

भारत सरकार
Government of India

खान मंत्रालय
Ministry of Mines

खनिज सूचना सम्बन्धी पत्रिका

खण्ड 34, अंक 2

अक्टूबर 2016 - मार्च 2017

Bulletin of Mineral Information

Volume - 34, No. 2

October 2016 – March 2017



भारतीय खान ब्यूरो
INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

Prepared by

Mineral Economics Division
Indian Bureau of Mines

Issued by

Controller General
Indian Bureau of Mines
Nagpur

June, 2017

The material contained in this publication may be reproduced or quoted with due acknowledgement of the source.

Mineral Legislation and Policy on Export and Import of Minerals/Ores**1. MINERAL LEGISLATION****A. Amendments/Notifications:**

1	Ministry of Mines, Notification No. T- 43010/CGBM/2014	1
2	Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 1120(E)	2
3	Ministry of Mines, Order, S.O. 27(E)	3
4	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Notification,S.O.152(E)	3
5	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Notification, S.O. 153(E)	4
6	Ministry of Commerce and Industry(Department of Commerce)(Directorate General of Foreign Trade), Notification S.O. 596(E)	5
7	Ministry of Mines, Notification No. T-43010/CGBM/2014	6
8	Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 169(E)	7
9	Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) Public Notice, 62 /2015-2020	7
10	Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) Public Notice, 62 /2015-2020 Amendment in para 2.54 of the Handbook of Procedures, 2015-2020	8

B. Court Decisions:

1	Bimala Prasad Sethy, Petitioner v. State of Orissa & others, Respondents, AIR 2016 Odisha 147, Vol.103, Part 1234, October, 2016.	9
2	Palle Chandrashekhar Reddy, Petitioner v. East Central Railway (Construction Organization), Patna and others, Respondents, AIR 2016 Patna 158, Vol.103, Part 1234, October, 2016.	10
3	The State of Jharkhand & others, Appellants v. Steel Authority of India Limited, Ranchi & another, Respondents, AIR 2017 Jharkhand 13, Vol.104, Part 1237, January, 2017.	11
4	M/s Mahadev Enclave Pvt. Ltd, Sikar (Rajasthan) & another, Petitioners v. State of Bihar & others, Respondents, AIR 2017 Patna 15, Vol.104, Part 1237, January, 2017.	13
5	Chandan Bora, Petitioner v. Union of India & others, Respondents, AIR 2017 Gauhati 17, Vol.104, Part 1238, February, 2017.	14
6	Sureshkumar Chotubhai Salar, Petitioner v. State of Gujarat & others, Respondents, AIR 2017 Gujarat 17, Vol.104, Part 1238, February, 2017.	17
7	State of Bihar and others, Appellants v. Ramesh Prasad Varma (Dead), Respondents, AIR 2017 Supreme Court 734, Vol.104, Part 1239, March, 2017.	18

SECTION – 2		
Trend in Mining, Prospecting and Reconnaissance		20 - 39
2.1	Trend in Mining	20 - 36
(A)	Mining Leases Granted	20
(B)	Mining Leases Executed	31
(C)	Mining Lease Period Extended	32
(D)	Mining Lease Period Executed after Grant of Extension of Mining Lease period	34
(E)	Mining Leases Renewed	33
(F)	Mining Leases Revoked	35
(G)	Mining Leases Determined	36
(H)	Mining Leases Surrendered	36
(I)	Mining Leases Terminated	36
(J)	Mining Leases Transferred	36
	Mines	37
(K)	Mines Opened	37
(L)	Mines Temporarily Discontinued	37
(M)	Mines Reopened	37
(N)	Mines Abandoned	37
2.2	Trend in Prospecting	38 - 39
(A)	Prospecting Licences Granted	38
(B)	Prospecting Licences Executed	38
(C)	Prospecting Licences Renewed	38
(D)	Prospecting Licences Revoked	39
2.3	Trend in Reconnaissance Permits (R.P.)	39
	Reconnaissance Permits (R.P.) Approved/Granted/Executed	39
SECTION – 3		40
Production of Mineral-based Products (Table 20)		40
SECTION – 4		
Highlights		41 - 50
(A)	Domestic	41
(B)	Abroad	50

SECTION -1
Mineral Legislation and Policy on Export and Import of Minerals/Ores

1. MINERAL LEGISLATION

A. Amendments /Notifications:

1. MINISTRY OF MINES, NOTIFICATION No. T- 43010/CGBM/2014.— In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 62 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 and in partial modification to the Notification No. T-43010/CGBM/97 dated 19th February, 1998 published in the Gazette of India, Part III Section I dated 7th March, 1998, the following changes are being made to the territorial jurisdiction of the Zonal/Regional offices of Indian Bureau of Mines:

- i) The Office of the Controller of Mines (North Zone) is being shifted to Udaipur from Ajmer.
- ii) A new Regional office is being opened at Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- iii) The Guwahati Sub-Regional office is being upgraded to Regional Office.

In view of above changes, the revised territorial jurisdiction of the concerned IBM offices is given as under:

Zonal Office	Regional Office	State/UT	Districts
Controller of Mines (North Zone), Indian Bureau of Mines, Udaipur	Ajmer Region	Rajasthan	All Districts.
	Gandhinagar Region	Gujarat	All Districts.
	Dehradun Region	Same as that of prescribed in Gazette of India Part III Section I dated 7th March, 1998	
Controller of Mines (Central Zone), Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur.	Guwahati Region	Arunachal Pradesh	All Districts
		Assam	All Districts.
		Manipur	All Districts.
		Meghalaya	All Districts.
		Mizoram	All Districts.
		Nagaland	All Districts.
		Sikkim	All Districts.
	Kolkata Region	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	All Districts.
		Jharkhand	Saraikela-Kharsawan, Singhbhum (East), Singhbhum (West).
		West Bengal	All Districts.
	Ranchi Region	Bihar	All Districts.
		Jharkhand	All Districts except Saraikela-Kharsawan, Singhbhum (East), Singhbhum (West) districts.
	Bhubaneswar Region	Same as that of prescribed in Gazette of India Part III Section I dated 7th March, 1998, and Gazette of India Part III Section I dated 11th March, 1999.	
	Jabalpur Region	Same as that of prescribed in Same as that of prescribed in Gazette of India Part III Section I dated 7th March, 1998, and Gazette of India Part III Section I dated 9 th May, 2016.	
	Nagpur Region		
Raipur Region			

The office addresses of the offices of the Controller of Mines (North Zone), Regional Controller of Mines, Gandhinagar Region and Regional Controller of Mines, Guwahati will be as under:

1. Office of the Controller of Mines (North Zone)

Indian Bureau of Mines,
142-C, Sector-XI,
Hiranmagri Scheme
Udaipur – 313 001 (Rajasthan)

2. Office of the Regional Controller of Mines,

Indian Bureau of Mines,
C Wing, 4th Floor, Block No.-2,
Karmayogi Bhavan,
Sector 10A,
Gandhinagar – 382 010 (Gujarat)

3. Office of the Regional Controller of Mines,

Indian Bureau of Mines,
House No. 216, 3rd Floor,
Post - Banunimaidan,
Distt. : Kamrup
Guwahati-781 021 (Assam)

The above shall come into force with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the Gazette of India.

ORDER

Ordered that these territorial jurisdictions of the Regional / Sub-Regional offices under the Controller of Mines (North Zone) and Controller of Mines (Central Zone), Indian Bureau of Mines, be published in the Gazette of India, Part III Section I for general information of all.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part III, Section I dt. 07.12.2016

2. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 1120(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 to amend the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro- carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2016.

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

2. In the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, in rule 12, after sub-rule (5), the following sub-rule shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (5), the State Government may grant a mining lease for area less than five hectares in respect of a mining lease to be granted in pursuance of the provisions of clause (b) or clause (c) of sub-section (2) of Section 10A of the Act:

Provided that no mining lease shall be granted for area less than one hectare, in respect of small deposits (not fragmented portions of larger ones), shallow in nature, isolated and not exceeding two hundred metres in strike length, which are small by virtue of either origin or mode of emplacement or dislocation due to geological disturbances; and small deposits shall also include float deposits (transported) formed due to mechanical weathering and deposition, alluvial or eluvial placers (buried or otherwise), which generally have peculiar configurations excepting beach sands or placers:

Provided further that no mining lease shall be granted for area less than two hectares, in respect of beach sands or placers, which are mono or multi mineral concentrations, including the dunes occurring on and off the coastal shore line deposited as a product of the ebb and flow of tides, waves and inshore currents, and at places semi-consolidated to consolidated in nature: Provided also that no mining lease shall be granted for area less than four hectares in all other cases other than those specified in the first and second provisos.”.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i) dt. 08.12.2016

3. Ministry of Mines, Order, S.O. 27(E).—Whereas difficulties have arisen in giving effect to the provisions of clause (c) sub-section (2) of Section 10A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 (10 of 2015), in so far as it relates to fulfilment of conditions laid in the letter of intent (by whatever name called) issued by the State Governments within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the said Act.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 24 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 (10 of 2015), the Central Government hereby makes the following order to remove the difficulties relating to fulfilment of conditions laid in the letter of intent, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This order may be called the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Removal of Difficulties Order, 2017.

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

2. Environmental Clearance.—Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (c) of sub-section (2) of Section 10A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 (10 of 2015), it is clarified that where the condition of obtaining environmental clearance has not been complied with by the applicant on or before 11th January, 2017, but all other conditions specified in previous approval or the letter of intent have been fulfilled, the applications shall be considered under that Section and mining lease shall be granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the notifications issued under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (29 of 1986):

Provided that no mining activity shall commence unless and until the applicant obtains environmental clearance as laid down under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules made there under.

Source: The Gazette of India: Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(ii) dt. 04.01.2017

4. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Notification, S.O.152(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963) read with sub-rule (2) of rules 12 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1964, the Central Government hereby recognizes M/s. SGS

India Private Limited, Door No. 45-56- 3/5/1, 1st Lane, Narasimha Nagar, NH 5, Visakhapatnam-530 024, Andhra Pradesh, as an agency for a period of three years with effect from the date of Publication of this notification, for the inspection of Minerals and Ores Group-I, namely, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Ferromanganese Ore and Bauxite Ores specified in the Schedule to the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce vide number S.O. 3975, dated 20th December, 1965, prior to export of said Minerals and Ores Visakhapatnam Port, Gangavaram Port and Kakinada Port, subject to the following conditions, namely: -

(i) M/s. SGS India Private Limited, Door No. 45-56-3/5/1, 1st Lane, Narasimha Nagar, NH 5, Visakhapatnam- 530 024, Andhra Pradesh, shall give adequate facilities to the officers nominated by the Export Inspection Council in this behalf to carry out the inspection specified under rule 4 of the Export of Minerals and Ores - Group I (Inspection) Rules, 1965;

(ii) M/s. SGS India Private Limited, Door No. 45-56-3/5/1, 1st Lane, Narasimha Nagar, NH 5, Visakhapatnam- 530 024, Andhra Pradesh, in the performance of their function under this notification shall be bound by such directions as the Director (Inspection and Quality Control), Export Inspection Council may give in writing from time to time.

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(ii), dated 12.01.2017.

5. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Notification, S.O. 153(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 (22 of 1963) read with sub-rule (2) of rules 12 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1964, the Central Government hereby recognises M/s Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, Murgao Beach Tower, Ground Floor, Shop No. 07, Opp. Busy Bee School, Desterro, Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa – 403 802, as an agency for a period of three years with effect from the date of publication of this notification, for the inspection of Minerals and Ores Group-I, namely, Iron Ore as specified in the Schedule to the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce vide number S.O. 3975 dated the 20th December 1965, prior to export of said Minerals and Ores at Goa Port, subject to the following conditions, namely:—

(i) M/s Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, Murgao Beach Tower, Ground Floor, Shop No. 07, Opp. Busy Bee School, Desterro, Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa – 403 802, shall give adequate facilities to the officers nominated by the Export Inspection Council in this behalf to carry out the inspection specified under rule 4 of the Export of Minerals and Ores - Group I (Inspection) Rules, 1965;

(ii) M/s Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, Murgao Beach Tower, Ground Floor, Shop No. 07, Opp. Busy Bee School, Desterro, Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa – 403 802, in the performance of their function under this notification shall be bound by such directions as the Director (Inspection and Quality Control), Export Inspection Council may give in writing from time to time.

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(ii), dated 12.01.2017.

Subject: Amendment in Para 4.44 of Chapter 4 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20

6. Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) (Directorate General of Foreign Trade), Notification S.O. 596(E). In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of FT (D&R) Act, 1992, read with paragraph 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-2020, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby makes following amendments in para 4.44 of Chapter 4 of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.

1. The existing Para 4.44 of FTP 2015-20 reads as under:

4.44 Export of Cut & Polished Diamonds with Re-import Facility at Zero Duty

“An exporter (with annual export turnover of Rs. 5 crore for each of the last three years) may export cut & polished diamonds (each of 0.25 carat or above) to any of the agencies/laboratories mentioned under paragraph 4.74 of Handbook of Procedures with reimport facility at zero duty within 3 months from the date of export. Such facility of reimport at zero duty will be subject to guidelines issued by Central Board of Customs & Excise, Department of Revenue”.

2. The amended Para 4.44 of FTP 2015-20 is to be read as under:

4.44 Export of Cut & Polished Diamonds with Re-import Facility at Zero Duty

“An exporter (with annual export turnover of Rs. 5 crore for each of the last three years) or the authorised offices / agencies in India of laboratories mentioned under paragraph 4.74 of Handbook of Procedures may export cut & polished diamonds (each of 0.25 carat or above) to any of the agencies/laboratories mentioned under paragraph 4.74 of Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 with re-import facility at zero duty within 3 months from the date of export. Such facility of export and subsequent reimport at zero duty will be subject to guidelines issued by Central Board of Customs & Excise, Department of Revenue”.

