | 20 | Hind Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd, R/o 304, 4 th Floor, Aman Apartment, Nai Basti, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi 110 025. |
| Dolomite | Telangana Warangal | Nawabpet | 4.04 | 02.04.2015 | 20 | Hind Natural Resources Pvt.Ltd, 304, 4 th Floor, Aman Apartment, Nai Basti, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi – 110 025. |
| Fire Clay/ Silica sand | Gujarat Morbi (Rajkot) | Tarakiya | 04.98 | 28.08.2015 | 30 | Dharmendra bhai Keshavlal Vyas, Bhomeswar Plot, Near Railway Crossing, At Po. Taluka Rajkot, Distt. Rajkot(Morbi). Gujarat. |
| Iron ore/ Manganese ore/ Laterite | Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur | Dhamdha | 22.00 | 04.07.2015 | 50 | Shri Sai Industries, (Late Shri Vijay Pratap Singh Leagal Heir) Shop No. 3, Bengali Club Market, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. |

Table- 1B (Contd.)

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in Ha | Date of Grant | Period in years | Name & Address |
|-----------|----------------------------|---|------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| Laterite | Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur | Kurro | 2.60 | 17.03.2015 | 50 | Nector Mining Company, 110, Bhasin Residency, Civil Lines, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. |
| Laterite | Telangana Ranga Reddy | Pashapur | 4.92 | 27.03.2015 | 20 | Kum. N.Yasmeen, D/o Shri N.Md. Zaheer, H.No. 2-1-2015, Opp: William Moon High School, Hyderabad Road, Tandur, Distt. Ranga Reddy. Telangana. |
| Laterite | Telangana Warangal | Meallampally | 4.06 | 15.04.2015 | 20 | Dana Laxmi Mines & Minerals, Prop. Shri M. Venkateshwarlu, Vill. Mallampally Mulugu Mandal,. Distt. Warangal, Telangana, |
| Limestone | Chhattisgarh Bilaspur | Chilhathi, Jaitpuri, Semar idih, Pataidih, Nahuadiah, Manva, Rahtat ore, Khapari, Belpan (Kukar adi) Salheghori & Kokari. | 1085.35 | 13.07.2015 | 50 | Lafarge India Pvt. Ltd., Magneto Aafijo, 501, 5 th Floor, G.E. Road, Labhandi Raipur, Chhattisgarh. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Kartaha | 27.98 | 26.08.2015 | 50 | Piyush & Company, Prop. Shri Piyush Tiwari, Katiyakala, Maihar, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Kakalpur | 100.39 | 26.08.2015 | 50 | Kamlakar Chaturvedi, S/o Late Shri Diwakar Chaturvedi, Swamiji Chowk, Mukhtyarganj, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Birhuli | 29.95 | 13.07.2015 | 50 | Mukund Jaiswal, S/o Ravi Prakash Jaiswal, Jaiswal Bhawan, J. R. Birla Road, Kulgawa, Satna, Madhya Pradesh. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Bathiya | 18.70 | 08.09.2015 | 50 | S.N.S. Minerals Ltd., Post Office Maihar, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh. |

Contd....

Table- 1B (Concl.)

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in Ha | Date of Grant | Period in years | Name & Address |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Jamuna | 89.23 | 01.04.2015 | 50 | Dalmiya Cement (Bharat) Ltd. Former Dalmiya Cement Venchers Ltd.) 11-12 th Floor, Hansalaya, 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi – 110 001. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Ghotari, Pathara, Mohrava, Jhanjhawari, Goraiya, Godin & Barkula. | 869.03 | 01.04.2015 | 30 | Adhunik Corporation Ltd. Lainsdown Tower, 2/1 A, Sarta Bose Road, Kolkata – 700 020 West Bengal. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Kakalpur | 562.93 | 23.03.2015 | 50 | D.V. Infrastructure & Technology Pvt. Ltd., M.G. Road, Station Road, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Satna | Pagra Jhiriya Bajpain, Jhiria Kothar, Jhiria, Koparihan | 395.96 | 20.03.2015 | 50 | Dalmiya Cement (Bharat) Ltd., 11-12 th Floor, Hansalaya, 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi – 110 001. |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Panna | Kolkarhiya | 499.64 | 13.07.2015 | 50 | Springway Mining Pvt.Ltd. A-301, Rajanigandha Green Garden Estate, Near S.P.Office, City Centre, Gwalior-474011, Madhya Pradesh |
| Limestone & Marl | Tamil Nadu Ariyalur | Sendurai | 21.92 | 17.04.2015 | 50 | Tvl. Chettinad Cement Corporation Ltd., Rani Seethai Hall Building, 603, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 006, Tamil Nadu. |
| Manganese ore | Madhya Pradesh Balaghat | Lagma | 48.97 | 05.06.2015 | 50 | MOIL Ltd., (Manganese Ore (India) Ltd), MOIL House, 1 A, Katol Road, Nagpur – 440 013 Maharashtra. |
| Manganese ore | Madhya Pradesh Balaghat | Borikheda | 4.11 | 20.05.2015 | 50 | Ganesh Metloy Ltd., (Ganesh Acid Chem Pvt. Ltd.), 114, Sector 46, Faridabad, Haryana. |
| White clay | Gujarat Kutch | Somanivandh | 01.61 | 01.05.2015 | 20 | Gopalbhai Paramabhai Bhatasara (Gopal Premji Patel), At & Po. : Rapar, Ayodhyapuri, Taluka. Rapar, Distt. Kutch, Gujarat. |

B. Mining Leases Executed

During the period under review, the information pertaining to the execution of 08 Mining Leases covering an area of about 1088.09 hectares was received. Of these, Limestone (Cement Grade) accounted for 2 leases and 06 mining leases were executed in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals).

Reviewing areawise, Limestone (Cement Grade) accounted for 1050.50 ha and the mining leases granted for two or more minerals (Group of Minerals) covered 37.59 ha area.

Reviewing statewise, all the 08 mining leases executed are pertaining to Rajasthan covering an area of 1088.09 ha.

The mineralwise number of mining leases executed together with lease area and details of mining leases executed are given in Tables 2A & 2B, respectively.

**Table – 2 A: Details of Mining Leases Executed
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No.of Mining Leases Executed | Area in ha |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Limestone(Cement Grade) | 02 | 1050.50 |
| Group of Minerals | 06 | 37.59 |
| Total | 08 | 1088.09 |

Table – 2 B: Details of Mining Leases Executed

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years | Name & Address |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Udaipur | Choutiya | 4.93 | 16.10.2014/ 10.11.2014 | 30 | Smt. Chandra Bhatt., W/o Shri Mahesh Bhatt. C- 340, Sanjay Colony, Near Gopal Dairy, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Govindpura | 4.83 | 26.08.2014/ 27.08.2014 | 30 | Hansaraj Gurjar, S/o Ramkaran Gurjar, Village-. Rainagar, Tah. Shahpura, Distt. Bhilwara, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Gigalpura | 4.80 | 15.09.2014 | 30 | Vaibhav Reniwal, S/o Shri Kishan Snehi, Kedalganj, Ratti ka Kuwa, Alwar, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Mawasia | 4.48 | 03.04.2014/ 24.04.2014 | 30 | Swastik Mines& Minerals, Vir Gurjar Daurata Krishi Farma, Nasirabad, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Wollastonite | Rajasthan Ajmer | Mathania | 14.30 | 03.06.2015 08.06.2015 | 30 | Ramdayal, S/o Bhalaji Gurjar, Village- Ratanpura, Tah, Bhinay, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Limestone (Cement Grade) | Rajasthan Ajmer | Shyamgarh | 448.50 | 27.03.2015/ 06.04.2015 | 20 | Shri Cement Ltd., Bangad Nagar, Post Box No. 33, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

(Concl.d.Table 2B)

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years | Name & Address |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Mahendragarh | 4.25 | 22.09.2014/ 24.09.2014 | 30 | Ma Vaishanavi Mines & Minerals, Ward No. 06, I - 442, Bapunagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. |
| Limestone (Cement Grade) | Rajasthan Chittorgarh | Sitaramji Ka Kheda | 602.00 | 25.03.2015/ 30.03.2015 | 20 | Lafarge India Pvt Ltd., A-1, 4th Floor, UDB Corporate Tower, J.L.N. Marg,Jaipur, Rajasthan. |

C. Mining Lease Period Extended /Executed after Grant of Extension of Mining Lease Period.

During the period under review, the information pertaining to the execution, after grant of extension of Lease period, for 95 Mining Leases covering an area of about 1411.11 hectares was received. Of these Limestone (Cement Grade), Silica sand and Soapstone accounted for one lease each. The extension of leases period executed in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals) were 92.

Reviewing areawise, Limestone (Cement Grade), Silicasand and Soapstone accounted for 740.93 ha, 4.99 ha and 99.56 ha respectively. The mining lease period executed for two or more minerals (Group of Minerals) accounted for about 565.63 ha.area

The extension of leases period for all the 95 mining leases were executed in Rajasthan state only.

