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(Part- I : General Reviews)

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

(ADVANCE RELEASE)

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

INTRODUCTION

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

RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS

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

As per Section 10 C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, Non-exclusive Reconnaissance Permits may be granted in respect of any notified minerals or non-notified minerals or a group of specified minerals, other than minerals specified in Part A or Part B of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The holder of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permit shall not be entitled

to make any claim for the grant of any prospecting licence-cum-mining lease or a mining lease. As per the Rule 3 (2) of the Mineral (Non-exclusive Reconnaissance Permits) Rules, 2015, the State Government shall establish an online system for grant of such non-exclusive reconnaissance permits.

During the period from April-2018 to March-2019, no information regarding grant of Reconnaissance Permits/ Non-Exclusive reconnaissance Permits has been received.

PROSPECTING LICENCES

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

No information from the State Governments/Union Territories, is reported regarding grant/approval of Prospecting Licence (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) during the period from April-2018 to March 2019 .

COMPOSITE LICENCES (PROSPECTING LICENCE -CUM- MINING LEASE)

"Composite Licences or Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease " means a two-stage concession granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations followed by mining operation.

No information from the State Governments/Union Territories, is reported regarding grant/approval of "Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease" or composite licence" (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal, Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) during the period from April-2018 to March 2019.

MINING LEASES

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

The status of mining leases of 41 metallic and non-metallic minerals (excluding Atomic Minerals, Coal,

Lignite, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minor Minerals) as on 31.3.2019 (P) indicates that 3,529 mining leases were in force in the country in 23 States covering an area of 3,16,290.55 hectares.

The state wise summary of existing mining leases as on as on 31st March 2017, 2018 and 2019 is detailed in Table-3. The mineral-wise summary of existing mining leases as on 31.3.2019 (P) is furnished in Table-4 .

Sectorwise distribution of mining leases as on 31.3.2019 (P) is furnished in Table-5.

The state-wise break up of mining leases as on 31.03.2019 as reflected in Table-3 indicates that Madhya Pradesh was leading with 702 mining leases followed by Tamil Nadu (464), Andhra Pradesh (453), Gujarat (432), Karnataka (376), Rajasthan (195), Chhattisgarh (183), Odisha (172), Maharashtra (169), Jharkhand (146) and Telangana (86). These 11 States together accounted for about 96% of the total mining leases in force.

Of the total mining lease area covered by different States, Odisha accounted for 17% followed by Madhya Pradesh (13%), Karnataka (12%), Rajasthan (11%), Andhra Pradesh (9%), Gujarat & Chhattisgarh (8% each), Jharkhand (7%), Maharashtra & Telangana (4%) and Tamil Nadu (3%). These eleven States accounted for about 96% of the total mining lease area granted and the remaining 4% was accounted for by the rest of the 12 States.

Scheduled Minerals are those Minerals specified in Part C of the First Schedule of the Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. There are 10 minerals under Scheduled Minerals for which mining leases were in existence as on 31.3.2019(P). The

number of existing mining leases for the said Scheduled Minerals is 1,131 i.e., about 32% of the total mining leases accounting for an area of 1,35,662.1 hectares which is 43% of the total mining lease area (Excluding coal, lignite, petroleum, natural gas, atomic mineral and minor minerals) in the country. Out of the ten scheduled minerals, the total number of mining leases for iron ore is placed at 426 followed by bauxite (372), manganese ore (268), chromite (27), copper ore (14), gold (11), lead & zinc ores (9) , diamond (02), ruby (01) and sapphire (01).

During 2018-19, mining leases in force were in both Private and Public Sectors which included Central and State Government Undertakings. Out of the total 3,529 mining leases in force in the country, 3,252 (92%) mining leases with an area of 2,26,493.12 hectares (72%) are in the Private Sector and the remaining 277 (8%) with an area of 89,797.43 hectares (28%) are in the Public Sector.

In the metallic minerals, Ferrous group of minerals includes iron ore, manganese ore, chromite, while the Non-ferrous group of minerals comprises bauxite, copper ore, lead & zinc ores, molybdenum, nickel, tin and the noble metals which include gold, silver and platinum group of metals. There are no mining leases for molybdenum, nickel, silver and platinum group of metals in the country. In 2018-19, the number of existing mining leases for 8 metallic minerals (including gold & tin) was 1,140 (32%) covering an area of 1,34,976.31 hectares (43%) . On the other hand, the number of existing leases for 33 non-metallic minerals/industrial minerals was 2,389 (68%) which covered an area of 1,81,314.24 hectares (57%).