3. Effect of Notification : The facility for export and re-import of cut and polished diamonds at zero duty for the purpose of certification and grading has been extended to the authorised offices/ agencies in India of laboratories mentioned under paragraph 4.74 of Handbook of Procedures 2015-20.

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(ii), dated 22.02.2017.

7. Ministry of Mines, Notification No. T-43010/CGBM/2014. In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 62 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 and in partial modification to following notifications, namely,

1. Notification No.T-43010/CGBM/97, dated 19th February, 1998 published in the Gazette of India, Part III, Section 1, dated 7th March, 1998,
2. Notification No. T-43010/CGBM/97, dated 11th March, 1999 published in the Gazette of India, Part III, Section 1, dated 27th March, 1999,
3. Notification No. T-44027/Raipur RO/CGBM/2015, dated 12th April, 2016, published in the Gazette of India, Part-III, Section 1, dated 9th May, 2016 and
4. Notification No. T-43010/CGBM/2014, dated 7th December, 2016 published in the Gazette of India, Part III, Section 1, dated 13th January, 2017,

The revised territorial jurisdiction of the Regional offices under Central Zone and newly created East Zone of IBM is given as under:

Zonal Office	Regional Office	State/UT	Districts
Controller of Mines (Central Zone), Indian Bureau of Mines, 6th Floor, 'D' Block, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001.	Jabalpur Region	Madhya Pradesh	All districts
		Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Kaushambi, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra.
	Nagpur Region	Maharashtra	All districts except Latur, Kolhapur, Nanded, Pune, Ratnagiri, Sangli, Satara, Sindhudurg , Sholapur & Usmanabad
	Raipur Region	Chhattisgarh	All districts
Controller of Mines (East Zone), Indian Bureau of Mines, CP-13, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 091	Bhubaneswar Region	Odisha	All districts
	Guwahati Region	Arunachal Pradesh	All districts
		Assam	All districts
		Manipur	All districts
		Meghalaya	All districts
		Mizoram	All districts
		Nagaland	All districts
		Sikkim	All districts
	Tripura	All districts	
	Ranchi Region	Bihar	All districts
Jharkhand		All districts	
West Bengal		All districts	

The above shall come into force with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the Gazette of India.

ORDER

Ordered that these territorial jurisdictions of the Zonal/Regional offices of Indian Bureau of Mines, be published in the Gazette of India, Part III, Section 1, for general information of all.

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 1, dated 24.02.2017.

8. Ministry of Mines, Notification, G.S.R. 169(E)—In exercise of powers conferred by Section 18 of the Mines of Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), and in supersession of the Mineral Conservation Development Rules, 1988, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017.

In the said Rules definitions for various terms were defined under Rule 3, further, provisions were made for reconnaissance and prospecting operations, mining operations, plans and Sections, sustainable mining, notices and returns, employment of geologists and mining engineers, examination of minerals and issue of directives, revision and penalty, geological reports, mining regulation portal, etc. Further, in the attached schedule form – A, form – B, form – C, form – D, form – E, form – F, form – F1, form – F2, form – F3, form – G1, form – G2, form – G3, form – H, form – I, form – J, form – K, form – L, form – M and form – N also enclosed.

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(i), dated 27.02.2017.

9. Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) Public Notice, 62 /2015-2020 .

Subject: Amendments in Appendix 4J of Hand Book of Procedures 2015-20 and in General Notes for Chemicals and Allied Products of Standard Input Output Norms (SION) relating to Export Obligation Period under Advance Authorizations.

F. No. 01/94/180/115/AM 17/PC-4.—In exercise of powers conferred under Paragraph 1.03 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade makes the following amendment in Appendix 4J of Hand Book of Procedures 2015-2020:

APPENDIX –4J

(Please see paragraph 4.42 of HBP)

Export Obligation Period for Specified Inputs with Pre-import Condition under Advance Authorizations. (Inputs/import items sourced under the Authorisation have to be processed and exported)

Serial No.	Import Item(s)	Export Obligation Period with pre-import condition from the date of clearance of each import consignment by Customs Authority
7.	Precious Metal Gold/Silver/Platinum	120 days

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, dated 24.03.2017.

10. Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) Public Notice, 62 /2015-2020 .

Subject: Amendment in para 2.54 of the Handbook of Procedures, 2015-2020

No. 01/89/180/53/AM-01/PC-2 (B).—In exercise of powers conferred under paragraph 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy, (2015-2020), the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby amends (i) para 2.54 (d) (iv) of the Handbook of Procedures, 2015-2020 detailing the names of the designated ports for import of un- shredded metallic scrap; and (ii) extends their validity for such imports, in supersession of the provision in para 2.54(d) (v), notified vide Public Notice No 38(2015-20) dated 06/10/2016 as under:

Existing Paragraph	Revised Paragraph
Import of scrap would take place only through following designated ports and no exceptions would be allowed even in case of EOUs, SEZs:- 1. Chennai, 2. Cochin, 3. Ennore, 4. JNPT, 5. Kandla, 6. Mormugao, 7. Mumbai, 8. New Mangalore, 9. Paradip, 10. Tuticorin, 11.Visakhapatnam, 12. ICD Loni, Ghaziabad, 13. Pipava, 14. Mundra, 15. Kolkata, 16. ICD Ludhiana, 17. ICD Dadri (Greater Noida), 18. ICD Nagpur, 19. ICD Jodhpur, 20. ICD Jaipur, 21. ICD Udaipur, 22. CFS Mulund, 23. ICD Kanpur, 24. ICD Ahmedabad, 25. ICD Pitampur and 26. ICD Malanpur.	Import of scrap would take place only through following designated ports and no exceptions would be allowed even in case of EOUs, SEZs:- 1. Chennai, 2. Cochin, 3. Ennore, 4. JNPT, 5. Kandla, 6. Mormugao, 7. Mumbai, 8. New Mangalore, 9. Paradip, 10. Thoothukudi, 11.Visakhapatnam, 12. Pipava, 13. Mundra and 14. Kolkata.

(ii). The existing designated sea ports namely Chennai, Cochin, Ennore, JNPT, Kandla, Mormugao, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Paradip, Thoothukudi, Visakhapatnam, Pipava, Mundra and Kolkata will be further allowed to import unshredded scrap till 31st March, 2018

by which time they are required to install and operationalise Radiation Portal Monitors and Container Scanner. Such sea ports which fail to meet the deadline will be derecognized for the purpose of import of un-shredded metallic scrap w.e.f. 1.4.2018.

2. Effect of this Public Notice: Para 2.54(d)(iv) of the Handbook of Procedures, 2015-2020 has been amended to reflect the list of designated ports for imports of un-shredded metallic scrap and the period for installation and operationalisation of Radiation Portal Monitors and Container Scanner in these ports is extended up till 31.3.2018 .

Source: The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, dated 27.03.2017.

B. Court Decisions:

1. Bimala Prasad Sethy, Petitioner v. State of Orissa & others, Respondents, AIR 2016 Odisha 147, Vol.103, Part 1234, October, 2016.

Subject: Petitioner filed the writ petition for a direction to opposite parties Nos. 2 & 3 to issue notice for depositing the money, to enable him to get lease executed in his favour.

Facts: That for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20, the lease for sand quarry of Mundilo Patenigaon was to be granted by auction, for which an advertisement was issued on 11.03.2015. Opposite party No.5 was the highest bidder, whereas opposite party No.4 was the second highest bidder and the petitioner was the third highest bidder. Initially, the bid of opposite party No.5 was accepted on the condition that opposite party No.5 shall deposit the requisite amount, for which as per Rule 26(5) of the OMMC Rules, seven days notice was given on 06.04.2015. When the requisite amount was not deposited by opposite party No.5 within seven days, as per the relevant Rules, opposite party No.4 was issued notice on 15.04.2015 to deposit the requisite amount as he was the second highest bidder. The period of seven days from the notice dated 15.04.2015 was to expire on 22.04.2015. The petitioner, who was the third highest bidder, approached this Court on 24.04.2015 by filing this writ petition, with the prayer for a direction to opposite parties No.2 and 3 to issue notice to him for depositing the money, to enable him to get lease executed in his favour. An interim order of status quo was passed by this Court on 04.05.2015.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has stated that the amount was deposited in the treasury on 18.05.2015, which was not within the period of seven days from the notice dated 15.04.2015. According to the petitioner, the Nazir ought to have deposited the entire amount with the Treasury on the very next day, as is provided in the relevant Rules.

Decision :- The High Court has stated that the liability of opposite party No. 4 was to deposit the amount in question within the stipulated time, which opposite party No. 4 has deposited. If the authorities failed to deposit the said amount in the treasury on the very next day or actually deposited the same after four weeks, it is not the concern of opposite party No.4, as he had discharged his liability under the notice dated 15.04.2015 within the stipulated time. The High Court has further stated that the contention of the petitioner

that the notice for grant of lease be issued to him, being the 3rd highest bidder, in terms of the Rule-26(5) of the OMMC Rules, would not be justified in the facts of the present case.

Thus, the High Court has rejected the prayer made in the writ petition, without any order as to costs.

Petition dismissed

2. Palle Chandrashekhar Reddy, Petitioner v. East Central Railway (Construction Organization), Patna and others, Respondents, AIR 2016 Patna 158, Vol.103, Part 1234, October, 2016.

Subject: The petitioner seeks quashing of the order/direction contained in letter dated 30.01.2015/08.02.2015 issued under the signature of the Deputy Chief Engineer/Con//1, East Central Railway, Hazaribagh, by which he has directed the firm Pallavi Construction to submit O & P Form as per agreement provision otherwise royalty with penalty in terms of Assistant Mining Officer's letter No. 97/M dated 20.01.2011 will be deducted from his bill. The petitioner further seeks direction that the demand of royalty by the State of Jharkhand for use of ordinary earth for cutting, filling, compaction, blanketing, turfing, construction of minor bridges and other associated works being done by the petitioner treating it as minor mineral as illegal and without authority of law and seeks that it should be held that no royalty is chargeable on the ordinary earth used for filling or levelling purposes in construction of embankment, road, railways, building, in terms of the Rules framed under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, known as "Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004", specially in view of the fact that Schedule II attached to the Rules does not provide charging of royalty as notified by the Central Government vide Notification No. GSR 1995(E) dated 03.02.2000 bringing the ordinary earth for the aforesaid purposes into the definition of "Minor Minerals".

The petitioner by filing Interlocutory Application No. 4062 of 2015 has also challenged deduction of royalty by the authority of respondent No. 1 in view of the directive of the concerned Department of the State of Jharkhand @ Rs. 15/- per cubic meter, which comes to rupees one crore.

Facts: The petitioner, who claims to be the managing partner of M/s Pallavi Construction which is a partnership firm, submitted a tender in response to NIT for use of earth for cutting, filling, compaction, blanketing, turfing, construction of minor bridges and other associated works between Koderma to Hazaribagh in construction of a new broad gauge line from Koderma to Ranchi. The petitioner was granted work in terms of the agreement contained in Annexure 1 executed by the competent authority of the East Central Railway (Construction Organisation) through the Chief Engineer/Con/Central, East Central Railway MHX, Patna in the name of the President of India at one hand and M/s Pallavi Construction at the other hand. The petitioner executed the work and submitted the bills for payment which were pending

consideration, however, the same have been finalized after deducting the royalty amount for the use of the earth for the aforesaid work at the rate of Rs. 15/- per cubic meter.

Learned senior counsel for the petitioner submitted that in *Hindustan Steel Works Construction and others v. State of Bihar and others* (2007(2) PLJR, 849), the Division Bench came to the conclusion that even after inclusion of ordinary earth for the aforesaid purposes in Section 3(e) of the Act, unless and until the State Government makes it chargeable by specifically bringing it in the entries of Schedule II of the Bihar Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 1972, royalty cannot be charged. The Division Bench has further held in the aforesaid background that such royalty could only be charged after 18.04.2006 when necessary entry was made in Schedule II but, though after inclusion of ordinary earth for the said purpose in the definition of minor minerals it became subject of royalty by the State Government, however, since it was not done immediately, any demand of royalty by the petitioner prior to 18.04.2006 would be illegal and unsustainable.

Decision : The High Court has relied on the decision of a Single Bench of the Jharkhand High Court in W.P.(C) No. 4737 of 2014 (*M/s Raus-SCL(JV) v. East Central Railways and others*), wherein this Court has restrained the State of Jharkhand from realizing royalty for ordinary earth used for filling or levelling purposes in construction of embankment, roads, railways, building without amending second schedule to the Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2004. The High Court has opined that the State of Jharkhand is not competent to charge royalty from the petitioner for the use of ordinary earth for the purposes of levelling or filling in construction of railways till relevant entry is notified in Schedule II. The High Court held that the State of Jharkhand as well as the respondent Nos. 1 to 4 are restrained from realizing any amount under such head and if the same has already been deducted then the amount so realized by the respondent Nos. 1 to 4 should be credited in favour of the firm or be added in the final bills payable to it.

Thus, the High Court has allowed the writ petition without any order as to costs.

Petition allowed.

3. *The State of Jharkhand & others, Appellants v. Steel Authority of India Limited, Ranchi & another, Respondents*, AIR 2017 Jharkhand 13, Vol.104, Part 1237, January, 2017.

Subject : Challenging the order dated 04.09.2014 for bringing to an end of the mining activities in absence of renewal of lease period.