The mineralwise number of mining lease period executed together with lease area and details of mining leases executed are given in Tables 3A & 3B.

**Table 3A : Details of Mining Leases Executed after Extension of Mining Lease Period.
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No.of Mining Leases Executed | Area in ha |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Limestone(Cement Grade) | 01 | 740.93 |
| Silicasand | 01 | 04.99 |
| Soapstone | 01 | 99.56 |
| Group of Minerals | 92 | 565.63 |
| Total | 95 | 1411.11 |

Table 3B– Details of Mining Leases Executed after Extension of Mining Lease Period.

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/ Registration | Period in Years/ Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Calcite/ Wollastonite | Rajasthan Ajmer | Ramawas | 4.90 | 05.06.2015/ 05.06.2015 | 50/ 16.06.2058 | Smt. Renu Atre, W/o Shri M.M. Atre, House No. 378, C Block, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Calcite/ Wollastonite | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kotra | 19.50 | 05.06.2015/ 05.06.2015 | 50/ 28.05.2059 | Smt. Renu Atre, W/o M.M. Atre, House No. 378, C Block, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Manoharpura | 4.85 | 13.05.2015/ 13.05.2015, | 50/ 13.01.2025 | Surendra Jain, S/o Shri Hukmichand Jain, D-1 Rajhans Colony, Dev Dungari Road, Madanganj, Kishangarh, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Sarsunda | 4.50 | 24.07.2015/ 24.07.2015 | 50 24.06.2057 | Mahendra Kumar Gehlot, S/o Shri Mohan Lal, Behind Jain Mandir, Cantonment, Beawar Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lalai | 4.00 | 24.07.2015/ 24.07.2015 | 50 05.04.2060 | Dinesh Chauhan, S/o Shri Mangal Singh Chauhan, Abhishek-14, Krishnagaar, Near Utsav Vatika, Masuda Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Manoharpura | 4.00 | 24.07.2015/ 24.07.2015 | 50 10.07.2062 | Dinesh Chauhan, S/o Shri Mangal Singh Chauhan, Abhishek-14, Krishnagaar, Near Utsav Vatika, Masuda Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Bisundani | 4.16 | 03.07.2015/ 06.07.2015 | 50 04.11.2055 | Ashok Kumar Daruka, S/o Shri B.L. Daruka, Gandhi Nagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lachhmipura | 5.00 | 25.06.2015/ 29.06.2015 | 50 10.04.2047 | J. J. Minerals, Prop. Shri A K Sethi, 36, Kishangarh Kothi, Jaipur Road, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd..

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years/Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Garnet | Rajasthan Ajmer | Badgaon | 4.73 | 05.06.2015/ 05.06.2015 | 50 07.04.2061 | Gagiram Baba Mines & Minerals, Ganeshganj, Tah. Sarwad, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Padanga | 5.00 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 06.05.2060 | Arihant Minerals, Prop. Shri Mukesh Sethi, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Shokliya | 4.42 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 02.04.2030 | Smt. Anoopdevi Sethi, W/o Late Shri Bhanvarilal Sethi, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Dantari | 18.20 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 21.01.2043 | Shri Rajasthan Minerals Supply Works, Prop. Shri Mahavir Chand Jain, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Padanga | 5.00 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 09.04.2064 | Arihant Minerals, Prop. Shri Mukesh Sethi, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Banthali | 4.69 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 20.12.2033 | Shri Rajasthan Minerals Supply Works, Prop. Shri Mahavir Chand Jain, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Sawaipura | 4.00 | 01.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 18.02.2060 | Ramdayal Gurjar, S/o Shri Bhalaji Gurjar, Ratanpura, PO. Chuchundara, Via. Bandanwada, Tah. Bhinay, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Mundoti | 5.00 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 16.04.2056 | Arihant Minerals, Prop. Shri Mukesh Sethi, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Garnet. | Rajasthan Ajmer | Badgaon | 4.00 | 05.06.2015 05.06.2015 | 50/ 09.12.2057 | Adila Business World Pvt. Ltd., C- Block 6/7 Large Scale Industrial Area, Kansua Road, Kota, Rajasthan. |

Contd..

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years/Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Feldspar/ Quartz/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Banthali- Kharwar | 5.00 | 19.06.2015/ 19.06.2015 | 50 20.12.2033 | Shri Rajasthan Minerals Supply Works, Prop. Shri Mahavir Chand Jain, 75, Ashok Marg, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Limestone (Cement Grade) | Rajasthan Chittorgarh | Bhatkotri | 740.93 | 14.05.2015/ 28.05.2015 | 50 08.09.2058 | Wonder Cement Ltd, Makrana Road, Madanganj, Kishangadh, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Suhava | 4.25 | 04.06.2015/ 04.06.2015 | 50 19.01.2056 | Abhimanyu Bajari, S/o Shri Omprakash Bajari, Bajari Galli, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Bayla | 5.00 | 19.05.2015/ 19.05.2015 | 50 04.12.2055 | Vaibhav Kumar Tela, S/o Shri Omprakash Tela, 22, Main Street, Nasirabad, Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Atitmand | 4.50 | 18.05.2015/ 18.05.2015 | 50 28.09.2061 | Suresh Chauhan, S/o Shri Gopilal Chouhan, Inside of Mewari Gate, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Piplaj | 13.17 | 05.06.2015/ 08.06.2015 | 50 29.05.2042 | Madhusudan L. Daga, S/o Shri Laxminarayan K.Daga Ratankunj, New Bank Colony, Adarsha Nagar, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Shahpura | 5.00 | 05.06.2015/ 08.06.2015 | 50 16.08.2028 | Madhusudan L Daga, S/o Shri Laxminarayan K.Daga Ratankunj, New Bank Colony, Adarsh Nagar, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Suradiya | 4.98 | 05.06.2015/ 08.06.2015 | 50 16.08.2028 | Madhusudan L Daga, S/o Shri Laxminarayan K.Daga Ratankunj, New Bank Colony, Adarsha Nagar, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd..

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/ Registration | Period in Years/ Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kharva | 4.90 | 05.06.2015/ 08.06.2015 | 50 31.10.2027 | Madhusudan L Daga, S/o Shri Laxminarayan K.Daga Ratankunj, New Bank Colony, Adarsha Nagar, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Rajpura | 4.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 20.11.2062 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Balacharat | 5.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 04.08.2048 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Bhuriyakheda | 4.25 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 31.12.2062 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Amarpura | 4.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 31.03.2063 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lalpura- Dhanar | 4.87 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 17.05.2061 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lalpura- Dhanar | 4.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 28.11.2061 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Punera | 4.70 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 28.11.2061 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer,Rajasthan. |

Contd..

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/ Registration | Period in Years/ Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nimdikheda | 4.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 01.02.2062 | Smt. Manju Jain, W/o Shri Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lalpura- Dhanar | 5.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 18.02.2048 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Rail Ka Badiya | 4.70 | 28.05.2015/ 28.05.2015 | 50 22.11.2055 | Dinesh Chauhan, S/o Shri Mangal Singh Chauhan, Abhishek, 14, Krishna Nagar, Near Utsav Watika, Masuda Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Sarmaliya | 4.04 | 27.05.2015/ 27.05.2015 | 50 26.01.2057 | Rishabh Grinding Mills, Prop. Smt. Sangita Jain, G- 25, Ricco, 3 rd Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nimdikheda | 4.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 21.11.2062 | Rajkumar Jain, S/o Shri Bhanvarlal Jain, Shiv Automobile, In front of Golchcha Factory, Udaipur Road, Near Chungi Naka, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Sarmaliya | 4.79 | 27.05.2015/ 27.05.2015 | 50 08.11.2056 | S.B. Minerals, Prop. Smt. Lalita Jain, G- 25, Ricco 3 rd Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Aasan | 4.90 | 27.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 22.10.2058 | Ratanprakash Kothari, S/o Shri Dhanraj Kothari, "Anmol" 8, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Near Bohra Garden, Brahmanand Marg, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lasani | 4.00 | 27.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 22.10.2058 | Ratanprakash Kothari, S/o Shri Dhanraj Kothari, "Anmol" 8, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Near Bohra Garden, Brahmanandan Marg, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd..