Table – 1 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2016-17 to 2018-19 (By States)

State	2016-17		2017-18*		2018-19*	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Source: Data received from various State Governments (Compiled data of BMI April-September 2018 and BMI October 2018-March 2019).

Table – 2 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2016-17 to 2018-19 (By Minerals)

State Mineral	2016-17		2017-18*		2018-19*	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Source: Data received from various State Governments (Compiled data of BMI April-September 2018 and BMI October 2018-March 2019).

**Table-3 : Existing Mining Leases* as on 31st March 2017, 2018 and 2019
(By States)**

State	as on 31.03.2017		as on 31.03.2018		as on 31.03.2019 (P)	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	4382	366010.88	3834	325876.20	3529	316290.55
Andhra Pradesh	472	26818.12	490	28265.25	453	27703.12
Assam	7	889.50	7	889.50	7	889.50
Bihar	12	387.47	7	257.87	1	53.38
Chhattisgarh	190	25582.58	186	25525.80	183	24565.95
Goa	281	21280.44	15	2385.08	15	2226.19
Gujarat	469	22537.01	462	26215.50	432	25829.83
Haryana	4	46.85	4	46.85	4	46.85
Himachal Pradesh	43	2471.47	43	2471.31	43	2468.44
Jammu & Kashmir	38	2036.29	39	2162.72	37	2020.40
Jharkhand	169	24017.71	168	23803.20	146	21980.87
Karnataka	410	42251.67	378	39854.18	376	39349.81
Kerala	15	2246.49	15	2246.49	8	1687.40
Madhya Pradesh	773	35718.89	727	38246.75	702	40555.40
Maharashtra	183	13289.40	173	13938.08	169	14106.03
Manipur	1	132.78	1	132.78	-	-
Meghalaya	17	601.29	22	849.34	21	789.34
Odisha	416	73469.70	268	61152.36	172	55108.72
Rajasthan	188	46843.25	180	32507.40	195	33394.21
Sikkim	3	96.32	3	96.32	3	96.32
Tamil Nadu	563	10738.61	540	10048.76	464	9061.66
Telangana	112	10944.57	90	11170.19	86	11191.68
Uttar Pradesh	5	3397.80	5	3397.80	4	2960.19
Uttarakhand	7	191.79	7	191.79	7	191.79
West Bengal	4	20.88	4	20.88	1	13.47

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

Source: Data received from various State Governments

**Table-4 : Existing Mining Leases* as on 31.3.2019 (P)
(By Minerals)**

Sl. No.	Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease Area (ha.)
1.	Amethyst	3	6.63
2.	Apatite	1	16.12
3.	Aquamarine	1	24.29
4.	Bauxite	372	30520.59
5.	Borax	1	159.00
6.	Chromite	27	7687.85
7.	Copper ore	14	4250.05
8.	Diamond	2	275.96
9.	Emerald	1	46.32
10.	Epidote	1	4.05

Contd..

(Table-4 Concl'd)

Sl. No.	Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease Area (ha.)
11.	Flint stone	2	11.77
12.	Fluorite	11	331.19
13.	Garnet	31	188.18
14.	Garnet(gem)	2	38.22
15.	Gold	11	6971.89
16.	Graphite	37	1581.56
17.	Iolite	5	61.79
18.	Iron ore	426	65842.07
19.	Kyanite	27	1471.44
20.	Lead & zinc ore	9	6937.79
21.	Limeshell	24	2779.88
22.	Limestone	1992	166636.32
23.	Magnesite	39	2324.87
24.	Manganese ore	268	12474.84
25.	Marl	1	4.23
26.	Moulding sand	4	24.75
27.	Perlite	1	144.88
28.	Phosphorite	10	2057.52
29.	Rock phosphate	1	13.20
30.	Rock salt	1	8.12
31.	Ruby	1	27.66
32.	Sapphire	1	673.40
33.	Semi-precious stones	17	276.85
34.	Siliceous earth	46	324.03
35.	Sillimanite	1	4.64
36.	Stibnite	1	40.47
37.	Tin	13	291.23
38.	Vermiculite	59	1004.89
39.	White clay	7	57.31
40.	White shale	42	367.12
41.	Wollastonite	16	327.58
	Total	3529	316290.55

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

Source: Data received from various State Governments

**Table – 5 : Existing Mining Leases* as on 31.3.2019 (P)
(By Sectors)**

Sector	No. of Leases	Percent (%)	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
India	3529	100	3,16,290.55	100
Public	277	7.85	89797.43	28.39
Central Government				
Undertakings	101	2.86	47341.89	14.97
State Government				
Undertakings	176	4.99	42455.54	13.42
Private	3252	92.15	226493.12	71.61

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

Source: Data received from various State Governments