Facts : Learned counsel appearing for the appellant-State has submitted that initially the lease was granted on 22.02.1949 for 30 years, which expired in the year 1979. An application for extension of the first lease was preferred and the same was granted for another 30 years. The said extended period for lease also expired on 21.02.2009. On 08.02.2008, an application for extension of the lease was preferred and the same has not been granted by the appellant-State. Meanwhile, Hon'ble Supreme Court has decided in the case of *Goa Foundation vs. Union of India & Ors.* reported in (2014) 6 SCC 590, that there cannot be automatic extension of second lease period. Thereafter, an amendment

has been brought and ultimately Section 8A has been added with effect from 12.01.2015 in the Act, 1957.

Learned counsel for the appellant-State has further submitted that before passing a renewal order in view of the provisions of the Act, 1957, quoted as above, and also in the light of the decision rendered in the case of Goa Foundation (Supra), a letter was issued on 04.09.2014 to the respondent (original petitioner) for bringing to an end of their mining activities in absence of renewal of lease period for their mines, which they are using for their captive purpose, and by an interim order dated 16.10.2014, the State of Jharkhand was directed to take a decision under Section 8(3) of the Act, 1957 which decision is yet to be finally taken by the State of Jharkhand and meanwhile, State of Jharkhand has issued one more letter dated 22.10.2014 seeking consent of the lessee for imposing conditions for renewal of the lease.

Learned Additional Advocate General, has contended that ones there is no renewal of the mining lease, they ought not to have allowed to continue the mining activities. The State of Jharkhand is bound to take some time looking to the complex situation prevailing, so far as renewal of the mining lease period are concerned. Now concept of extension of the lease for the 50 years have been incorporated. Nonetheless, looking to the past period, i.e., initially after 1979 the lease was expired and there was no deemed renewal as per the old provision of Rule 24(A)(5) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Thereafter, the lease was renewed in the year 1987. Thus, for the intervening period, i.e., after the expiry of first lease and renewal of the lease, there was illegal mining, and hence, the respondent-company is bound to make the payment of the price of the excavation of the mines as per Section 21(5) the Act, 1957 by way of penalty.

Learned senior counsel, appearing for the respondent-company has submitted that no error has been committed by the respondent in preferring the application for extension of lease after the first lease period was over in the year 1979 and the said lease was renewed by the State of Jharkhand with retrospective effect, i.e., from 1979. The extension/renewal was granted in the year 1987. The second lease period has also expired on 21.02.2009 and prior to one year of such expiry, an application was preferred on 08.02.2008 for extension of lease period, this application has not been decided by the appellant-State.

Decision : The High Court has stated that the respondent-company is paying sizable amount of royalty by maintaining data of excavation activity/ mining activity. The respondent-company is also paying Central Sales Tax as well as Jharkhand Value Added Tax respectively. As and when this appellant-State is taking a final decision upon the extension of lease period, the accounts can be settled between the State of Jharkhand and the respondent-company and there is no justifiable reason as on today to stop the mining activities by the respondent-company which was captive consumption. The High Court has further stated that there is no illegality committed by the learned Single Judge in the order dated 13.11.2014 while deciding the writ petition being W.P.(C) No.5368 of 2014

and this Court is not taking any other view than what has been taken by the learned Single Judge.

Thus, the High Court has dismissed the letters patent application for want of substance.

Application dismissed.

4. M/s Mahadev Enclave Pvt. Ltd., Sikar(Rajasthan) & another, Petitioners v. State of Bihar & others, Respondents, AIR 2017 Patna 15, Vol.104, Part 1237, January, 2017.

Subject : Challenging the notification dated 27.08.2013(declaring capping for 10% towards annual increase in sale price of sand) issued by the State Government under the new sand policy.

Facts : The petitioner, which is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to the Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT), dated 16.10.2014, for settlement of sand ghats located at the Banka district, in the State of Bihar, for a period commencing from 01.01.2015 and ending on 31.12.2019, issued by the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, submitted its bids, technical as well as financial, which came to be finalized on 21.10.2014. The petitioner, having been declared the highest bidder in the tender process aforementioned, deposited accordingly the bid amount and the security money on different dates and entered into an agreement, with the State Government, on 20.05.2015, for mining, extracting and removing sand, for the period aforementioned under the provisions of the Bihar Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1972, (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules'). According to the petitioner, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, did not notify the sale price as required in terms of Clause 16 of the NIT, dated 16.10.2014. Later on, when all the settlees of the sand ghats of Bihar, on their own, enhanced the sale price of sand in accordance with Clause 16 of the NIT, the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, came out with a letter, dated 30.12.2015, restraining the settlees from increasing the sale price at their level and asserted that the power and authority to enhance the sale price lies with the Department exclusively under the provisions of Rule 48 (1) (A) of the Rules.

In the meanwhile, the rate of Bihar Value Added Tax was, according to the petitioner, increased from 5% to 14.5% in the light of the Notification, contained in SO 10, dated 13.01.2016, issued by the Commercial Taxes Department, Government of Bihar, without there being any increase in the sale price of the sand thereby compelling the petitioner to realize the difference of Bihar Value Added Tax, being an indirect tax, from the purchasers. The petitioner contended that even for the settlement year 2016, the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, had not come out with any notification fixing or revising the sale price of sand under Clause 16 of the NIT. The petitioner, therefore, as the owner of the sand, so extracted, claims the right to fix the sale price of sand at its own level, and has challenged, with the help of this writ petition, the power of the State Government to fix the

sale price of sand taking the aid of Rule 48(1)(A) of the Rules, which, according to the petitioner, ultra vires not only Section 15 of the Act, but also violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(g) and 300-A of the Constitution of India.

Decision : The High Court has stated that (Section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957) authorizes the State Government to regulate the grant of mining lease of minor minerals. Clause (O) Sub- Section (1-A) of Section 15 of the said Act does not, admittedly, empower the State Government to fix the sale price of minor mineral so extracted. In the present case, it is sand, which has been extracted the petitioner, and the sand, too, comes within the ambit of minor mineral. The High Court has referred to the case State of Tamil Nadu v. M.P.P. Kavery Cheety(AIR 1995 SC 858) and held that clause (O) of sub-section (1-A) of Section 15 of the Act does not empower a State Government to control the sale and the sale price of a minor mineral or to regulate the sale of minerals already mined.

Thus, The High Court has allowed the writ petition and set aside and quashed the impugned notification dated 27.08.2013.

Petition allowed.

5. Chandan Bora, Petitioner v. Union of India & others, Respondents, AIR 2017 Gauhati 17, Vol.104, Part 1238, February, 2017.

Subject : Challenging the legality of refusal of grant of mining after coming into force new rules.

Facts : The writ petitioner came to learn that a new sand mahal by the name of Kordoiguri Sand Quarry No. 3, in Kulsi Reserved Forest, for an area of 1 hector (ha) for extraction of 2.5 lakh cubic meter of sand was going to be opened and the same was going to be settled without inviting any open tender purportedly in compliance of an order of this Court dated 26.05.2015, passed in WP(C) 1545/2015 preferred by the respondent No. 11 of the present writ petition, whereby this Court directed the respondent authorities to take a decision regarding the grievance expressed by the respondent No. 11 of the present writ petition. The writ petition was filed by the present respondent No. 11 seeking a writ of mandamus directing the respondents therein to allow the writ petitioner (respondent No. 11 herein) to operate the sand mahal in terms of the Final Approval dated 11.06.2014, issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Central), Government of India. Based on the pleadings in WP(C) 1545/2015, the petitioner came to learn that on the basis of an application dated 15.09.2011 of the respondent No.11, the Deputy Secretary, Government of Assam, Environment and Forest, forwarded a proposal dated 29.02.2012 for diversion of 1 ha of forest land for opening of (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forest, for approval of the same under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (for short, 'FC Act'). By communication dated 25.03.2013, the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Central), Government of India, intimated the Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam, Environment and Forest Department, that the Central Government had conveyed its "approval in principle" for

diversion of 1 ha of forest land (river bed) for collection of sand in Pantan Reserved Forest (Kordoiguri Sand Quarry No. 3) in favour of the respondent No. 11 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions as enumerated therein. The Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup West Division, thereafter, by his letter dated 23.04.2013, requested respondent No. 11 to deposit an amount of Rs. 10,81,774/- in favour of the Chief Conservator of Forest and Nodal Officer. By another letter dated 15.05.2013, respondent No. 10 informed the Chief Conservator of Forest (Central), Assam Circle, that the user agency had fulfilled all conditions as set out by the Government of India and, therefore, extraction of sand may be allowed subject to production of environment clearance certificate. By a communication dated 11.06.2014, the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Central), Government of India, intimated the Principal Secretary, Government of Assam, Environment and Forest, that Final Approval had been granted under Section 2 of the FC Act for diversion of 1 ha of forest land (river bed) for collection of sand in Pantan Reserved Forest (Kordoiguri Sand Quarry No. 3) in favour of the respondent No. 11. Another communication dated 07.07.2014 was issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (Central), Government of India, addressed to the Principal Secretary, Government of Assam, Environment and Forest, incorporating an additional condition, being condition No. 19, in the Final Approval to the effect that the validity of the approval for collection of sand as per quantity specified in the mining plan is for a period of five years with effect from 12.06.2014. The respondent No. 11 had submitted a representation as necessary permission to start the quarry had not been accorded and, in response thereto, the Under Secretary to the Government of Assam, Environment and Forest, by communication dated 21.12.2014, requested the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest to take action as per 2013 Rules and as no action was taken, respondent No. 11 had approached this Court by filing WP(C) 1545/2015.

It is averred that the action taken by the respondents, based on the recommendation and request submitted by the State Government of Asam, was in conformity with the norms and guidelines under Section 2 of the FC Act. Respondent No. 10 had also filed an affidavit stating that he had, under Rule 2(1)(e) and Rule 3(b) of the 2013 Rules, decided to settle the Kordoiguri Sand Quarry No. 3 in favour of respondent No. 11. It is asserted that the application filed by the respondent No. 11 as well as the "In Principle Approval" had been conveyed prior to the coming into force of the 2013 Rules. In the affidavit filed by respondent No. 11, it is averred that the writ petitioner has no locus standi to file the writ petition as no rights of the members of the association had been infringed as well as for the reason that the president of the association, who had represented the association, was not a member of the association. Questions have been raised with regard to nomenclature of the association also. It is stated that the respondent No. 11 had made an application to the respondent No. 10 along with Form-A under the Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (for short, '2003 Rules'), for opening of a new sand mahal under Rule 6 of 1994 Rules, in the river bed of Kulsi in (a) Kordoiguri and (b) Koimari of Pantan Reserved Forest, and for giving the same on lease. Pleadings have been offered with reference to the steps taken and communications exchanged by different authorities leading to grant of In Principle Approval and the Final Approval by the Central Government. The respondent No. 11 had also deposited money amounting to Rs. 7,30,000/- and Rs. 3,51,774/- by way of demand draft.

Learned council for the petitioner contented that on the date when the respondent No.11, Basanta Kalita, filed his application dated 15.09.2011, there was no quarry by the name of No. 3 Kordoiguri Sand Mahal and, therefore, 1994 Rules are not applicable as by the time Final Approval was granted, 2013 Rules had come into play. So far as mining lease is concerned, the condition precedent as contained in MMDR Act shall prevail over any other statute as it is a special statute governing mining conditions and so far as the conservation and protection of forest etc. are concerned, FC Act will have precedence. It is also contended that approval granted for deforestation can survive on its own even if offending portion of the said approval granting some right to the respondent No.11 is set aside. It is further contended that approval granted under Section 2 of the FC Act has to be confined to deforestation activities and the same cannot be extended to grant of a lease which falls in the domain of MMDR Act. The mining lease granted vide impugned order dated 28.08.2015 is in contravention of Section 19 of the MMDR Act.

Decision : The High Court has referred to the provisions of Forest Conservation Act, MMDR Act, 1994 Rules, 2013 Rules and stated that the application submitted by the respondent No. 11 under Rule 6 of the 1994 Rules was evidently for grant of a mining lease. Rule 6 visualized submission of an application for grant of a mining lease, which in terms of Rule 2(g) meant a lease granted to mine, quarry, bore, dig or search for the purpose of win, work and carry away any minor mineral specified therein. Apparently, for grant of a mining lease under the 1994 Rules, notice inviting tender for competitive bidding was not contemplated. It appears from the letter dated 31.8.2013 that mining leases were granted on the basis of application on first-come-first-serve basis under the 1994 Rules.

The High Court has opined that the order dated 28.8.2015 granting settlement in favour of the respondent No. 11 cannot be sustained. The Court cannot lose sight of the fact that In Principle Approval as well as Final Approval were granted by the Central Government under Section 2 of the FC Act treating the respondent No. 11 to be the user agency. Materials on record do not indicate that the Central Government was apprised of change of Rules made under MMDR Act. Diversion of forest land was specifically granted in favour of the respondent No. 11 by the Final Approval order dated 11.6.2014 for collection of sand in Pantan Reserve Forest (Kordoiguri Sand Quarry No. 3). In view of the provision of 2013 Rules, it will be impermissible to grant a mining lease to an individual based on an application filed without going for competitive bidding. The diversion of land under FC Act as well as vesting of a right in favour of respondent No. 11 is intrinsically interlinked and is not severable.

The High Court has set aside the grant made in respect of respondent No.11as contained in the final approval, diversion of forest land measuring 1.0 ha in Pantan Reserve Forest. The High Court has allowed the WP(C) No.19/2016 & WP(C) No.5693/2015 and disposed of the WP(C) No.4214/2015 being infructuous. Further, the High Court has directed to refund the amount of Rs.10,81,774/- only within a period of two months.