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/ Registration | Period in Years/ Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nayagaon | 5.00 | 28.05.2015/ 28.05.2015 | 50 30.03.2055 | Dinesh Chauhan, S/o Shri Mangal Singh Chauhan, Abhishek 14, Krishna Nagar, Near Utsav Watika, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kerkheda | 4.90 | 27.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 10.09.2058 | Smt. Nirmala Devi Kothari, W/o Shri Ratanprakash Kothari, "Anmol" 8, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Near Bohra Garden, Brahmanand Marg, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Satawadiya | 4.94 | 28.05.2015/ 28.05.2015 | 50 09.12.2058 | Dinesh Chauhan, S/o Shri Mangal Singh Chouhan, "Abhishek", 14, Krishna Nagar, Near Utsav Watika, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Karla | 4.80 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 17.05.2061 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Daulatpura | 4.99 | 28.05.2015/ 28.05.2015 | 50 11.11.2047 | Dinesh Chauhan, S/o Shri Mangal Singh Chouhan, "Abhishek", 14, Krishna Nagar, Near Utsav Watika, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Bihar Ratanpura | 4.99 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 24 28.02.2020 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Hatankheda | 4.00 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 28.09.2061 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nimdikheda | 4.75 | 29.05.2015/ 29.05.2015 | 50 28.11.61 | Parasmal Jain, S/o Shri Mangalchand Jain, "Mangal Chunni Panch House", 94, C.S. Lodha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Bhambhipura | 4.50 | 08.07.2015/ 10.07.2015 | 50 22.04.2062 | Smt. Santosh Sharma, W/o Shri Rajendra Sharma, C-53, Rico Housing Colony, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years/Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Devipura | 4.00 | 08.07.2015/ 10.07.2015 | 50 10.03.2064 | Prasanna Kumar Singhavi, S/o Manmal Singhavi C/o Shri Rahul Sharma, C-53, Rico Housing Colony, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Badiyananga | 4.50 | 08.07.2015/ 10.07.2015 | 50 01.05.2064 | Rahul Sharma, S/o Shri Rajendra Sharma, C-53, Rico Housing Colony, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nayagaon | 5.00 | 08.07.2015/ 10.07.2015 | 50 30.05.2055 | Bhagchand Sharma, S/o Shri Ramnarayan Sharma, C-53, Rico Housing Colony, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Badiyananga | 4.48 | 08.07.2015/ 10.07.2015 | 50 01.05.2064 | Rahul Sharma, S/o Shri Rajendra Sharma, C-53, Rico Housing Colony, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Badiyananga | 4.48 | 08.07.2015/ 10.07.2015 | 50 04.05.2064 | Akhil Sharma, S/o Shri Rajendra Sharma, C-53, Rico Housing Colony, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Jetgarh Bamnia | 4.00 | 02.06.2015/ 03.06.2015 | 50 15.02.2058 | Hemendra Singh Chauhan, S/o Shri Govind Singh Chauhan, 70, Madhukar Nagar, Behind Gurukul School, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Jetgarh | 4.99 | 02.06.2015/ 03.06.2015 | 50 17.07.2057 | Smt. Damyanti Devi W/o Shri Govind Singh Chauhan, 70, Madhukar Nagar, Behind Gurukul School, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Thuni ka Thak | 4.00 | 02.06.2015/ 03.06.2015 | 50 30.06.2061 | Hemendra Singh Chauhan, S/o Shri Govind Singh Chauhan, 70, Madhukar Nagar, Behind Gurukul School, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kalinjer | 4.00 | 02.06.2015/ 03.06.2015 | 50 24.03.2064 | Govind Singh Chauhan, S/o Shri Bhojraj Singh Chauhan, 70, Madhukar Nagar, Behind Gurukul School, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years/Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kalakhedi | 4.24 | 04.06.2015/ 04.06.2015 | 50 01.06.2058 | Kuldip Bhutda, S/o Shri Devishankar Bhutda, Ganpati Nagar, Sankhala Colony, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Lasani | 4.75 | 29.05.2015/ 30.05.2015 | 50 22.08.2034 | J. J. Minerals, Prop. Arun Kumar Sethi, S/o Shri Hukumchand Sethi, Kishangarh Kothi, In front of Chandra Niwas Jaipur Road, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Pali | Kalaliya | 4.50 | 04.06.2015/ 04.06.2015 | 50 14.10.2058 | Dungar Singh, S/o Shri Ramsingh Rajput, Vill. Kishanpura, Tah. Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Badiyananga | 4.70 | 02.06.2015/ 03.06.2015 | 50 28.11.2055 | Devendra Singh Chauhan, S/o Shri Govind Singh Chauhan, 70, Madhukar Nagar, Behind Gurukul School, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Rawatmal | 4.65 | 23.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 17.09.2029 | Madanlal, S/o Shri Nenulal Bhati, A- 96, Nrusingpura, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Pali | Pratapgarh | 4.99 | 23.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 26.09.2056 | Smt. Sumanlata Bhati, W/o Shri Madanlal Bhati, 96-A, Nrusingpura, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Surdiya | 4.62 | 24.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 14.02.2058 | Raju Badlani, S/o Shri Laxman Badlani, Sankhala Colony, College Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Sar | 4.50 | 24.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 23.05.2058 | Harish Sankhala S/o Shri Gordhanlal Sankhala 57, Somnath Colony, College Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kalatkhedha | 4.99 | 19.05.2015/ 19.05.2015 | 05 31.03.2020 | Omprakash Tela, S/o Shri Basant Lal Tela, 22, Main Street, Nasirabad, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd.

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/Registration | Period in Years/Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Quartz/ Feldspa/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kanpura | 4.00 | 19.05.2015/ 21.05.2015 | 50 06.07.2064 | Atlantic Ceremics Prop. Rafique Khan, S/o Shri Mujjaffar Khan 554, OTC Scheme, Ambamata Udaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Dandiya | 4.80 | 23.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 17.02.2058 | Smt. Shashi Yadav, W/o Shri Devendra Singh Yadav, Rukmini Bhavan, Amla Marg, Near Tahsil Office, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Suradiya | 4.28 | 22.06.2015/ 22.06.2015 | 50 07.04.2058 | Dilip Mewada, S/o Shri Gordhan Lal Mewada, Near Nayabas Maliyan Hathai, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica | Rajasthan Ajmer | Rawatmal | 4.80 | 24.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 27.07.2059 | Mahavir Prasad Vyas, S/o Shri Chhotulal Vyas, Sanganer Colony, Bakhtawar Baba Road, Near Old Jyoti Public School, Geeta Bhavan, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Ganeshpura | 4.34 | 24.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 24.09.2063 | Rakesh Kumar Moyal, S/o Shri Mahavir Prasad Moyal, Aditya Grinding Mills, Udaipur Road, Beawar, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Hatankheda | 4.70 | 11.06.2015/ 12.06.2015 | 50 26.12.2055 | Suresh Kumar Singhal, S/o Shri Radheshyam Singhal, 6/450, Saravagi Mohalla, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nayagaon | 4.48 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 12.05.2058 | Smt. Lata Mewada, W/o Shri Narendra Mewada, B- 30, Rico Housing Colony Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kanpura | 4.75 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 11.12.2055 | Budha Mehrat , S/o Shri Dhannaji Mehrat, Vill. Raggpura, Post Dholadata, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Contd. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/ Registration | Period in Years/ Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|---|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Ratanpura | 4.00 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50. 30.04.2058 | Smt. Madina, W/o Shri Aladin Chita, Vill.&PO Somalpur, Tah. & Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Nadi | 4.50 | 12.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 28.06.2059 | Nrusing Bhai, S/o Shri Goa Bhai, M/s Shiva Minerals, Near Ranger House, Piplaj, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Jamola | 4.00 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 27.02.2058 | Prabhu Singh, S/o Shri Ram Singh, Vill. Fatehgarh, Post Piplaj, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Mica/ Asbestos | Rajasthan Ajmer | Rani sagar | 4.40 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 30 24.07.2025 | Charbhuj Mines & Minerals, 448, Lokashah Nagar, Near Hanuman Mandir, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kalidanti | 4.83 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 27.07.2045 | Yugal Bihar Sharma, Geeta Sadan, New Bank Colony, Adarsha Nagar, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Jamola | 4.27 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 12.03.2063 | Smt. Bhanwar Kanwar, W/o Shri Brijraj Singh Rathod, Vill & Post Jamola, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Mohanpura | 4.80 | 27.05.2015/ 28.05.2015 | 50 07.10.2064 | Gyanchand Kothari, S/o Shri Pusalal Kothari, Vill.&PO Bidikchavas, Via Mangliyavas, Tah. Pisangan, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kishanpura | 19.00 | 16.06.2015/ 17.06.2015 | 50 15.02.2032 | Smt. Anup Devi Sethi, W/o Shri Bhanwari Lal Sethi, 75, "Anupam" Ashok Marg, Near Savitri School Square, Lohagal Road, Ajmer Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kanpura | 4.90 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 24.08.2058 | Dilip Mewada, C/o Shri Narendra Mewada, B-30, Rico Housing Colony, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |

Concl. Table 3B

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Execution/ Registration | Period in Years/ Date up to which lease period extended. | Name & Address |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kanpura | 4.60 | 17.06.2015/ 18.06.2015 | 50 11.12.2055 | Budha Mehrata , S/o Shri Dhannaji Mehrat, Vill. Raggpura, Post Dholadata, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajathan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Sarniya | 4.99 | 11.06.2015/ 12.06.2015 | 50 21.02.2057 | Pankaj Kumar Tank, S/o Shri Bhuvneshwar Tank, Vill. & PO Kharva, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Ajmer | Kashipura | 4.58 | 11.06.2015/ 12.06.2015 | 50 10.11.2055 | Niraj Kumar Tank, S/o Shri B.S.Tank, Vill. & PO Kharva, Tah. Masuda, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Quartz/ Feldspar/ Calcite | Rajasthan Pali | Aasan | 5.00 | 23.06.2015/ 24.06.2015 | 50 23.05.2049 | Amit Kumar Jain, S/o Shri Ratanlal Jain, 5, Vinod Nagar, Beawar, Rajasthan. |
| Silica sand | Rajasthan Dausa | Dantali | 4.99 | 26.06.2015 | 50 17.04.2063 | Rahul Pahadiya S/o Shri Rajendra Pahadiya C- 138, Rushabh Path, Bhagirathi Marg, Shyam Nagar, Jaipur – 302 019, Rajasthan. |
| Soapstone | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Kachhola | 99.56 | 05.08.2015 | 50 27.02.2031 | Raj Kumar Parik, C/o Shri Brijendra Goyal, 35, Shivnagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Soapstone/ Silica sand | Rajasthan Dausa | Dantali | 4.63 | 26.05.2015 | 50 03.06.2025 | Rajasthan Khanij Agency Prop. Kisturchand Jain, S/o Shri Maganlal Jain, Pandya Bhavan, Dausa, Rajasthan. |
| Soapstone/ Pyrophyllite | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Thalkala | 4.75 | 05.08.2015 | 50 07.08.2058 | Brujendra Goyal, 35, Shivnagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Soapstone/ China clay | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Khakhunda | 78.11 | 05.08.2015 | 50 06.01.2043 | Godha and Co. C/o Shri Brijendra Goyal, 35, Shivnagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Wollastonite/ Calcite/ Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Pali | Sodpura | 24.86 | 22.05.2015/ 22.05.2015 | 50 12.09.2062 | Wolchem Industries Ltd, Lekh House, P.P. Singhal Marg, Udaipur – 313 001, Rajasthan. |

D. Mining Leases Renewed

During the period under review, the information pertaining to the renewal of 2 mining leases covering an area of 263.72 hectares was received. Of these, Limeshell accounted for 01 lease and 01 mining lease was renewed in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals).

Reviewing areawise, Limeshell accounted 255 ha area. Mining leases renewed in respect of two or more minerals (Group of Minerals) covered 8.72 ha.

Reviewing statewise, number of mining leases renewed and area covered in Kerala & Andhra Pradesh was 01 each, covering an area of 255.00 ha & 8.72 ha, respectively.

The mineralwise, number of mining leases renewed together with lease area and details of mining leases renewed are given in Tables 4 A & 4 B, respectively.

**Table: 4 A – Details of Mining Leases Renewed
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No.of Mining Leases Renewed | Area in ha |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Limeshell | 1 | 255.00 |
| Group of Minerals | 1 | 8.72 |
| Total | 2 | 263.72 |

Table-4 B: Details of Mining Leases Renewed

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Renewal | Period in Years (From date of Execution/ Registration) | Name & Address |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Limeshell | Kerala Alappuzha | Vaikom & Pallippuram | 255.00 | 23.06.2015 | 6 | Travancore Cements Ltd, Kottayam, Kerala. |
| Calcite, Mica, Quartz & Yellow Ochre | Andhra Pradesh Visakhapatnam | Nimmalapadu | 8.72 | 14.05.2005* | 20 | Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited, 3 rd Floor, Rear Block, H.M.W.S.S.B.(Water Works), Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. |

Note- Both the above mentioned ML holders are State Public Sector Undertakings.(SPSU) * Renewal order date is 31.07.2015

E. Mining Leases Revoked

During the period under review, information pertaining to revoke of mining lease was received for only one ML covering an area of 4 ha for Calcite in Rajasthan state.

The details of mining lease revoked is given below in Tables 5 A & 5B.

**Table: 5 A – Details of Mining Leases Revoked
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No.of Mining Leases Revoked | Area in ha |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Calcite | 1 | 4.00 |
| Total | 1 | 4.00 |

Table: 5 B - Mining Leases Revoked

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Revoke | Name & Address |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|--|
| Calcite | Rajasthan Sikar | Kalikheda | 4.00 | 08.04.2015 | Naruram Meena, S/o Shri Shankar Lal Meena, Meena Ki Dhani, Choukadi, Via, Chala, Tah. Shrimadhapur, Distt. Sikar, Rajasthan. |

F. Mining Leases Determined

During the period under review, information pertaining to determination of mining lease was received for only one ML covering an area of 4.63 ha for Laterite in Andhra Pradesh state.

The details of mining lease determined is given below in Tables 6A & 6B.

**Table: 6A – Details of Mining Leases Determined
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No.of Mining Leases Revoked | Area in ha |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Laterite | 1 | 4.63 |
| Total | 1 | 4.63 |

Table – 6B: Details of Mining Leases Determined

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Determination | Name & Address |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|--|
| Laterite | Andhra Pradesh East Godavari | Chavidikota | 4.63 | 14.08.2015 | Smt.G. Sumithra, Village Chatlawada, Maredumilli Mandal, Distt. East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. |

G. Mining Leases Surrendered

Table – 7: Details of Mining Leases Surrendered

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Surrender | Name & Address |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | |

H. Mining Leases Terminated

Table – 8: Details of Mining Leases Terminated

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Date on which lease Terminated | Name & Address |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | |

I. Mining Leases Transferred

Table – 9A: Details of Mining Leases Transferred

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Name and Address | | Period (in Yrs.) (From date of Grant of Lease) | Date of Transfer of Deed |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| | | | | Transferor | Transferee | | |
| China clay/ Red ochre | Rajasthan Chittorgarh | Bojunda | 33.56 | Mohammad Ayyub Khan, S/o Shri Gulbaj Khan, Sawa, Distt. Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. | Progressive and Popular Minerals Pvt.Ltd, Tah.- Sawa, Distt Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. | 30 | 23.07.2015 |
| China clay/ Soapstone | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Khakhunda | 78.11 | Godha and Company, Pratap Nagar Industrial Area, In front of High School, Bhilwara, 311 001, Rajasthan. | Brijendra Goyal S/o Shri Netaram Goyal 35, Shiv Nagar, Vishwakarma Road Number -1 Jaipur, 305 001 Rajasthan. | 20 | 01.09.2015 |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Barni | 4.94 | Govind Ram Saini, S/o Shri Mularam Saini, Shantibhavan, F.C.I. Godam, Salampur Road, Ashok Nagar, Bagad, Jhunjhunu – 333 001 Rajasthan. | Mahavir Jain, S/o Shri Chandmal Jain, 16, Ambani Gali, Nayawas, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer, 305 001, Rajasthan. | 30 | 24.07.2015 |
| Iron ore | Karnataka Bellary | Sankalapuram | 77.74 | M/s RBSSN Das, Door No. 1499/1, P.B. No. 38, Kariganur Post Hospet, 583 201 Distt-Bellary, Karnataka. | M/s RBSSN Das Private Limited, Door No. 1499/1, P.B. No. 38, Kariganur Post Hospet, 583 201 Distt- Bellary Karnataka. | 20 | 01.04.2015 |
| Iron ore | Karnataka Bellary | Sakalapuram | 33.35 | M/s RBSSN Das, Door No. 1499/1, P.B. No. 38, Kariganur Post Hospet, 583 201 Distt-Bellary, Karnataka. | M/s RBSSN Das Private Limited, Door No. 1499/1, P.B. No. 38, Kariganur Post Hospet -583 201 Distt- Bellary Karnataka. | 20 | 01.04.2015 |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Dhar | Ghursal | 3.00 | Anil Sharma , S/o Shri Vijaynarayan Ji Sharma, 501, Chandramani Apartment 3, Janki Nagar, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. | Mohanlal Bansal, S/o Shri Ganeshilal Bansal, 50, Shantiniketan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. | 30 | 19.01.2015 |