Petition allowed

6. Sureshkumar Chotubhai Salar, Petitioner v. State of Gujarat & others, Respondents, AIR 2017 Gujarat 17, Vol.104, Part 1238, February, 2017.

Subject : Challenging the order dated 15.01.2016 passed by the revisional authority for dismissing the revisional applications.

Facts : The petitioner in two petitions had applied for grant of quarry lease for excavation of mineral sand. The petitioner of the first petition applied for lease in respect of land survey No.176 admeasuring 10 Acres in the riverbed of Narmada at Village Pora, Taluka Jhagadia, Bharuch. The second petitioner of the other petition applied for the same purpose in respect of land bearing survey No.159 at same village. The applications dated 07th July, 2011 in both the cases came to be rejected by the Collector. They were rejected on similar grounds and considerations. The Collector recorded that the lands under demand were included in the block for the purpose of auction. It was recorded that opinion of the Mamlatdar was against granting the said land for excavation and Resolution was passed in the meeting of Gramsabha; the fees paid by the petitioner concerned was refunded and the case was closed. It is from the said orders passed in two cases, the Revision Applications as above were preferred and came to be dismissed by the Revisional Authority-the third respondent. The Revisional Authority while rejecting the Revision Applications observed that the application of the petitioner for quarry lease was made after 31st March, 2010 as it was made and found that Resolution dated 13th December, 2013 of the Mines & Minerals Department of the Government of Gujarat would apply, which provides for disposal of applications for grant of quarry leases by holding public auction.

Learned advocate submitted that the language of Rule 69 of the Rules did not permit issuance of such Resolution and adoption of such method for disposal of quarry leases. It was submitted that no opportunity was given to the petitioners in respect of raising a defence in relation to the said Resolution dated 13th December, 2013. It was next contended that the area demanded by the petitioner fell under the tribble zone, therefore different provisions would apply and the respondent authorities could not resort to or could not be allowed to advert to the process of auction for disposal.

The learned Assistant Government Pleader contended that the hearing was given to the petitioners and the petitioners had fullest opportunity to put-forth their case before the Revisional Authority, and that there was no breach of natural justice.

Decision : The High Court has referred to the Rules 69 & 70 of the Gujrat Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2010 and the decisions given in the cases Rameshbhai Ukkad Vasava v. State of Gujarat(AIR 2016 Guj.3031) ; Sulekhan Singh v. State of U.P.(AIR 2016 SC 228) and stated that the Revisional Authority is quite justified in following the policy cum- legal proposition in the Resolution and by giving effect thereto, negating the case of the petitioners to uphold the order of the Collector. The High Court has further stated that when the Revisional Authority has in the impugned orders rejected the request and prayer of the petitioners on the ground that applications of the petitioners for grant of quarry lease were after 31st March, 2010 and therefore they are governed by the policy stipulation as per

Resolution dated 13th December, 2013 providing for disposal by auction, the orders impugned are eminently just, legal and proper. Not only the Resolution dated 13th December, 2013, but policy of opting for method of auction in general has been accepted as ideal in eye of law for the purpose of disposal of quarry leases in the decisions referred to hereinabove.

Thus, the said two petitions were summarily dismissed by the Court for want of merits.

Petition dismissed.

7. State of Bihar and others, appellants v Ramesh Prasad Varma (Dead), Respondents, AIR 2017 Supreme Court 734, Vol.104, Part 1239, March, 2017.

Subject : Appeals filed against the decision given by the High Court that the realization of royalty at higher rates, as fixed by the notification dated 24.03.2001, was not realizable from the date prior to 26.12.2001.

Facts : The respondent had been granted a lease for 10 years from the year 1992 under the Bihar Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1972 (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") and on the expiry of the term thereof, the same had not been renewed. The lease had been accorded to win pebbles (gutika) from the basin of Pandai river. The rate of royalty, as was fixed by the Notification dated 17.08.1991 initially at the commencement of the lease, stood revised thereafter on 29.08.1994. Eventually, by the aforementioned Notification dated 24.03.2001 ushering in the amendment to the Rules, amongst others the rate of royalty for "boulder, gravel, shingles, which is used for making chips", was prescribed to be Rs.100/- per cubic meter. The notification of royalty was came into force from 01.04.2001. As the respondent was dealing in boulder, gravel, shingle which are used for making chips, the adjudicate understandably would be limited to these minerals. The demand notices dated 06.09.2001 and 29.11.2001 for the terms 01.04.2001 to July, 2001 and 01.07.2001 to October, 2001 for Rs. 28,80,079/- and Rs.16,75,353/-, followed in response whereto, the appellant deposited Rs.11 lakh and Rs.8.5 lakh correspondingly. At that stage, the Notification dated 26.12.2001 was issued by the Government of Bihar, Mines and Geological Department to the effect that boulder, gravel, shingle found in the Districts of Rohtas and Bettiah are capable of being made into stone chips, for which the royalty would be payable @ Rs.100/- per cubic meter, as fixed by the Notification dated 24.03.2001 issued under Rule 26 of the Rules. The said Notification mentioned that the districts mentioned therein had been identified on the basis of a report of a team of experts constituted for the purpose.

As with the issuance of the Notification dated 26.12.2001, the royalty @ Rs.100/- per cubic meter for the minerals concerned was sought to be realized by the State Government w.e.f 24.03.2001, the respondents separately assailed the demand notices unsuccessfully before the Departmental Appellate Authority, whereafter they laid the impeachment thereto before the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. The respondents, as a consequence, carried the challenge in appeal to the Division Bench, The Division Bench held

the view that once the rate of royalty had been enhanced, as effected by the Notification dated 24.03.2001, it was incumbent on the part of the concerned authorities also to notify the relevant areas therewith, so as to enable the lessees to pass on the liability to the purchasers in the transactions to follow. As, in absence of the identification of the areas by the Notification dated 23.04.2001, there was a possibility that the higher rates of royalty would not be applicable to them, the respondents might not have passed on such liability in their contemporary transactions. It was thus concluded that the realization of royalty at the higher rates, as fixed by the Notification dated 24.03.2001, was not realizable from the date prior to 26.12.2001.

The learned counsel for the appellant has emphatically urged that the Notification dated 26.12.2001 is apparently clarificatory in nature and only identifies the areas wherefrom the minerals involved, if extracted would attract the rate of royalty otherwise fixed by the Notification dated 24.03.2001, and that the High Court has ex facie erred in its interpretation thereof, the impugned decision has been endorsed on behalf of the respondents by pleading that the Rules by themselves being a delegated legislation, in absence of any provision in the parent statute authorizing realization of royalty with retrospective effect, the Notification dated 26.12.2001 cannot be given a retrospective effect on and from 24.3.2001 and thus, no interference by this Court is called for.

Decision : The Supreme Court has referred to the case *Zile Singh v. State of Haryana and others* (AIR 2004 SC 5100), Rule 26 and the two Notifications and held that the enhanced rate of royalty at Rs.100/- per cubic meter for boulder, gravel and shingle, which are used or are capable of being used for making chips would be realizable w.e.f. 01.04.2001 and axiomatically thus, the respondents are liable to discharge the demand, therefor, as raised in terms thereof. The respondents were fully aware of the amended rate of Rs. 100/- per cubic metre for the minerals extracted by them and thus the reasoning of the High Court that they might not have passed on the burden to their purchasers is without any factual basis and being clearly speculative is untenable. The High Court, in our view, had clearly erred in interpreting the relevant legal provisions and the Notification dated 26.12.2001 in particular in holding that the enhanced rates, as fixed by the Notification dated 24.03.2001, would be payable for the minerals involved, as extracted from the two areas, mentioned in the Notification dated 26.12.2001 on and from that date.

Thus, the Supreme Court has allowed the appeals and set aside the decision of the High Court.

Appeals allowed.

SECTION -2

Trend in Mining, Prospecting and Reconnaissance

2.1 TREND IN MINING

A. Mining Leases Granted

During the period under review, the information pertaining to the grant of 106 mining leases covering an area of about 12447.49 ha, was received. Of these, Limestone accounted for 30 mining leases followed by Siliceous earth 14, Iron ore 8, Manganese & Manganese ore (06 each), Bauxite, Limestone(cement grade) and Heavy Minerals Beach Sand (3 each), Limeshell 2 and Titaniferrous Magnetite & Gold (1 each). In addition to these 29 mining leases granted were in respect of two or more minerals in association.

Reviewing areawise, mining leases granted for Limestone covered an area of 3897.86 ha followed by Heavy Minerals Beach Sand 3333.60 ha ,Bauxite 412.85 ha, Limestone(cement grade) 234.54 ha, Manganese 231.17 ha, Iron ore 219.04 ha, Manganese ore 97.47 ha, Siliceous earth 65.85 ha, Gold 54.55 ha, Limeshell 8.08 ha and Titaniferrous Magnetite 1.21 ha. Mining leases granted in respect of Group of Minerals covered an area of 3891.27 ha.

Reviewing statewise number of mining leases and area granted in Maharashtra 21 with 915.97 followed by Madhya Pradesh 18 with 617.37 ha, Rajasthan 14 with 65.85 ha, Gujarat 13 with 4804.99 ha, Andhra Pradesh 10 with 4010.60 ha, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka 9 each with 1247.61 ha and 73.22 ha respectively, Meghalaya 5 with 248.05 ha, Telangana 4 with 204.90 ha Jharkhand 2 with 184.55 ha and Tamil Nadu 1 with 74.38 ha.

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	03	412.85
Gold	01	54.55
Heavy Mineral Beach Sand	03	3333.60
Iron ore	08	219.04
Limeshell	02	8.08
Limestone	30	3897.86
Limestone (cement grade)	03	234.54
Manganese	06	231.17
Manganese ore	06	97.47
Silicious earth	14	65.85
Titaniferrous Magnetite	01	1.21
Group of minerals	29	3891.27
Total	106	12447.49

Table – 1 B: Details of Mining Leases Granted

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Antimony Stibnite & Antimonite	Madhya Pradesh Damoh	Chouraiya	40.46	11.01.2017	50	Sharda Minerals Works, Nayak House, Rajneesh Vastralaya, Naya Bazar No. 2, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh.
Bauxite	Jharkhand Gumla	Amtipani Chirodih & Bahagada	130.00	10.01.2017	50	Sarvashree Mineral & Minerals Ltd, Gumla, Jharkhand
Bauxite	Madhya Pradesh Satna	Jariyari	4.00	21.12.2016	50	Jeevan Lime Chemicals Pvt. Ltd, PO. Maihar, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh.
Bauxite	Maharashtra Kolhapur	Shirale	278.85	11.01.2017	50	Anand Mines Product (P) Ltd., 464, "E" Ward, MRF Building, Old Bridge Shahupuri, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
Gold	Jharkhand Seraikela Kharsawan	Lava	54.55	04.01.2017	50	Manmohan Minerals Industries Pvt. Ltd., Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
Heavy Minerals Beach Sands	Andhra Pradesh Srikakulam	Kuppili, Koyyam, Dharmavaram & Bonthala keduru	1000.00	11.01.2017	50	APMDC Ltd., Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
Heavy Minerals Beach Sands	Andhra Pradesh Srikakulam	Kuppili, Koyyam, Dharmavaram & Bonthala keduru	1049.60	11.01.2017	50	APMDC Ltd., Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh
Heavy Mineral Beach Sands	Andhra Pradesh Srikakulam	Kuppili, Kotcherla Kollibhimavaram, Jirupalem, Kotapalem, Ramchandrapuram, Tekkali, Narayangajapathirajapuram & Mentada	1284.00	11.01.2017	50	APMDC Ltd., Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Dabhol	10.75	11.01.2017	50	Rare Minerals, No. 25 th Floor, KRM Centre, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031, Tamil Nadu
Ilmenite, Magnetite Garnet Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Dandevadi	14.00	11.01.2017	50	Rare Minerals, No. 25 th Floor, KRM Centre, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031, Tamil Nadu.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Gaokhadi	67.50	11.01.2017	50	Indian Garnet Sand Co. (P) 1/580, 7 th Street, Veerabathran Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Medhavakkam , Chennai – 600 010, Tamil Nadu
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Kalbadevi	54.00	11.01.2017	50	Indian Garnet Sand Co. (P) 1/580, 7 th Street, Veerabathran Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Medhavakkam , Chennai – 600 010 , Tamil Nadu.
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Kolthare	17.00	11.01.2017	50	Rare Minerals, No. 2,5 th Floor, KRM Centre, Harrington Road,Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031, Tamil Nadu.
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Pawas	4.75	11.01.2017	50	Rare Minerals, No. 2,5 th Floor, KRM Centre, Harrington Road,Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031, Tamil Nadu.
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Pethpurnagad	45.00	11.01.2017	50	Indian Garnet Sand Co. (P) 1/580, 7 th Street, Veerabathran Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Medhavakkam Chennai – 600 010, Tamil Nadu.
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Randpar	4.00	11.01.2017	50	Rare Minerals, No. 2,5 th Floor, KRM Centre, Harrington Road,Chetpet, Chennai – 600 031, Tamil Nadu.
Ilmenite, Magnetite Garnet Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Reel	15.60	11.01.2017	50	Indian Garnet Sand Co. (P) 1/580, 7 th Street, Veerabathran Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Medhavakkam , Chennai – 600 010, Tamil Nadu
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Undi	21.0	11.01.2017	50	Indian Garnet Sand Co. (P) 1/580, 7 th Street, Veerabathran Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Medhavakkam , Chennai – 600 010, Tamil Nadu
Ilmenite, Magnetite, Garnet & Zircon	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Warvade	90.00	11.01.2017	50	Indian Garnet Sand Co. (P) 1/580, 7 th Street, Veerabathran Nagar, Mambakkam Main Road, Medhavakkam , Chennai – 600 010, Tamil Nadu
Iron ore	Chhattisgarh North Bastar	Durg Kondul	66.00	05.01.2017	50	M/s Pushp Steel & Mining Pvt. Ltd., 751, Ground Floor, Quandevelan Street, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi – 110 006

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Iron ore	Chhattisgarh North Bastar	Hahaladi	78.90	06.01.2017	50	Monet Ispat & Energy Ltd., Monet Marg, Mandir Hasoud, Distt. Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
Iron ore	Karnataka Chitradurga	Dindadahalli	2.47	06.01.2017	50	Aane Mines & Minerals Partner: B.M. Neelakantagowda, S/o B M Mallikarjunagowda, D.No. 33/17, 1 st Cross, S N Pet, Bellary, Karnataka.
Iron ore	Karnataka Bellary	Jaisingpur	38.70	28.12.2016	50	Bellary Steels & Alloys Ltd., Ananthpur Road, Bellary – 583 101, Karnataka.
Iron ore	Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur	Ghughrikalan	08.26	02.01.2017	50	Anand Mining Corporation, Pathak Ward, Bhatta Mohalla, Katni, Madhya Pradesh.
Iron ore	Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur	Ghughrikalan	08.59	02.01.2017	50	Nirmala Minerals, Pathak Ward, Bhatta Mohalla, Katni, Madhya Pradesh.
Iron ore	Madhya Pradesh Katni	Pahadi	11.56	06.01.2017	50	Maa Kali Iron and Steel Co., Pvt. Ltd., 84, Maker Chambers – III Nariman Point, Mumbai, MH
Iron ore	Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur	Silua & Jhansi	4.56	29.12.2016	50	Khatri Minerals & Mining Co., 365, South Motinala, Hanumantal, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
Iron ore & Manganese ore	Karnataka Chitradurga	Kenkere	4.86	29.12.2016	50	Smt. Mariam Mohammed Siddiqua Patel, W/o Y.H. Athaur Rehman, T-5, Aishwarya Apartments, Rest House Road, Bengaluru – 560 001, Karnataka.
Limeshell	Karnataka Udupi	Anaguli	4.04	28.12.2016	50	Sri Shaila Limeshell & Grit Industries, No. 04,179, P O. Manur Kota, Distt. Udupi, Karnataka.
Limeshell	Karnataka Udupi	Kundapura	4.04	28.12..2016	50	Padmashree Limeshell, U. Radhakrishna, Vill. Uppinakuduru, Tah. Kundapura, Distt. Udupi, Karnataka.
Limestone	Andhra Pradesh Kurnool	Venkatapuram	4.99	21.02.2017	50	S.Kalavanthamma W/o Shri S.Venkata Rami Reddy, H.No.4/6, Palkur(V) Banaganapalle(M), Distt Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
Limestone	Andhra Pradesh Guntur	Inuparajupalli & Kachavaram	283.58	04.01.2017	50	Shree Cement Ltd., Bangur Nagar, Post Box No 33, Beawar - 305 901, Rajasthan.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Limestone	Andhra Pradesh Kurnool	Palkur	149.39	16.12.2016	50	Sree Jayajothi Cements Pvt. Ltd., 9 th Floor, Block – 3, My Home Hub, Madhapur, Hyderabad – 500 081, Andhra Pradesh.
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Jagdalpur	Badanji	04.09	26.10.2016	50	Smt. Kamli Bai Kashyap, W/o Shri Maddaram Kashyap, Gayatri Traders, Near Ambika Saw Mill, Chitrakot Road, Dalpat Sagar Ward, Jagdalpur, Distt. Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Balloudabazar	Dhandhani	35.86	03.01.2017	50	Emami Cement Ltd., Niraj Nikunj, Behind State Bank of India, Civil Lines, Garden Square, Balloudabazar, Distt. Balloudabazar - Bhatapara, Chhattisgarh.
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Balloudabazar	Gaitra Paousri, Bharsela, Bharseli	278.14	02.01.2017	50	Monet Ispat & Energy Ltd., Monet Marg, Mandir Hasoud, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Bilaspur	Godadih	120.31	05.01.2017	50	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., Kharsiya Road, Distt. Raigarh, Chhattisgarh
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Balloudabazar	Parsabheder & Kokdi	159.66	07.01.2017	50	Nico Industries Ltd, F-8, Industrial Area, Hingna Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440 018
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Balloudabazar	Pousori & Guma	252.55	10.01.2017	50	Monet Ispat & Energy Ltd., Monet Marg, Mandir Hasoud, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
Limestone	Chhattisgarh Durg	Semriya Dhikudia, Nandani Khundani	252.10	26.10.2016	50	J.K.Laxmi Cement Ltd., Vill. Malpurikhurd, Khasadih, Post Ahivara, Tah. Dhamdha, Distt. Durg, Chhattisgarh.
Limestone	Gujarat Amreli	Babarkot	64.04	08.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd., "Vill. Babarkot, Tah. Jafarabad, Distt. Amreli, Gujarat.
Limestone	Gujarat Bhavnagar	Bambhor & Talli	193.32	08.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd., "B" Wing, Ahura Centre, 2 nd Floor, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai – 400 093, Maharashtra.
Limestone	Gujarat Jamnagar (Now Devbhumi Dwarka)	Dheber Bhaveswar	67.17	08.01.2017	50	Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd., Post -Digvijaygram – 361 140, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Limestone	Gujarat Bhavnagar	Kotda, Dayal, Kalsar	632.00	08.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd., "B" Wing, Ahura Centre, 2 nd Floor, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai – 400 093, Maharashtra.
Limestone	Gujarat Bhavnagar	Methala, Zanzmer, Madhuvan, Rajpara, Relia	499.72	08.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd., "B" Wing, Ahura Centre, 2 nd Floor, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E), Mumbai – 400 093, Maharashtra
Limestone	Gujarat Jamnagar (Now Devbhumi Dwarka)	Mokhan	6.64	08.01.2017	50	Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd, PO Digvijaygram – 361 140, Jamnagar, Gujarat.
Limestone	Gujarat Kachchh	Nani Ber	300.69	08.01.2017	50	ABG Cement Limited., 201-203, Zodiac Plaza, Nr. Nabard Vihar, H L Commerce College Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009 Gujarat.
Limestone	Gujarat Jamnagar (Now Devbhumi Dwarka)	Pachhtardi	18.03	08.01.2017	50	Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd., Post- Digvijaygram – 361 140, Jamnagar, Gujarat.
Limestone	Karnataka Bagalkot	Dadanahatti	4.95	07.01.2017	50	Anand Minerals, Near Fort, Old Doddanavar Compound, P B Road, Belgaum, Karnataka.
Limestone	Karnataka Bagalkot	Naganapur	8.10	26.12.2016	50	Shri Nandi Mining Company, Sector No. 63 –A , Plot No. 114-S, Navanagar, Bagalkot, Karnataka.
Limestone	Madhya Pradesh Satna	Bhadanpur Dakshin Patti	25.22	03.01.2017	50	Om Prakash Rai, Katni Road, P.O. Maihar, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh.
Limestone	Madhya Pradesh Satna	Judwani Biharganj Dengraha, Hinouti	258.86	23.12.2016	50	M/s Jaiprakash Associates Ltd., Post J.P. Nagar, Distt. Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.
Limestone	Madhya Pradesh Satna	Narora	10.90	29.09.2016	50	Sada Construction, Rai Bhavan, Katni Road, Maihar, Distt. Satna, Madhya Pradesh.
Limestone	Madhya Pradesh Dhar	Sitapuri	4.50	29.12.2016	50	Harish Khandelwal, 138/G, Vallabh bhai Patel Marg, Ward No. 3, Main Dhar Road, Manawar, Distt. Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.
Limestone	Meghalaya East Jaintia Hills	Lumshnong	70.00	04.01.2017	50	Star Cement Ltd., Vill. Lumshnong, Distt. East Jaintia Meghalaya.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Limestone	Meghalaya East Jaintia Hills	South Khliehjari, Thangskai	31.05	10.01.2017	50	M/s Meghalaya Cement Ltd, Vill. Thangskai, Distt. East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.
Limestone	Meghalaya East Jaintia Hills	Umsoo Mootang, Thangskai	4.90	14.12.2016	50	M/s Adhunik Cement Limited Vill. Thangskai, Distt. East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.
Limestone	Meghalaya East Jaintia Hills	Umsoo Mootang, Thangskai	128.52	14.12.2016	50	Adhunik Cement Limited Vill. Thangskai, Distt. East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.
Limestone	Meghalaya East Jaintia Hills	Wahpynkon, Lumshnong	13.58	04.01.2017	50	Star Cement Ltd., Vill. Lumshnong, Distt. East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.
Limestone	Telangana Suryapet (erstwhile Nalgonda)	Chintala palem	15.00	11.01.2017	50	Anjani Portland Cements Ltd., Vill. Chintalapalem, Post Gudimalkapuram, Mandal Mellacheruvu, Distt. Suryapet – 508 246 Telangana.
Limestone (Cement Grade)	Andhra Pradesh Kurnool	Petnikota	29.70	05.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd, A.P. Cement Works, Bhogasamudram – 515 413, Tah.Tadipatri, Distt. Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh.
Limestone (Cement Grade)	Andhra Pradesh Kurnool	Thummala penta	90.47	05.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd., A.P. Cement Works, Bhogasamudram – 515 413, Distt. Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh.
Limestone (Cement Grade)	Andhra Pradesh Kurnool	Thummala penta	114.37	05.01.2017	50	Ultratech Cement Ltd., A.P. Cement Works, Bhogasamudram – 515 413, Tadipatri Mandal, Distt. Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh.
Limestone & Dolomite	Karnataka Belagavi	Budnikurda	4.85	28.12.2016	50	Smt. Meena S. Lakhotia, Sy.No. 15, Allan agar, Begnol Road, Distt.Koppal, Karnataka.
Limestone & Dolomite	Telangana Mancherial (erstwhile Adilabad)	Metapally	39.51	11.01.2017	50	T. Satyanarayana, H.No.13-1-17, Babu Camp, Bellampally, Distt. Asifabad Telangana, Pin - 504 251,
Limestone & Dolomite	Telangana Mancherial (erstwhile Adilabad)	Metapally	118.91	11.01.2017	50	Smt. T. Sharda, C/o Sri T. Satyanarayana, H.No.13-1-17, Babu Camp, Bellampaly, Distt. Asifabad Telangana Pin – 504 251