Table – 9 B: Details of Transferred Mining Leases Executed / Registered

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Name and Address | | Period (in Yrs.)/ Dt of expiry | Date of Execution/ Registration of transfer deed |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|--|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Transferor | Transferee | | |
| Feldspar Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Ganganiwas | 4.00 | Shimla Devi W/o Shri Ambalal, Village-Mewadakala, Tah.-Kekadi ,Distt- Ajmer, Rajasthan | Goldline Mines & Minerals S-8-9, First Step, Pur Road, Bhilwara, 311 001Rajasthan. | 30/ 28.01.2038 | 18.07.2014 23.07.2014 |
| Feldspar Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Barsani | 4.00 | Ramswarup Sharma, S/o Shri Radhakishan Sharma, C- 199-C, Himalaya, Subhash Nagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | Dhartidhan Mines & Minerals, Ward No. 5, Fort Sangramgarh Tah. Asind Distt. Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | 50/ 20.10.2058 | 31.03.2015 01.04.2015 |
| Feldspar Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Pandharwara | 4.75 | Smt. Koshika Kanwar, W/o Shri Shaktisingh, Diggi House, Shivaji Marg, Jaipur, Rajasthan. | Jagdish Yadav, S/o Shri Prabhatram Yadav, Plot No.-190, Parvati Nagar, Behind Benad Rly Station Bayatawala, Zotwada, Jaipur, Rajasthan. | 30/ 02.01.2036 | 12.01.2015 27.01.2015 |
| Feldspar Quartz | Rajasthan Ajmer | Brijpura | 4.50 | Smt. Koshika Kanwar, W/o Shri Shaktisingh Diggi House, Shivaji Marg, Jaipur, Rajasthan. | Jagdish Yadav, S/o Shri Prabhatram Yadav, Plot No.-190, Parvati Nagar, Behind Benad Rly Station Bayatawala, Zotwada, Jaipur, Rajasthan. | 30/ 02.01.2036 | 12.01.2015 27.01.2015 |
| Feldspar Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Narayanpura | 5.00 | Rajesh Singhavi S/o Shri Narendra Singh Singhavi 78, Ashok Nagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | Smt.Manisha Gupta, W/o Shri Vinod Gupta, 23, Pari Anmol Villa, Mahadev Dagdi Nagar, Ajmer Road, Beawar, Distt. Ajmer Rajasthan. | 30/ 19.02.2038 | 03.02.2015 04.02.2015 |
| Feldspar Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Bansada | 4.99 | Nimish Singhavi S/o Shri Shyam Sunder Singhavi, Shishudhar Shala, In front of Meera Park, Chittorgarh Rajasthan. | Mukesh Kumar, S/o Shri Puranmal Jat, Rayla, Via Pilani, Tah. Surajgarh, Distt. Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. | 30/ 20.12.2036 | 12.02.2015 16.02.2015 |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Balaion ka kheda | 4.04 | Rameshwar Lal Khatik S/o Moti Lal Khatik Daulatgarh, Tah. Asind, Distt. Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | Savariya Mines & Minerals, Ward No. 13, House No. I- 394, Behind Transport Market, Azad Nagar, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | 30/ 13.02.2037 | 10.02.2015 20.02.2015 |

Contd..

Contd Table-9B

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Name and Address | | Period (in Yrs.)/ Dt of expiry | Date of Execution/ Registration of transfer deed |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|--|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Transferor | Transferee | | |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Aamesar | 4.00 | Om Prakash Sharma S/o Shri Shankar Lal Sharma, Aamesar, Tah.-Asind,Distt-Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | Smt. Mangi Devi Sharma, W/o Late Shri Om Prakash Sharma, Aamesar, Tah. Asind, Distt. Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | 30/ 22.03.2039 | 18.02.2015 20.02.2015 |
| Feldspar/ Quartz | Rajasthan Bhilwara | Mahendra-garh | 4.84 | Galaxy Mines & Minerals, Prop. Dinesh Singh Chouhan, S/o Shri Harisingh Chouhan, Nandawat, Tah. Bhim, Distt. Rajsamand, Rajasthan. | Velocity Minerals Pvt. Ltd, A- 68, Pratap Nagar, Chhittorgarh, Rajasthan. | 50 26.09.2055 | 07.04.2015 20.04.2015 |
| Limestone | Madhya Pradesh Dhar | Karodiya | 3.89 | Anil Sharma, S/o Shri Vijay Narayan Sharma, Chandramani Apartment, 3Janki Nagar,Indore, Madhya Pradesh. | Mohan Lal, S/o Shri Ganeshi Lal Bansal, 50, Shanti Niketan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. | 20 19.06.2016 | 27.10.2014 |
| Quartz | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Kotdi | 4.06 | Smt. Jaya Mathur, W/o Shri Pravin Mathur, 3- N-52, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. | Snowwhite Minchem Partners (1)Rakesh Kumar Goyal, S/o Shri Sitaram Goyal, A – 76 Mahavir Nagar, Rajsamand, Rajasthan & (2) Ambalal Teli S/o Shri Virulal Teli, Bus Stand, Siyana, Tah.-Aamet, Distt Rajsamand, Rajasthan. | 50 02.11.2057 | 23.12.2014 27.07.2015 |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Sablon Ka Kheda | 4.88 | Nathuram Agarwal, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. | Shri Minerals Bhilwara C/o Gopal Sharma, S/o Shri Ramchandraji, House No. F-136, Subhash Nagar, East-Bhilwara,Rajasthan. | 30 17.11.2036 | 17.03.2015 19.03.2015 |

Contd...

(Concl. Table-9B)

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha | Name and Address | | Period (in Yrs.)/ Dt of expiry | Date of Execution/ Registration of transfer deed |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Transferor | Transferee | | |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Kameri | 4.98 | Virendra Tonk, S/o Shri Chiranji Lal Tonk, Rajasthan. | Tulip Minerals, Industrial Area Madanganj, C/o Part : Sushri Shardha Jain, D/o Shri Rajiv Jain, 32, Phase 5, V -Rico Industrial Area, Madanganj, Kishangarh, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. | 50 02.04.2057 | 10.04.2015 21.05.2015 |
| Quartz Feldspar | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Lakha ka Guda | 4.66 | Laxmi Lal Rans, Kakreg, Distt. Bhilwara Rajasthan. | B. R. Mines & Minerals, C/o Anil Kumar S/o Shri Bhikuramji Agrawal, G- 5, Paneremik Apartment, Behind Vidya Bhavan School, Devali, Udaipur 313 001, Rajasthan. | 30 18.09.2037 | 27.02.2015 03.03.2015 |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Samarnaka | 4.53 | Amit Sharma, Beawar, Distt Ajmer, Rajasthan. | Balaji Minerals, C/o Ashok Kumar Agrawal, S/o Shri Mohan Lal Agrawal, J- 2/4, L.I.C. Flats, Sector-2, Vidya Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan. | 30 02.07.2037 | 17.03.2015 18.03.2015 |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Boraj | 4.79 | Rajendra Singh Rajput, S/o Shri Uday Singh Rajput, Kharandiya, Tah & Distt. Rajsamand, Rajasthan. | Smt. Shravan Kunwar, Chouhan, W/o Shri Rajendra Singh Rajput, Kharandiya. Tah & Distt. Rajsamand, Rajasthan. | 50 02.06.2063 | 21.7.2015 21.7.2015 |
| Quartz/ Feldspar | Rajasthan Rajsamand | Boraj | 4.58 | Aashapura Mines & Minerals, Prop. Shri Rajendra Singh Rajput, S/o Shri Uday Singh Rajput, Kharandiya, Tah & Distt. Rajsamand, Rajasthan. | Smt. Shravan Kunwar, Chouhan, W/o Late Shri Rajendra Singh Rajput, Kharandiya, Tah. & Distt. Rajsamand, Rajasthan. | 50 25.04.2062 | 22.7.2015 22.7.2015 |

J. Mines Opened

Table – 10: Details of Mines Opened

| Mineral | State/District | Name of Mine | Village | Date of Opening | Area In Ha | Name & Address |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | | |

K. Mines Temporarily Discontinued

Table – 11: Details of Mines Temporarily Discontinued

| Mineral | State/ District | Name of Mine | Village | Date of Discontin- uance | Reason | Area in ha | Name & Address |
|---|-----------------|--------------|---------|--------------------------|--------|------------|----------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | | | |

L. Mines Reopened

Table – 12: Details of Mines Re opened

| Mineral | State / District | Name of Mine | Village | Date of Reopening | Area in ha | Name & Address |
|---|------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | | |

M. Mines Abandoned

Table – 13: Details of Mines Abandoned

| Mineral | State / District | Name of Mine | Village | Date of Abandonment | Reason | Area in ha | Name & Address |
|---|------------------|--------------|---------|---------------------|--------|------------|----------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | | | |

2.2 TREND IN PROSPECTING

A. Prospecting Licences Granted

During the period under review, information pertaining to the grant of 02 prospecting licences covering an area of 901.21 hectares was received. Of these, only 01 prospecting licences for Soapstone was granted. In addition to these, 01 prospecting licence was granted in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals).

Reviewing areawise, Prospecting licences granted for Soapstone accounted for 1.21 ha, followed by one licence granted in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals) covering 900ha.

Reviewing statewise, number of prospecting licences and area granted in Andhra Pradesh was one with 900 ha. followed by Madhya Pradesh 01 with 1.21 ha. area.

The mineralwise, number of prospecting licences granted together with area and details of prospecting licences granted are given in Tables 14 A & 14 B, respectively.