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Limestone & Dolomite	Telangana Mancherial (erstwhile Adilabad)	Nagepally	31.48	11.01.2017	50	T. Satyanarayana, H.No.13-1-17, Babu Camp, Bellampally, Distt. Asifabad - 504 251, Telangana
Limestone & Dolomite	Maharashtra Yavatmal	Adegaon	24.87	11.01.2017	50	Pradip Madhusadan Nand, Nand Chambers, Convent Road, Kedia Plots, Akola – 444 005 Maharashtra.
Limestone & Dolomite	Maharashtra Yavatmal	Bahilampur	72.88	11.01.2017	50	JLD Cement Ltd., REGUS, 5 th Floor, Landmark Building, Wardha Road, Ramdas Peth, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
Limestone & Dolomite	Maharashtra Yavatmal	Majra	24.60	11.01.2017	50	Smt. M.M. Bardia, Mauja Rajura, Tah. Wani. Distt. Yavatmal, Maharashtra.
Limestone & Dolomite	Maharashtra Yavatmal	Adegaon	35.87	11.01.2017	50	Linkson Coal and Minerals Pvt. Ltd., 4 th Floor, Poonam Plaza, Palm Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur, 440 001, Maharashtra.
Limestone & Dolomite	Maharashtra Yavatmal	Bahilampur	47.12	11.01.2017	50	Raja Khanderao Deshmukh Palshikar, 5, Parikh Sankul, Kailash Nagar, Nanded, Maharashtra.
Limestone & Marl	Gujarat Bhavnagar	Padhiarka & Doliya	332.24	08.01.2017	50	Nirma Limited, Nirma House, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad – 380 009, Gujarat.
Limestone & Marl	Gujarat Amreli	Rohisa, Balana, Vadhera	891.71	10.01.2017	50	Heidelberg Cement India Limited, 9 th Floor, Infinity Tower “C”, DLF Cyber City, Phase II Gurgaon, Haryana – 122 002
Limestone & Marl	Gujarat Bhavnagar	Vangar & Madhia	612.13	08.01.2017	50	Nirma Limited, Nirma House, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad – 380 009, Gujarat.
Limestone & Marl	Gujarat Bhavnagar	Gujarada, Dudheri & Dudhala	681.62	08.01.2017	50	Nirma Limited, Nirma House, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad – 380 009, Gujarat.
Limestone & Marl	Gujarat Gir Somnath	Lodhva	505.68	18.11.2016	50	Ambuja Cement Ltd., Ambuja Nagar, Tah. Kodinar, Distt. Gir Somnath, Gujarat.
Limestone & Marl	Tamil Nadu Ariyalur	Ottakovil	74.38	15.12.2016	50	Ultratech Cements Limited, Cement Division, South Post Reddipalayam, Distt Ariyalur, 621 704 Tamil Nadu.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Fulchur	4.95	11.01.2017	50	Anish P Trivedi, S/o Late Shri Prafullachandra Trivedi, Main Road, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Ghondi	43.30	20.12.2016	50	Patric Dhanraj, Om Kutir, In front of Dr. Sagar Nursing Homes, Civil Lines, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492 001.
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Miragpur	9.91	19.12.2016	50	Vandana Energy & Steel Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 10/36, Near Rajbhavan, Civil Lines, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Miragpur	15.00	11.01.2017	50	Special Blast Ltd., Nathani Building, Shastri Chowk, G E Road, Raipur, MP.
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Miragpur	130.00	11.01.2017	50	Anik Industries Ltd., 201, Mahakosh House, 7/5 South Tukoganj, Nath Mandir Road, Indore, MP.
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Mohgaonghat	28.01	11.01.2017	50	Arpan Ferro Alloys, Gondia Road, Kosmi, Distt. Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.
Manganese ore	Madhya Pradesh Jhabua	Negdiya	4.99	29.12.2016	50	Lalaji Minerals, Prop. Nirmal Agarwal, Ranapur, Distt. Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh.
Manganese	Madhya Pradesh Balaghat	Ramrama Sonewani	4.30	11.01.2017	50	A P Trivedi Sons, Main Road, Distt. Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Nagpur	Bhandarbodi	50.00	11.01.2017	50	The Central India Mining and Marketing Copon.(CIMMCO) A-1, Indra Sagar, R. N. Tagore Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440 001. Maharashtra.
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Nagpur	Kachurvahi	6.71	11.01.2017	50	Veet Rag Homes Pvt. Ltd., Ganesh Phadanvis Bhavan, Near Trikoni Park, Dharampeth, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Nagpur	Kavatha	26.67	11.01.2017	50	Rachna Ashish Belorkar, G-8, Aarohi Apartment, Bharat Nagar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Nagpur	Pali	4.80	11.01.2017	50	Anil M Gupta, At Post Khapa, Tah. Saoner, Distt. Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Contd.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Quartz, Feldspar, Vermiculite & Mica	Andhra Pradesh Nellore	Podalakur	4.50	11.01.2017	50	A. Sai Babaiah, 24/2-663, Saraswathi Nagar, Dargamitta, Nellore, S P S R Distt. Nellore Andhra Pradesh.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Bhiyansar	4.88	21.12.2016	50	Avinash Vyas, S/o Shri Ramesh Chandra Vyas, B – 9, Shastri Nagar, Jodhpur – 342 003, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Dharvi (Netado KI Dhani	4.75	21.12.2016	50	Nainaram, S/o Shri Punmaram Chauhan, Jatiya Colony, Hospital Road, Bhinmal, Distt. Jalore, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Dharvi (Netado KI Dhani	4.88	21.12.2016	50	Smt. Prakash Kanwar, W/o Shri Jitendra Singh, Vill & Post B 214, Nityanand Nagar, B-Gandhi Path, Vaishali Nagar, Ward No. 13, Distt. Jaipur, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Gunga	4.79	21.12.2016	50	Smt. Kalavati, W/o Shri Lalit Kumar Agarwal, 59, Agrawallow ka Mohalla, Gunga, Tah. Shiv, Distt. Barmer, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Jasse ka Gaon	4.50	21.12.2016	50	Smt. Indu Devi, W/o Shri Rameshwar Parik, Hudo ki Dhani, Tah. Bayatu, Distt. Bamer – 344 001, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Lalso ki Dhani	4.40	21.12.2016	50	Devi Singh Rathore, S/o Shri Jivan Singh Rathod, Balai, Tah. Shiv, Distt. Barmer, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Mandai	4.90	21.12.2016	50	Yogesh Vyas, S/o Shri Ramesh Chandra Vyas, B – 9, Shastri Nagar, Jodhpur – 342 003, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Mandai	4.90	21.12.2016	50	Seema Vyas, W/o Shri Yogesh Vyas, B – 9, Shastri Nagar, Jodhpur – 342 003, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Mandai	4.90	21.12.2016	50	Punit Agarwal, S/o Shri Purushottam Agarwal, 421, Milk Main Colony, Gali No. 4, Ward No. 7, Jodhpur - 342 003, Rajasthan.

Contd.

Table 1 B (Concl.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Grant Order	Period in years	Name & Address
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Maukhab (Ramdev Nagar)	4.25	21.12.2016	50	Babulal, S/o Shri Hemaram Mali, Vill. & Post Aakli, Tah. Shiv, Distt. Barmer- 344 001, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Barmer	Moukhab (Amarsingh ki Dhani)	4.90	21.12.2016	50	Narayan Singh, S/o Shri Jalam Singh, Vill & Post Budha Tala, Bhiyad, Tah. Shiv, Distt. Barmer – 344 001, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Sajit	4.55	21.12.2016	50	Eshwar Singh, S/o Shri Magan Singh Rathod, Jyani, PO. Kathoti, Tah. Jayal, Distt. Nagaur – 341 001, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Sajit	4.36	21.12.2016	50	Ramswaroop Meghwal, S/o Shri Parasram Meghwal, 359, Gotan, Tah. Medta, Distt. Nagaur, 341 510, Rajasthan.
Siliceous Earth	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Sajit	4.89	23.12.2016	50	Balvir Singh Rathore, S/o Shri Magan Singh Rathore, Vill. Jyani, PO Katoti, Tah. Jayal, Distt. Nagaur – 341 001, Rajasthan.
Titaniferrous Magnetite	Karnataka Hassan	Masagana halli	1.21	10.01.2017	50	C B Shankar, S/o Shri C. R. Basappa, Nuggehalli – 573 131, Tah.Channarayapatna, Distt. Hassan, Karnataka.

B. Mining Leases Executed

Table – 2 : Details of Mining Leases Executed

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Execution/Registration	Period in Years	Name & Address
No such information is received during the period.						

C. Mining Lease Period Extended

During the period under review, the information pertaining to the extension of Lease period for 22 Mining Leases covering an area of about 674.02 hectares was received. Of these, Dolomite accounted for 11 mining leases followed by Limestone 3, Manganese ore 2, and Bauxite & Ochre 1 mining lease each. The extension of mining leases period in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals) were granted for 4 minerals.

Reviewing areawise, Limestone accounted for 260.54 ha, followed by Bauxite 88.95 ha, Manganese ore 47.22 ha, Dolomite 46.56 ha and Ochre 2.27 ha . The mining lease period extended in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals) were covered 228.48 ha.

Reviewing statewise, number of mining lease period extended in Telangana were 2 with an area about 257.04 ha, followed by Rajasthan 1 with 199.84 ha, Maharashtra 4 with 147.52 ha, Madhya Pradesh 14 with 62.04 ha and Andhra Pradesh 1 with 7.58 ha.

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

**Table 3A: Details of Mining Leases Period Extended
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	No.of Mining Leases Extended	Area in ha
Bauxite	1	88.95
Dolomite	11	46.56
Limestone	03	260.54
Manganese ore	02	47.22
Ochre	01	02.27
Group of Minerals	04	228.48
Total	22	674.02

Table -3 B : Details of Mining Leases Period Extended.

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Extension order	Date up to which lease period extended.	Name & Address
Bauxite, Laterite, Ochre & Clay	Madhya Pradesh Rewa	Chitti Jagir	9.71	22.10.2016	06.10.2059	Jadish Dhaneriya, 119/2, Kumavat Pura Juni Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
Bauxite	Maharashtra Ratnagiri	Velas & Sakhri	88.95	3.12.2016	31.3.2020	Mrs. Sushilabai S. Dhanawatay, 3 rd Floor, 278, Jeevan Udyog Building, D.N. Road, Mumbai,400 001,Maharashtra
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhatiyatola	2.20	14.12.2016	14.02.2043	Rajkumar Agrawal, Mandala, Madhya Pradesh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhatiyatola	2.82	14.12.2016	04.01.2045	Salasar Minerals Prop. Shri Navin Kumar Kariwal, Raipur,Chhattisgarh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhatiyatola	4.70	16.01.2017	29.06.2061	Hanuman Mines and Minerals Pvt Ltd. 212 Arihant Complex,Station Road Raipur,Chhattisgarh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhatiyatola	1.41	16.01.2017	29.06.2045	Anjan Harlaka, Virgon,Raipur,Chhattisgarh
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhatiyatola	2.83	02.02.2017	10.06.2047	Mahavir Minerals, Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhatiyatola	2.26	14.12.2016	21.02.2044	Salasar Minerals Prop. Shri Navin Kumar Kariwal, Raipur,Chhattisgarh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhawartal	4.41	18.10.2016	2.11.2042	Smt. Shiidevi Jha, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Bhawartal	2.43	4.11.2016	4.1.2045	Kamlesh Mohan Zikram, Khairi, Distt.-Mandla, Madhya Pradesh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Katamaal	1.42	14.12.2016	04.01.2045	Smt. Vidhya Soni, Brahamni Banjar, Distt. Mandla, Madhya Pradesh.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Mugdara	19.22	14.12.2016	24.05.2024	O.C. L. Company Private Ltd, Sundar Nagar, Odisha.
Dolomite	Madhya Pradesh Mandla	Mugdara	2.86	26.11.2016	05.11.2047	Precious Minerals, Prop.Smt Shail Pandey, Padmanabhpur,Durg, Chhattisgarh.
Kyanite, Sillimanite, Corundum Dumoretierite & Pyrophyllite	Maharashtra Bhandara	Sakhara	11.35	8.9.2016	10.1.2051	Pavri Kyanite Mines, Cimmco House,A-1, Indrasagar,R.Tagore Marg,Civil Lines, Nagpur-440 001 Maharashtra.
Lead Zinc & Associated Mineral	Rajasthan Rajsamand	Sindesarikhurd	199.84	21.12.2016	19.3.2049	Hindustan Zinc Ltd, Yashad Bhawan, Udaipur,Rajasthan.

Contd.

Table 3 B(concl.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Extension order	Date up to which lease period extended.	Name & Address
Limestone	Madhya Pradesh Dhar	Ghursal	3.50	16.11.2016	19.9.2030	Sharad S/o Late Shri Sitaram Agarwal , A-16-17, Navlakha Complex, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
Limestone	Telangana Nalgonda	Mahankaligudem	73.93	20.9.2016	8.2.2050	Deccan Cements Ltd. Bhavanipuram, Post Janpahad, Distt. -Nalgonda, Telangana.
Limestone	Telangana Nalgonda	Ravipahad	183.11	21.02.2017	27.12.2063	Deccan Cements Ltd. Bhavanipuram, Post Janpahad, Distt. -Nalgonda, Telangana.
Managanese & Quartz	Andhra Pradesh Vizianagaram	Pedanadipalli	07.58	3.11.2016	30.3.2023	Pramod Bansilalji Kacholia, R/o Yashoda Old Radhakisan Plot Behind Carmel School, Post-Akola Maharashtra.
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Nagpur	Chargaon	0.97	19.11.2016	31.3.2020	Moil Limited, 1-A, MOIL Bhavan, Katol Road, Nagpur,440013,Maharashtra
Manganese Ore	Maharashtra Bhandara	Balapur	46.25	06.02.2017	03.04.2028	Moil Limited, 1-A, MOIL Bhavan, Katol Road, Nagpur,440 013,Maharashtra.
Ochre	Madhya Pradesh Umariya	Lodha	2.27	20.01.2017	26.01.2048	Harsh Minerals Prop. Shri Sharda Prasad Bansal,Jaitwara,Distt.Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

D. Mining Lease Period 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 9 mining leases covering an area of about 2149.02 hectares was received. Of these, 2 leases are accounted for Limestone (cement grade). The extension of leases period executed in respect of two or more minerals in association (Group of Minerals) were 7.

Reviewing area wise, Limestone (Cement Grade) accounted for 2078.42 ha and the mining lease period executed for two or more minerals (Group of Minerals) accounted for 70.60 ha area.

The extension of leases period for all the 09 mining leases were executed in Rajasthan state only.

The mineral wise number of mining lease period executed after grant of extension of mining lease period together with lease area are given in Tables 4A & 4B.

**Table 4A : 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)	2	2078.42
Group of Minerals	7	70.60
Total	9	2149.02

Table 4 B– Mining Lease Period Executed after Grant of Extension of Mining Lease Period.

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Execution/ Registration	Date up to which lease period extended.	Name & Address
Feldspar, Quartz	Rajasthan Ajmer	Ringnote	4.09	21.09.2016 24.12.2016	02.07.2059	Smt Ramkanya, W/o Shri Ramsingh Regar C/o Shri Dinesh Uday, A-215,M.D.Colony,Naka Madar,Ajmer,Rajasthan.
Feldspar, Quartz	Rajasthan Ajmer	Devpur	4.18	03.07.2015 01.12.2016	10.7.2063	Parmeshwar Gurjar S/o Shri Ramnarayan Gurjar, Vill. Post Aloli, Teh. Kekdi, Distt. Ajmer Rajasthan.
Feldspar, Quartz, Mica	Rajasthan Ajmer	Kaleda	4.99	21.09.2016 07.12.2016	25.4.2044	Smt. Sita Heda, W/o Shri Gulab Chand Heda, Sadar Bazar Kekdi, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan.
Lime Stone (cement-grade)	Rajasthan Chittorgarh	Sitaramji ka Kheda	602	01.04.2016 22.04.2016	07.07.2043	Lafarj India private Ltd. Vill. Bhawaliya, Teh. Nimbaheda, Distt. Chittorgarh, Rajasthan

Contd.

Table – 4B (Concl.)

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Execution/Registration	Date up to which lease period extended.	Name & Address
Limestone (cement-grade)	Rajasthan Chittorgarh	Arania Joshi, Mota, Shahbad	1476.42	01.04.2016 22.04.2016	13.05.2060	Lafarg India Private Ltd. Vill. Bhawalia, Teh. Nimbaheda, Distt. Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.
Quartz Feldspar Quartz	Rajasthan Ajmer	Rambadi	4.00	14.10.2015 15.10.2015	21.11.2060	Harendra Singh Gurjar, S/o Shri Mahendra Singh, Kota Road Baipas Nasirabad, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan.
Quartz, Feldspar Quartz	Rajasthan Ajmer	Chat	4.00	14.10.2015 14.10.2015	10.01.2058	Hemendra Singh Gurjar S/o Shri Mahendra Singh, R/o Vir, Gurjar, Daurata Krishi Farm, Kota Road, Nasirabad, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan.
Quartz, Feldspar Quartz	Rajasthan Ajmer	Dhal	4.34	14.10.2015 14.10.2015	10.01.2058	Sanjiv Kumar Sethi, S/o Shri Sumer Chand Sethi, Post Sanod, Teh. Nasirabad, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan
Silicasand & Quartz	Rajasthan Dausa	Rambas	45.00	24.08.2016	05.03.2040	Girraj Mining Pvt. Ltd., 308, Aishwarya Complex, Civil Lines ,Ajmer Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

E. Mining Leases Renewed**Table-5: 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
No such information is received during the period.						

F. Mining Leases Revoked**Table -6: Details of Mining leases Revoked**

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Revoke	Period in Years	Name & Address
No such information is received during the period.						

G. Mining Leases Determined

**Table: 7– Details of Mining Leases Determined
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	No.of Mining Leases Revoked	Area in ha
No such information is received during the period.		

H. Mining Leases Surrendered

Table – 8: 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.					

I. Mining Leases Terminated

Table – 9: 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.					

J. Mining Leases Transferred

Table – 10A: 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		
No such information is received during the period.							

Table – 10B: 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		

K. Mines Opened**Table – 11: Details of Mines Opened**

Mineral	State/District	Name of Mine	Village	Date of Opening	Area in ha	Name & Address

L. Mines Temporarily Discontinued**Table – 12: Details of Mines Temporarily Discontinued**

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

M. Mines Reopened**Table – 13: Details of Mines Reopened**

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

N. Mines Abandoned**Table – 14: 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.							

2.2 TREND IN PROSPECTING

A. Prospecting Licences Granted

**Table – 15 : Prospecting Licences Granted
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	State / District	Village	Area in sq.km	Date on which licences Granted	Period in Years	Name & Address
No such information is received during the period.						

B. Prospecting Licences Executed

Table – 16 : Details of Prospecting Licences Executed

Village	Mineral	State / District	Area in ha	Date of Execution	Period in Years	Name & Address
No such information is received during the period.						

C. Prospecting Licences Renewed

During the period under review, information pertaining to the renewal of 2 prospecting licences for Manganese ore covering an area of 145.56 ha was received.

Reviewing statewise, number of prospecting licences and area renewed in Maharashtra was 2 with 145.56 ha.

The mineralwise, number of prospecting licences renewed together with area and details of prospecting licences renewed are given in Tables 17 A & 17 B, respectively.

Table –17A: Mineral wise details of Prospecting Licences Renewed

Mineral	No.of Mining Leases Renewed	Area in ha
Manganese ore	02	145.56
Total	02	145.56

Table –17B: Details of Prospecting Licences Renewed

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Renewal	Period in Years	Name & Address
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Bhandara	Asalpani	61.28	27.12.2016	03	Manganese Ore India Ltd (MOIL), MOIL Bhavan,1 A Katol Raod Nagpur,440013,Maharashtra
Manganese ore	Maharashtra Bhandara	Garkabhonga	84.28	22.12.2016	3	Manganese Ore India Ltd(MOIL), MOIL Bhavan,1 A Katol Raod Nagpur,440 013,Maharashtra.

D. Prospecting Licences Revoked

Table – 18 Details of Prospecting Licences Revoked

Mineral	State/District	Village	Area in ha	Date of Revoke	Name & Address
No such information is received during the period.					

2.3 TREND IN RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS (R.P.)

Table – 19: 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.				

SECTION – 3

Production of Mineral-based Products

Table – 20: Production of Mineral-based Products during October 2016 to arch 2017

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

Mineral-Based Products	Unit	←-----Months-----→	Cumulative
Information is not available.			

SECTION – 4

Highlights

A. Domestic

Good response to mineral blocks auction: Mines Secretary

As many as nine mineral blocks on auction, including two from Karnataka iron ore plots, had received good response, Said Shri Balvinder Kumar, Secretary of Ministry of Mines.

Bids for the first iron ore plot in Karnataka were 90 per cent above the reserve price. In the second mine, the bid was almost 100 per cent over the reserve price, he said, adding that the government will be getting above ₹ 25,000 crore by way of royalties over a period of 50 years. “A total of seven blocks are also being put up for auctions by the state government of Karnataka and we expect extremely good response in these seven mineral areas,” Kumar said, while inaugurating an ASSOCHAM conference on ‘India Mining Summit 2016’.

(Business Line, dated 05.10.2016)

Steel imports dip, Centre retains minimum price

The government has announced the continuation of minimum import price on 66 steel items, providing a breather to the domestic industry, which has already got relief through decreased imports this fiscal.

“Even though the Indian Steel Association (ISA) had requested six months’ extension, the continuation of MIP for two months will also aid in strengthening India’s domestic steel market and reducing the distress of companies through introduction of fair play in competition,” Sanak Mishra, ISA secretary general said.

(The Hindu, dated 6.10.2016)

India’s first diamond mineral block auctioned in Panna district

In a first, a diamond mineral block in Madhya Pradesh's district Panna having precious stone deposit worth nearly ₹106 crore has gone under the hammer.

"Hatupur Diamond mineral block was successfully auctioned on October 5, in district Panna". According to Secretary, Mineral Resources, Manohar Dube, "Diamond mineral worth ₹106 crore is available in the Hatupur block."

Bansal Construction Works emerged as the preferred bidder by submitting the highest final price offer after two rounds of competitive bidding.

(The Hitavada, dated 8.10.2016)

Satellite-based surveillance system launched against illegal mining

Union Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Shri Piyush Goyal launched a satellite-based Mining Surveillance System (MSS), one of the first-of-its-kind in the world, to detect illegal mining of major minerals in the country.

The “participatory” vigilance system has been developed by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) in coordination with Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geo-Informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the Digital India programme. It involves detection of illegal mining within 500 meters of existing major mineral mines, numbering about 3,843 by using CARTOSAT and United States Geological Survey (USGS). A specially developed mobile app can be used by anyone to upload information about illegal mining activity, which can be then reported to officials concerned.

Addressing media persons through teleconference, Shri Goyal said, “MSS will put a leash on illegal mining by leveraging space technology and will also bring about transparency.”

(The Indian Express, dated 16.10.2016)

JNARDDC, VNIT likely to develop aluminium alloy for Railway coaches

To turn ‘Make in India’ into a reality in Indian Railways, Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR) is planning to join hands with Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC) and Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) to develop an aluminium alloy for railway coaches. The alloy will replace heavyweight steel coaches. Indian Railways was working on possible use of light alloy to manufacture railway coaches and wagons but it was tough to find out replacement of steel. Now, experts have agreed to develop aluminium alloy as a replacement and JNARDDC is the only institution that is working on research of aluminium alloy. “Aluminium is a sensitive material and growth of aluminium industry is good in our country. Hence, we are working on treating it as a replacement of steel for construction of railway coaches and wagons in future,” Prof N S Vyas, Chairman, TMIR, told ‘The Hitavada’.

(The Hitavada, dated 17.10.2016)

Govt looks to sell Stake in Hindustan Zinc

The government is yet again looking to monetise its stake in Hindustan Zinc and may suggest a share buyback offer to the company controlled by Vedanta's Sterlite Industries besides seeking a special dividend. The government owns 29.59% stake in the firm that is worth over ₹30,000 crore at current market prices.

The government may also explore legal options to sell its stake in Hindustan Zinc, the person said. Another government official said that pending a decision, the government may seek special dividend from the firm. "HZL is a cash rich firm and should give dividends to its

shareholders," the person said. At the end of March 2016, HZL had reserve and surplus of around ₹ 36,500 crore.

For 2016-17, the company has notified stock exchanges that its board has approved of a dividend policy wherein it will declare an annual dividend of 30% of profit after tax, or 5% of net worth. This is similar to the new dividend policy announced for state-run firms.

(The Economic Times, dated 27.10.2016)

As mining resumes, handling of iron ore surges at major ports

Handling of iron ore has rebounded at major ports following the resumption of mining in Goa, Karnataka and Odisha after a long gap.

In the first half of the current financial year ended September 2016, iron ore handling more than doubled at major ports to 17.50 million tonnes (mt) when compared with 7.25 mt in the same period last year.

The volume will, however, be nowhere near the peak handling of nearly 100 million tonnes (mt) in 2009-10. Following the ban on issue of new licences to mines and a slump in global demand, the number kept dropping in subsequent years to an all-time low of 10 mt in 2015-16.

(Business Line, dated 29.10.2016)

Steel Sector will bounce back soon: RINL chief

Despite a slowdown in the steel sector domestically as well as globally, there are bright chances for the industry to stage a recovery soon, according to Shri P Madhusudan, Chairman and Managing Director of the Visakhapatnam steel plant (Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd).

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Long products-technology, market and applications' organised by *Steel and Metallurgy* here on Thursday.

He said: "the Indian steel industry has a lot of resilience to withstand such vicissitudes and the sector has young manpower and the latest technologies to compete in the world markets." However, right now the industry is facing many challenges like inadequate infrastructure and logistics, high capital cost, high cost of power and fuel, non-availability of quality coal, increased input costs.

As India is one of the fastest growing economies, steel consumption will grow in rural and urban areas. He said the Government's intervention is highly needed at this point to support the steel industry by reducing the customs duty and curbing cheap steel imports. Madhusudan called for adoption of the best available technologies and stressed the need to invest more in research and development.

(Business Line, dated 04.11.2016)

Cement demand set to pick up in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

Cement manufacturers are expecting an increase in demand in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from this month. "The ongoing infrastructure projects in the two states along with government demand for welfare schemes are expected to drive growth for next two-three years," S Sambasiva Rao, Executive Director, My Home Industries, which sells Maha Cement, told *Business Line* here. He pegs the likely growth in demand at 20 to 22 per cent.

The Polavaram project and new capital construction in Andhra Pradesh are expected to boost demand while in Telangana, general spurt in construction and housing schemes for the weaker sections will be a positive differentiator for industry.

According to industry estimates, the general cement demand in the two states is to the tune of 20-22 million tonnes. Shri Sreekanth Reddy, Executive Director, Sagar Cements Ltd, expects the off-take in Telangana and AP to rise 5 to 7.5 per cent from this month.

(Business Line, dated 09.11.2016)

Govt devises App to curb illegal Mining

The Union Ministry of Mines will be soon launching a mobile app that will alert authorities on illegal mining and keep a real-time tab on mining activity to rule out any foul play and scam. The mining sector which was paralysed following large scale irregularities in allotment process, is on its path of recovery. There is positive mood in mining sector and we are quite optimistic that such Good Governance will bring more buoyancy in the sector, said Shri Balvinder Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines. The photos taken from the suspected sites of illegal mines once uploaded on the Android mobile will immediately identify the area and send message to the concerned authority for verification. The government has roped in National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, for the purpose, which will detect any mining activity outside the allotted and identified mining area. Even if the earth is dug up for some other activities near the mine, it will alert the authorities, said Shri Kumar. A team of officials will carry out physical verification to check if it is related to the mine or outside the mine and initiate necessary action against such acts with the help of civic and other authorities, Shri Kumar told reporters. An agreement between the Indian Bureau of Mines and Wipro was signed in Shri Kumar's presence for development of online National Mineral Information System by linking Central and State organisations engaged in administration of mineral resources in the country. 12 states including Maharashtra have agreed to be part of this monitoring. Following iron ore scam and Justice Shah committee report, the authorities acted quickly in 298 complaints of alleged illegal mining activities, of which probe was conducted at 46 places and at least in four cases illegal mining was detected. Further action is pending at state level, Shri Kumar stated. A Mining Tenement System (MTS) is also being developed which will primarily involve automating the entire concession life cycle, starting from identification of area and ending with closure of mine and connecting the various stakeholders for real-time transfer of electronic files and exchange of data. The MTS will have graphical information database (GIS) as well as information in text form, he said. The Controller General of IBM, Shri R K Sinha said it has launched an innovative scheme of star rating of mines as a measure to evaluate mine on techno-scientific, socio-economic and environmental parameters for implementation of sustainable development framework (SDF) in the mining sector.

(The Hitavada, 11.11.2016)

Manganese Museum at MOIL inaugurated

Shri Birender Singh Union Steel Minister inaugurated Manganese Museum located at MOIL Bhawan, the corporate headquarters of MOIL Limited, a schedule A, Miniratna category ICPSE under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India.

MOIL has taken efforts to showcase the glorious past and the phenomenal growth of MOIL in the form of a manganese Museum. MOIL has carefully preserved the legacy of its historical moments and created the Manganese Museum.

The Museum is the first of its kind in India which is aimed at preserving the heritage of long history of manganese mining in the country. Besides, the Museum also showcases the innovation and product profile to generate awareness about the importance of manganese in steel production and also its other uses. The museum will be open for visit of school students/students fraternity.

(The Hitavada, dated 20.12.2016)

MECL bags 30 prospective mining blocks

The Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has been allotted 30 mining blocks of 100 square kilometers by the Ministry of Mines to accelerate mineral exploration requirement in the country. This was announced by Shri Balvinder Kumar, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Mines, while talking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the ultramodern laboratory and work-shop complex of MECL on Thursday.