**Table –14 A: Prospecting Licences Granted
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No. of Prospecting Licences Granted | Area ha. |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Soapstone | 01 | 1.21 |
| Group of Minerals | 01 | 900.00 |
| Total | 02 | 901.21 |

**Table – 14 B: Prospecting Licences Granted
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | State / District | Village | Area in ha. | Date on which licences Granted | Period in Years | Name & Address |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Gold, Iron, Tungston, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Silver and all associated minerals | Andhra Pradesh Chittoor | Sadukonda R.F. | 900.00 | 05.08.2015 | 3 | Geomysore Services (India) Pvt. Ltd., Raja Ikon Building, 89/1,4 th Floor, Marthanhalli Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru – 560 037, Karnataka . |
| Soapstone | Madhya Pradesh Sidhi | Karmai | 1.21 ha | 04.03.2015 | 01 | Nachiketa Kumar Singh, S/o Shri Shiveshwar Prasad Singh, Saraswati Ward No. 13, Byohari, Distt. Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. |

B. Prospecting Licences Executed

During the period under review, information pertaining to the execution of 05 prospecting licences covering an area of 775.32 hectares was received. Of these, only 01 prospecting licence for Iron ore was granted. In addition to these, 4 prospecting licences were granted in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals).

Reviewing areawise, prospecting licence executed for Iron ore covered an area of 299.65 ha and in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals) covered about 475.67ha.

Reviewing statewise, number of prospecting licences and area executed all the 05 PLs were executed in Rajasthan state only.

The mineralwise, number of prospecting licences executed together with area and details of prospecting licences executed are given in Tables 15 A & 15 B, respectively.

**Table –15 A: Prospecting Licences Executed
(By Minerals)**

| Mineral | No. of Prospecting Licences Granted | Area in ha |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Iron ore | 1 | 299.65 |
| Group of Minerals | 4 | 475.67 |
| Total | 5 | 775.32 |

Table – 15 B : Details of Prospecting Licences Executed

| Mineral | Village | State / District | Area in ha. | Date of Execution | Period in Years | Name & Address |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| Iron ore | Rampuria | Rajasthan Chittorgarh | 299.65 | 23.02.2015 | 3 | Welspan Steel Resources Pvt.Ltd., 4, New Glass Factory Colony, Near AIM Computer, Sundervas,Udaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar, Quartz, Soapstone & Calcite | Chawandia | Rajasthan Pali | 27.32 | 19.03.2015 | 2 | Santosh Minerals & Chemicals, Partner S/Shri Sagarmal Jangid/ Satyanarayan Jangid, R/o Ramnagar, P.O.& Tah.- Pisangan Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar, Quartz, Wollastonite & Soapstone | Kaklana | Rajasthan Ajmer | 27.23 | 30.01.2015 | 3 | Salim Choudhari, S/o Shri Shamshuddin Choudhari, C-5, Mirji Ka Bag, Behind MLA quarters, MI Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan. |
| Feldspar, Quartz, Wollastonite & Garnet (Abrasive) | Sarsari | Rajasthan Ajmer | 121.12 | 08.03.2015 | 3 | Bhedilal Kapurchand, Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd, B- 6 / 7, Building No. 23, DDA, Local Shopping Centre, Safdarjang Enclave, 110 029, New Delhi. |

Contd...

(Concl'd Table 15 B)

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|--------|------------|---|--|
| Red ochre, Calcite, Quartz, Feldspar & Mica | Maharaj Ki Khedi | Rajasthan Ajmer | 300.00 | 06.02.2014 | 2 | Canvas Stone Pvt Ltd, Makrana Road, Madanganj, Kishangarh, Ajmer – 305 801, Rajasthan. |
|---|------------------|-----------------|--------|------------|---|--|

C. Prospecting Licences Renewed

Table –16: Details of Prospecting Licences Renewed

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Renewal | Period in Years | Name & Address |
|--|-----------------------|----------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Manganese ore, Rock-Phosphate & Dolomite | Madhya Pradesh Jhabua | Palasdor | 7.68 | 02.07.2015 | 02 | Prakash Chandra Patidar, Vill. Parvaliya, Tah. Thandla, Distt. Jhabhua, Madhya Pradesh. |

D. Prospecting Licences Revoked

Table – 17: Details of Prospecting Licences Revoked

| Mineral | State/District | Village | Area in ha | Date of Revocation (Date of Grant or Renewal Order) | Name & Address |
|---|----------------|---------|------------|---|----------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | | |

2.3 TREND IN RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS (R.P.)

Table – 18: Details of Reconnaissance Permits

| Mineral | State/District | Area in Sq km | Date of Approval of Grant | Name & Address |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| No such information is received during the period under review. | | | | |

SECTION – 3

Production of Mineral-based Products

Table – 19(a): Production of Mineral-based Products during January to June 2013

(ITEM-LEVEL INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION; BASE YEAR: 2004-05 = 100)

| Mineral-Based Products | Unit | Jan. 2013 | Feb. 2013 | Mar. 2013 | April 2013 | May 2013 | June 2013 | Cumulative from January to June 2013 |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Iron & Steel | | | | | | | | |
| Pig iron | 000' tonnes | 191.5 | 187.7 | 183.3 | 188.5 | 193.0 | 196.3 | 1136.5 |
| Sponge iron | 000' tonnes | 230.2 | 221.1 | 226.6 | 212.6 | 205.7 | 206.2 | 1302.4 |
| Carbon steel | 000' tonnes | 269.3 | 272.1 | 283.2 | 279.4 | 300.2 | 271.0 | 1675.2 |
| Ferro Alloys | | | | | | | | |
| Ferro Chrome | 000' tonnes | 253.7 | 247.2 | 256.9 | 253.7 | 253.7 | 253.7 | 1518.9 |
| Ferro Manganese | 000' tonnes | 259.6 | 253.8 | 265.4 | 242.3 | 230.8 | 242.3 | 1494.2 |
| Ferro Silicon | 000' tonnes | 128.0 | 128.0 | 128.0 | 112.0 | 96.0 | 112.0 | 704 |
| Other Ferro Alloys | 000' tonnes | 187.9 | 180.2 | 184.0 | 164.9 | 172.5 | 176.4 | 1065.9 |
| Non-ferrous metals | | | | | | | | |
| Copper Metal | tonnes | 146.1 | 146.1 | 167.1 | 111.4 | 75.7 | 37.8 | 684.2 |
| Cement | | | | | | | | |
| Cement (All types) | 000' tonnes | 217.7 | 200.7 | 232.5 | 209.2 | 204.1 | 189.0 | 1253.2 |
| Heavy Inorganic Chemicals | | | | | | | | |
| Caustic soda | million tonnes | 120.6 | 114.7 | 124.6 | 118.7 | 121.9 | 114.4 | 714.9 |
| Soda ash | million tonnes | 115.9 | 104.3 | 113.3 | 101.5 | 104.4 | 97.3 | 636.7 |
| Sulphuric acid (Incl. oleum) | million tonnes | 116.7 | 101.5 | 96.9 | 84.3 | 84.5 | 109.1 | 593 |
| Phosphoric acid | million tonnes | 80.3 | 85.9 | 47.0 | 34.5 | 35.9 | 87.8 | 371.4 |
| Titanium oxide | million tonnes | 105.7 | 82.3 | 104.8 | 98.4 | 45.4 | 91 | 527.6 |
| Graphite Product | | | | | | | | |
| Graphite Electrodes / Anodes | tonnes | 191.3 | 176.3 | 211.5 | 161.9 | 153.5 | 149.7 | 1044.2 |
| Chemical Fertilizers | | | | | | | | |
| Ammonia Sulphate (A/S) | 000' tonnes | 86.6 | 94.4 | 74.3 | 68.4 | 63.0 | 95.2 | 481.9 |
| Urea | 000' tonnes | 118.5 | 109.2 | 114.9 | 95.3 | 104.7 | 109.4 | 652 |
| Glass, tiles & other products | | | | | | | | |
| HT insulator | tonnes | 138.9 | 122.5 | 139.1 | 108.0 | 104.7 | 108.8 | 722 |

Source: Monthly Abstract of Statistics Vol. 66, Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi (January, 2010 – June, 2013)

Table – 19(b): Production of Mineral-based Products during July to December 2013

(ITEM-LEVEL INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION; BASE YEAR: 2004-05 = 100)

| Mineral-Based Products | Unit | July 2013 | Aug. 2013 | Sept. 2013 | Oct. 2013 | Nov. 2013 | Dec. 2013 | Cumulative from July to December 2013 |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Iron & Steel | | | | | | | | |
| Pig iron | 000' tonnes | 188.9 | 184.4 | 236.8 | 188.1 | 233.9 | 239.1 | 1271.2 |
| Sponge iron | 000' tonnes | 206.5 | 193.5 | 209.2 | 191.4 | 215.2 | 219.3 | 1235.1 |
| Carbon steel | 000' tonnes | 269.9 | 274.4 | 280.7 | 277.2 | 278.2 | 280.1 | 1660.5 |
| Ferro Alloys | | | | | | | | |
| Ferro Chrome | 000' tonnes | 256.9 | 253.7 | 260.2 | 263.4 | 260.2 | 256.9 | 1551.3 |
| Ferro Manganese | 000' tonnes | 236.5 | 242.3 | 248.1 | 253.8 | 253.8 | 259.6 | 1494.1 |
| Ferro Silicon | 000' tonnes | 112.0 | 128.0 | 112.0 | 128.0 | 128.0 | 128.0 | 736 |
| Other Ferro Alloys | 000' tonnes | 180.2 | 184.0 | 184.0 | 187.9 | 187.9 | 184.0 | 1108 |
| Non-ferrous metals | | | | | | | | |
| Copper Metal | tonnes | 88.4 | 165.2 | 169.9 | 165.7 | 164.2 | 180.5 | 933.9 |
| Cement | | | | | | | | |
| Cement (All types) | 000' tonnes | 181.7 | 173.8 | 196.5 | 193 | 176.1 | 208.6 | 1129.7 |
| Heavy Inorganic Chemicals | | | | | | | | |
| Caustic soda | million tonnes | 122.4 | 124.2 | 118.4 | 120.7 | 122.4 | 125.0 | 733.1 |
| Soda ash | million tonnes | 104.2 | 105.6 | 102.5 | 96.3 | 104.5 | 108.9 | 622 |
| Sulphuric acid (Incl. oleum) | million tonnes | 123.2 | 130.2 | 123.9 | 115.6 | 129.6 | 124.5 | 747 |
| Phosphoric acid | million tonnes | 108.0 | 116.0 | 111.8 | 96.3 | 104.2 | 97.7 | 634 |
| Titanium oxide | million tonnes | 113.2 | 97.8 | 78.2 | 73.7 | 73.6 | 106.0 | 542.5 |
| Graphite Product | | | | | | | | |
| Graphite Electrodes / Anodes | Tones | 132.5 | 135.7 | 144.6 | 159.4 | 182.4 | 198.3 | 952.9 |
| Chemical Fertilizers | | | | | | | | |
| Ammonia Sulphate (A/S) | 000' tonnes | 92.8 | 92.4 | 86.4 | 81.7 | 100.0 | 93.2 | 546.5 |
| Urea | 000' tonnes | 117.9 | 120.6 | 117.0 | 119.9 | 112.3 | 122.5 | 710.2 |
| Glass, tiles & other products | | | | | | | | |
| HT insulator | Tones | 114.1 | 127.2 | 124.2 | 131.4 | 136.0 | 148.8 | 781.7 |

Source: Monthly Abstract of Statistics Vol. 66, Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi (January, 2010 – December, 2013)

SECTION – 4

Highlights

A. DOMESTIC

1. Posco-SAIL JV plant likely to be located in Chhattisgarh

South Korean steel maker Posco and India's state-run Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) are likely to locate a joint venture steel plant in Chhattisgarh. The Long dormant, joint venture proposal has recently been revived.

According to sources, the proposal may consider Dilimill in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh as the possible location. The plant was originally planned for Bokaro in Jharkhand.

(Business Line, 2nd April, 2015)

2. Telangana plant on SAIL agenda

SAIL has been asked to set up a 3 million tonnes steel plant in consortium with two other state-run companies at Khammam in Telangana – a move that many fear could be a repetition of its folly in setting up the loss-making Salem Steel Plant.

The plant which will cost over ₹ 18,000 crore if set up, is part of political agreement with Telangana to satisfy local demands for heavy industries in the state.

(The Telegraph 4th April, 2015)

3. De Beers opens diamond research institute in Surat.

Diamond major, De Beers Group, has set its eyes on expanding retail presence in the country with its diamond grading and marking business. The world's top diamond player launched Forevermark diamond grading and inscription facility – International Institute of Diamond Grading and Research (IIDGR) at Surat. This is the second facility of the diamond major outside Antwerp, Belgium.

The company has invested about \$10 million (approx ₹ 60 crore) for the facility, which will process \$500 million of diamonds annually.

(Business Line, 3rd April, 2015)

4. PSUs can also bid for non-coal mines, avail allocation:

Union mines minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said that in the impending auction of 10 major non-coal minerals, the state-run companies can bid for mines and also avail allocation under the government dispensation route.

Talking to reporters he said steel public sector units (PSUs) like SAIL and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) can bid for iron ore mines or approach the respective states seeking allocation of ore blocks as areas would be earmarked for them for the same.

(The Indian Express, 5th April, 2015)

5. We need to beat China in steel production

After the US, India aims to surpass China in the production of steel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

“India has surpassed the US in steel production, but is still far behind China. We need to beat China as we cannot afford to lag behind anyone when it comes to ‘Make in India’, while addressing a public rally, after dedicating a new and modernized Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the nation.

(Business Line 2nd, April, 2015)

6. Mining industry wants contribution to District Mineral Fund lowered

The mining industry is pressing for lower contribution to the fund to be handled by the District Mineral Foundation for minerals such as zinc, lead, iron ore and copper.

“The contribution in the fund should not be proposed for these four minerals (zinc, lead, iron ore and copper). Certainly for zinc and lead it should be exempted as they are already paying the highest royalty in the world” an industry insider said.

(Business Line, 8th April, 2015)

7. NMDC receives green panel go ahead for iron ore mine in Chhattisgarh

The environment appraisal committee of the Union environment ministry has given the go ahead to state-run miner NMDC Limited to operationalise 10 million tonnes per annum greenfield iron ore mine at Bailadila in Chhattisgarh.

The Deposit-13 mine, spread over 413.74 hectares of land, would be jointly developed by NMDC and Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC) and majority of the output would be earmarked for the raw material needs of steel and sponge iron plants in the state.

(The Indian Express, 9th April, 2015)

8. Get consent of land owners, green clearance before auctions, Mines Minister tells state govts.

With over 63,000 mining leases stuck up mostly for want of green clearances, the government directed the states to secure conditional clearances before auctioning them to prospective bidders. The Centre has also asked the states to obtain necessary permission from land owners and those having occupation rights before leases are bid out.

Apart from these two aspects, the other criteria set for bidding out mineral resources is similar to the auction methodology for coal blocks, barring the fact that in coal sector, mines were auctioned, while in cases of minerals like bauxite and iron ore, leases would be auctioned.

(The Indian Express, 10th April, 2015)

9. Mineral Rules: govt comes out with two types of licences

There will be two types of licence/lease, Mining lease and a Composite License that will be electronically auctioned under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment, Act 2015. This is as per the Mineral (Auction) Rules 2015 notified by the Centre.

While the mining lease will be for areas with proven reserve of minerals, the composite licence (prospective cum mining) will be for areas, where preliminary exploration has been done by the government but further exploration is required by mining companies.

(Business Line, 23rd May, 2015)

10. Copper producers want restoration of duty sops on exports

Public Sector Hindustan Copper, and private sector Hindalco Industries as well as Sesa Sterlite have joined hands to seek restoration of 2 per cent duty incentive on refined copper exports, which has been removed this year.

As per the Indian Primary Copper Producers Association, the primary producers exported refined copper worth around \$660 million during 2014-15. According to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade data, until 2014 December end, copper exports from the country stood at \$540 million.

(Business Line, 25th May, 2015)

11. Hindustan Zinc rump sale plan

The ministry of steel and mines has moved a note to offer the government's residual stake in Hindustan Zinc in the open market.

The note is in line with the advice of the Attorney General's office on disinvestment of the rump shares held by the government in the zinc miner and refiner.

"Hindustan zinc has ceased to be a government company for almost a decade. One way could be to sell the shares in the open market if the prevailing market (price) is considered to be fair".

(The Telegraph, 6th June, 2015)

12. RINL, NMDC and Odisha govt. outfits may join hands for major steel project.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) is in talks with NMDC as well some Odisha Government companies for creation of a special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will set up an ultra mega steel plant in the State.

RINL Chairman-cum Managing Director, said that the concept of setting up an ultra mega steel plant in mineral rich State through SPVs was being explored; He said there could be SPVs for steel and mining.

(The Hindu, 14th June, 2015)

13. Best quality ore for Japan.

The government today approved the renewal of an agreement to supply up to 16.5 million tonnes of high grade iron ore to steel plants located in Japan and South Korea over three years till March 2018.

The cabinet has given its approval to renew long term agreement with Japanese and South Korean steel mills for supply of high grade Indian iron ore, during the three year period from April 2015 to March 2018.

(The Telegraph 25th June, 2015)

14. Hindustan Copper re opens Jharkhand mine.

After remaining non-operational for over 10 months, Hindustan Copper Ltd's Surda mine in Jharkhand has resumed operation last week.

The mine production is expected to reach 1,250 tonnes per day (tpd) in August from the resumption level of 850 tpd, according to the mine operator Indian Resources Ltd an Australian company

HCL resolved its dispute with its mine operator after paying off ₹ 6 crore this month to IRL for its losses during the seven-month long closure of the mine.

(Business Line, 30th June, 2015)

15. Andhra Pradesh, Australia join hands for mining.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and a delegation led by Steven Ciobo Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Investment, Australia, held parleys for cooperation.

During the meeting, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between AP Mining Development Corporation (APMDC) and NSL Mining Resources India Pvt. Ltd. a subsidiary of Australia's Consolidated Ltd.

The agreement is for beneficiation of low-grade iron ore from reserves in Kurnool and Kadapa.

(Business Line, 26th June, 2015)

16. Odisha to get ₹. 700 cr from 29 mine leases.

The Odisha Government expects to garner revenue of about ₹ 700 crore from signing of lease deeds with 29 mining lease holders, said an official.

The State Government has already inked supplementary lease deeds to facilitate reopening of 10 iron and manganese ore mines, while it is in the process of signing the lease deeds with the remaining mines shortly.

(The Hitawada, 7th May, 2015)

17. Upgraded Bengal steel plant a toast to federal spirit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the upgraded HSCO Steel Plant (ISP) which houses the country's largest blast furnace and has been modernised by the Centre at a cost of ₹ 16,000 crore.

In the upgrade, the plant's production capacity has been increased from 0.85 million tonnes per annum to 2.9 mtpa.

(Times of India, 11th May, 2015)

18. Changes in Metal Corp Act for HZL, Balco Stake Sale Likely

The government is mulling amendments to the Metal Corporation Nationalisation and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1976 in order to push the sale of its remaining stakes in Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) and Bharat Aluminium Company (Balco). A senior government official told that an opinion has already been sought from the Attorney General on this matter.

(The Economic Times, 9th September, 2015)

19. Contributions for mineral foundations likely to touch ₹. 6,000 crore this year.

The Centre expects ₹ 6,000 crore of contributions to be generated for the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) this year, based on the current rates of royalties on minerals, the Ministry of Mines said.

Existing miners are required to pay 30 per cent of the applicable royalty, while those winning mining leases through auctions will have to pay 10 per cent of the royalty amount to DMFs under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY).

(Business Line, 25th September, 2015)

20. Govt. to auction mines on behalf of States

In a bid to fast track mineral extraction, the Centre will conduct auction of mines bearing minerals such as iron ore, bauxite, and limestone on behalf of States for the first phase starting November this year.

In phase 1, the 12 mineral producing States have identified 80 – 90 blocks and this was made possible after the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, was passed in March this year, which stipulates auction as the only means to allow extraction of iron ore and other minerals.

(The Hitavada, 18th Sept, 2015)

21. Dual rates for mineral royalty put in place

The government said miners who were awarded leases before January 12, 2015, will have to contribute 30 per cent of the royalty to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), while those getting the permits after January 12 will have to deposit 10 per cent of the royalty.

The government today also launched the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining, utilizing the funds from the DMF's.

"The central government today notified the rates of contribution payable by miners to the DMFs. Using the funds generated by this contribution, the DMFs are expected to implement the PMKKKY," an official statement said.

(The Telegraph 18th Sept, 2015)

22. NMDC plans to put 400 km pipeline in place by 2018

Public sector iron ore miner NMDC expects to start a 400 km underground slurry pipeline from Bailadila in Chhattisgarh to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh by 2018.

The pipeline project will be a joint venture with Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd and the two are also in talks with private players Essar Steel, Kudermukh Iron Ore Company Ltd and others.

(Business Line, 8th August, 2015)

23. Cement sector upbeat as Telangana, AP set to buy 3 million tonnes

Cement Industry will receive a mega boost as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments are set to procure about three million tonnes.

The process is already on with the Governments asking the cement manufacturers to commit a quantity to be supplied. As per the Request For Proposals (RFPs), Andhra Pradesh is looking at buying two million tonnes (mt)

while the Telangana wants about one mt. According to Executive Director, Sagar Cements Ltd, the RFPs come almost three years after these volumes went missing. The Telangana Government is seeking cement for its low cost housing programmes, while in Andhra Pradesh, it is to meet the needs of Panchayat Raj, Irrigation and housing programmes.

(Business Line, 21st August, 2015)

24. State gets go-ahead for mining, steel industries in Naxal belt

The Maharashtra Government has got the backing of the Central government for iron ore mining and promoting steel industries in the mineral rich Naxalite belt of Gadchiroli. This follows a meeting between Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Union Home Minister.

(The Indian Express, 28th August, 2015)

B. ABROAD

1. Record China iron ore futures hold global market hostage

Iron ore miners from Australia to Brazil stood helpless last month as Chinese speculators first brought and then sold a record volume of Dalian iron ore futures, sending global prices on a roller-coaster ride.

The volume of iron ore futures traded on the Dalian bourse reached 18.6 million contracts in April, equivalent to 1.86 billion tonnes, according to data on the exchange's website.

(Business Line, 5th May, 2015)

2. Indonesia to continue ban on nickel ore exports

Indonesia will keep its export ban on nickel ore, contrary to recent media reports suggesting the country may relax curbs to prop up its slowing economy, senior government official said.

Indonesia banned exports of unprocessed metal ore in early 2014 to force firms to develop smelters that would add value to the country's resources and create jobs. But the curbs cost the country billions of dollars in lost revenue last year.

(Business Line, 2nd Sept, 2015)

3. Visa Bao Steel merged with Visa Steel

Visa Steel Ltd said that it has amalgamated its joint venture Visa Bao Steel Ltd with itself.

Chinese steel major Bao Steel had a 35 per cent stake in the joint venture. After the merger, Bao Steel will have five per cent stake in Visa Steel.

The merger will integrate ferrochrome manufacturing business of Visa Steel with that of Visa Bao, both located at Kalinganar in Odisha.

(Business Line, 24th August, 2015)

4. Arcelor Mittal and SAIL to set up steel plant in India

NRI billionaire Lakshmi Mittal led Arcelor Mittal Friday partnered PSU giant SAIL to set up a automotive steel plant with an estimated ₹ 5,000 crore investment, taking a fresh shot at entering India after nearly a decade long wait for its earlier projects to take off.

The details of the investment and plant size were not disclosed. However, a source said the plant size discussed was “1.5 million tonnes (MT) and the investment could be in the range of USD 850 million”. “The proposed JV will construct a state-of-the art rolling mill and other downstream finishing facilities in India that will offer technologically advanced steel products to India’s rapidly growing automotive sector”, Arcelor Mittal and SAIL said in a joint statement.

(The Hitawada, 23rd May, 2015)

5. China slowdown dashes hopes of nickel surge

The nickel market is going to let down any investors still betting on a shortage this year according to analysis from Macquarie Group Ltd.

A rally in the metal to \$15,000 a tonne or more is highly implausible given weakening Chinese demand, persistent high stockpiles and investor focus on short-term demand risks, according to a note dated August 14.

Last month, the bank forecast the metal gaining to \$ 15,000 by the year end.

(Business Line, 18th August, 2015)

6. Surging aluminium production promises more paid ahead

Global aluminium production growth is on a surge again. Although the latest figures from the International Aluminium Institute (IAI) showed daily average output in May falling marginally from April’s 158,000 tonnes to 157,800 tonnes. But that shouldn’t distract from the underlying trend, which is rising and at an accelerating pace.

The world’s smelters produced 4,892 million tonnes (mt) of aluminium in May, up almost 12 per cent year-on-year. That was the faster growth rate since 2011.

(Business Line, 23rd June, 2015)

7. Europe slaps dumping duties on special steel

Europe’s steel industry has welcomed a decision by the Europe an commission to bring in provisional anti-dumping duties on the import of a high value added steel product from China, Japan, South Koea, Russia and the US.

Among those to benefit from the measures will be Tata Steel, which produces the grain oriented electrical steel (GOES) used in power transformers at its Orb plant in South Wales. It is also produced by Arcelo Mittal at its Frydek Mistek plant in the Czech Republic.

(Business Line, 14th May, 2015)

8. China proposes joint mining of Indian Ocean with India

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, China has said it is "eager to cooperate" with India on deep seabed mining in the Indian Ocean where it has discovered large deposits of precious metals like gold and silver.

"With quickening oceanic development and increasing mineral exploration in the Indian Ocean, China is eager to cooperate with India on deep seabed mining, the China Daily quoted China Ocean Mineal Resources R & D Association as saying.

(The Hitawada, 8th May, 2015)

9. Phosphate makers set to displace potash miners as blue chips

The phosphate fertilizer producers are set to become the blue chips of the agrochemicals market, the role which potash miners once held, said Elena Sakhnova, an analyst at VIB Capital in Moscow. While the two groups of fertilizers don't directly compete as farmers require both, Sakhnova said the pendulum is swinging in favour of phosphates, with demand set to increase 3 per cent this year.

(Business Line, 25th June, 2015)