Shri Kumar said that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) had identified 100 blocks of 100 square kilometers across the country. Out of the 78 blocks, 30 blocks had been allotted to MECL for mineral exploration. Also, MECL would deliver 40 mineral blocks for auction to various State governments and perform its mandate as the nodal agency of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

(The Hitavada, dated 9.12.2016)

Govt Seeks Foreign Cos for Mineral Survey

The Government plans to bring in foreign companies to conduct aero-geophysical survey of areas with potential mineral reserves in the country to boost mineral exploration. Mines Secretary, Shri Balvinder Kumar told ET that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has invited bids from agencies for carrying out the survey on 8,000 sq km area classified as Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) area.

(The Economic Times, dated 20.12.2016)

Tata Steel to buy Odisha plant

Tata Steel has decided to acquire an Odisha-based iron ore beneficiation and pellet plant to secure raw material for its Kalinganagar operations. Tata steel executed definitive agreements to acquire a 100 per cent equity stake in Brahamani River Pellets Ltd (BRPL), which owns the plants, from Aryan Mining and Trading Corporation and other companies of the Moorgate Industries Group.

(The Telegraph, dated 24.12.2016)

Steel Ministry will pursue demand to cut import duty

The Steel Ministry will press on its demand for reduction in import duty of scrap and coking coal, a vital component of steel-making, a top official said on Friday.

The steel industry is burdened by an increase in input costs due to high coking coal prices. “Our request will continue on the demand because we are importing 70 per cent of coking coal and the same applies to the scrap because we do not have enough scrap in this country. These two issues will continue to be pursued,” Steel Secretary Aruna Sharma said during an event.

In the run-up to the Union Budget, the Ministry, in its recommendations to the Finance Ministry, had sought a reduction in the import duty on the coking coal.

(Business Line, 04.01.2017)

Govt. to undertake safety audit of 418 mines:

Government announced safety audit for all 418 mines in the country in the wake of one of the worst open cast mine disaster under Rajmahal, killing at least 18 people. “We held a review meeting with Coal India and there we have taken few decisions on mine safety. We have also decided to carry out a detailed investigation on the accident. A mine safety audit of all the mines will also be undertaken,” Union Power Minister Shri Piyush Goyal said here today stating that the government was committed to zero accident target.

Speaking after the CII National Council Meeting, he said the audit would be carried out by DG Mining Safety on a priority basis based on the size of the mines. Goyal said first 58 large mines of the country would be covered where annual composite overburden production is between one to five million cubic metres.

External expert’s inputs may be taken like Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research and others, the Minister said. Safety actions like anti-collision system for dumpers, electronic Tele Monitoring system, Geo technical cells in Coal India mines for slope stability and gas Monitoring system among others had been taken.

(The Hitvada, dated 04.01.2017)

Diamond contracts set to debut soon in India

India is all set to become the first country in the world where polished diamonds will be traded on a commodity exchange. The Indian Commodity Exchange Ltd (ICEX) is in the final stages of unveiling diamond contracts that will allow even individuals to trade in the precious stone in a transparent manner.

According to senior exchange officials, the final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is expected soon and a formal start is likely by March. The exchange has already received in-principle approval from the regulatory body for the introduction of diamond contracts.

The Reliance Capital-promoted exchange, which has MMTC, Indiabulls Housing Finance and IDFC Bank as major shareholders, has been able to get on board about 50 members and has even conducted mock trading to test the systems.

It has also tied up with International Institute of Diamond Grading and Research (IIDGR), a 100 per cent subsidiary of global major De Beers, for grading and packing of the diamonds.

(The Hindu, dated 04.01.2017)

Ministry chalks out roadmap for boosting steel production

The Steel Ministry will explore the possibility of setting up scrap-based steel plants in Northern and Western India.

Minister for Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh said at the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Enhancing Demand and Production of Steel that these plants will be energy efficient, eco-friendly, cost-effective and with capacity to produce high quality steel.

The government is also exploring the possibility of greenfield production capacity expansion through the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route, foreign tie-ups and brownfield expansion in existing public and private sector steel plants.

Highlighting the roadmap, Singh said, “We are trying to develop indigenous capability to produce value added steel that are imported like CRGO steel and auto-grade steels. In the last two years, we have added over 15 million tonnes steel production capacity in the country.”

(Business Line, dated 17.01.2017)

Tata Steel using drones to monitor Jharkhand mine

Tata Steel has started using drones on a pilot basis to monitor its mine at Noamundi Iron Mine in Jharkhand.

The objective of the drone application in mine monitoring covers surveillance of the mining area, lease boundary inspection, inspection of safety zone, counting vegetation in reclaimed area and quarry and dump profiling for volume calculations. This trial is conducted by Skylark Drones, a Bengaluru-based firm which specialises in drone application in various industries, said Tata Steel in a statement.

The Ore, Mines & Quarries Division aims to work smarter and use innovations such as autonomous vehicles, Internet of Things, big data, analytics, remote control centres, predictive maintenance with prime focus on safety.

As a part of mine automation, drones would further help achieve multiple benefits ranging from initial survey to carrying out exploration activity, physical terrain mapping for segregation of land use, mapping of forest area, contour mapping, 3D modelling and terrain modelling for effective mine planning.

(Business Line, dated 17.01.2017)

Govt working to make iron ore available at reasonable prices for small steel producers

The Ministry of Steel is formulating a policy to protect small steel producers hit by volatility in iron ore prices by making it available to them at a ‘reasonable’ price. Recently,

the Government made Coal India to supply a specific quantity of coal in e-auction at a fixed base price, including the cost of production and pre-determined profit. The coal e-auction is also restricted to specific region to limit competition and sharp surge in prices. A similar model is being worked out for iron ore. Currently, NMDC, the largest supplier of iron ore, considers average international iron prices to fix the base prices making it difficult for small steel producers to bid in the auction.

Speaking on the sidelines of the '25th Steel Consumers' Council meeting in Mumbai on Saturday, Chaudhary Birendra Singh, Union Minister of Steel, said the Ministry has appointed a committee two months ago to study ways to curtail the sudden spike in prices of iron ore supplied by public sector companies such as NMDC.

(Business Line, dated 23.01.2017)

Auction of 60 offshore mineral blocks in first phase

The government will soon come out with redrafted rules with regard to exploration and mining in offshore mineral blocks and allot 60 blocks under auction route in first phase, a move that will bring transparency and efficiency in the process, a top official said.

"We are redrafting Offshore Area Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002. We are doing consultations with the stakeholders (on this). It will be redrafted in two-three months," Shri Kumar said. Once the Act is redrafted, the allotment of offshore mineral blocks would be done through auction route. "In the present Act there is no provision for auction of offshore mineral blocks. Earlier the offshore mineral blocks were given through allotment route. We used to invite applications and used to allot blocks. It was not transparent," the official said. SBI Cap is our consultant on this, he added. "We want to put under the hammer big offshore blocks in the same manner as we successfully auctioned 21 mining blocks (containing minerals like limestone and iron ore in seven states). Sixty offshore mineral blocks have been identified. In the first phase we plan to auction 60 blocks," he explained.

(The Economic Times, dated 23.01.2017)

India mulls reviving old gold mines

India is planning to revive a cluster of colonial-era gold mines - shut for 15 years but with an estimated \$2.1 billion worth of deposits left - as the world's second-largest importer of the metal looks for ways to cut its trade deficit, officials said.

State-run Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd has started exploring the reserves at Kolar Gold Fields, in the southern state of Karnataka, to get a better estimate of the deposits, according to three government officials and a briefing document prepared by the federal mines ministry that was seen by Reuters.

The ministry has also appointed investment bank SBI Capital to assess the finances of the defunct state-run Bharat Gold Mines Ltd, which controls the mines, and the dues the company owes to workers and the authorities, said the officials, who are involved in the process. India, the world's biggest gold importer behind China, spends more than \$30 billion a year buying gold from abroad, making the metal its second-biggest import item after crude oil.

Gold is a mainstay of Indian culture, serving as the primary vehicle for household savings for hundreds of millions of people in Asia's third-largest economy. Gold jewellery is considered one of the best gifts for gods and humans alike, and the spike in demand during the wedding season that peaks in November and December can move global prices of the metal.

(Business Line, dated 27.01.2017)

MOIL launched digital blasting system at Dongri Buzurg MINE

MOIL a scheduled CPSU under Ministry of Steel, operates the largest opencast manganese mine at Dongri-Buzurg, decided to be a partner with the digital India movement Make-in-India, Swaccha Bharat and climate change of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These entire themes were inaugurated by M P Chaudhuri, CMD, MOIL. The modern high precision electronic delay detonators were used in the Dongri Buzung blasting together with Site Mixed Emulsion (SME) explosives.

SME explosives helps in reducing trouble of transportation storage and handling of packed explosives and delivers explosive directly into drilling holes. Use of electronic detonators had reduced the blast induced ground vibration generation and sound level too.

(The Hitvada, dated 08.02.2017)

Big push for mine auction

"Some 280 mines are being planned to be put up for auction in the next fiscal ... these have a mineral wealth of over ₹10 lakh crore," mines Secretary Shri Balvinder Kumar said here today and added that there are 83 more mines that are under litigation. The mines to be auctioned have major minerals, including iron ore, bauxite and limestone, said officials. States, including Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Bengal, will be among those whose mines will be up for e-auction. Several top Indian corporate houses as well as foreign players are believed to be interested in the auction which was earlier slated for last November. So far, 21 mining leases have been auctioned with a cumulative resource value of around ₹ 94,000 crore. Shri Kumar said in the near future Drones technology will be used to monitor mines in any area. IBM will start this. Drone will help in preparing topography maps in few hours, which takes many days manually.

(The Telegraph, dated 16.02.2017)

Iron ore exports from India rebound as supply fight heats up

Iron ore shipments from Indian miners, including Vedanta Ltd are forecast to rise by two-thirds this year following the lifting of mining bans, adding more lowgrade output to an already oversupplied global market driven by demand from China. The company's stock rose.

India is forecast to export as much as 40 mmt of mostly lower-grade ore in the financial year starting April 1, from about 24 mt this fiscal year, R Kishore Kumar, chief executive officer of Vedanta Ltd.s iron ore business, said.

India's exports slumped from a peak of 117 mt in the year to March 2010 to 4.5 mt last year, according to the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries. Shipments have climbed to 14.8 mt in the eight months to November, Trade Ministry data showed.

There is a competition in place in supplies from India and Australia and there are steep discounts going on at this point of time, Kumar said. The low-grade market is going to get fiercer as India is trying to regain its market share.

(Business Line, dated 24.02.2017)

B. Abroad

Iron ore set to lose colour

Iron ore will slump below \$50 a tonne next year as the biggest producers increase low-cost supply, according to Australia's government, which highlighted growing risks to demand as China's property market faces oversupply and a slowdown.

The uptick in China's construction activity is unlikely to persist, and the use of commodities in the sector is forecast to decline, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science said in a report on Friday. As global iron ore supply rises and building activity in China wanes, prices will drop to average \$44.80 a tonne in 2017, according to the forecaster.

The projections from Australia cast doubt on expectations from miners including Brazil's Vale SA that the \$50 level will hold, and add to warnings about China's property market. Goldman Sachs Group Inc said this week it sees growing vulnerabilities in China's housing industry after a steep run-up in sales and prices following government stimulus. Asia's top economy is the largest importer of iron ore.

(Business Line, dated 10.10.2016)

BRICS Investors Tie Up for Siberian Gold Mine Project

The Khemka family's SUN Group, China National Gold Group Corporation, Russian sovereign investment fund, Far East and Baikal Region Development Fund, and two other partners from Brazil and South Africa will jointly develop Kluchevskoye gold deposit in eastern Siberia in the first BRICS investment project. Representatives of all five BRICS countries are parties to this BRICS Gold memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. The proposed joint venture aims to develop the Kluchevskoye gold deposit, located in Chita region of Siberia, into a significant open pit mine and heap leach operation with an expected production rate of 12 million tonnes of ore per year and gold doré production of over 6.5 tonnes per annum, as per feasibility study done by Changchun Gold Design Institute. The pre-production investment is expected to be \$400-500 million.

(The Economic Times, dated 17.10.2016)

Tata Steel closes in on UK steel plant deal: Report

Tata Steel is edging closer to a deal with UK steel workers' unions to keep its troubled Port Talbot plant, the country's largest in south Wales, open until at least 2020, a media report said.

Union leaders will put a new rescue plan to its members this week, which could see investments into the UK's largest steel plant in return for concessions on staff terms and

conditions, according to 'The Sunday Times'. Central to the plan is retention of Port Talbot's two blast furnaces, which turn iron ore and coke into molten iron.

One is due to stop production in 2018 but unions have been fighting to keep it open. If an agreement is reached with staff, the Indian steel giant will look into partial relining of the blast furnace as an upgrade that would extend its life by several years.

The newspaper quoted sources saying that union officials had held talks with Tata Steel bosses, including executive director Shri Koushik Chatterjee, on the latest plan last Thursday.

They worked on a deal that would also see money injected into Tata Steel's other plants around the country, including Shotton, Corby and Llanwern. The company has demanded curbs on the steel workers' final salary pension scheme in return for saving UK steel jobs and providing some security for the future of steel production in the UK.

(The Economic Times, dated 5.12.2016)

Dumping duty on Chinese steel

The Government today said it had imposed an anti-dumping duty on wire rods made out of steel from China to protect domestic manufacturers.

A notification by the revenue department today said an anti-dumping duty was being imposed for six months on wire rod made of alloy or non-alloys steel imported from China.

The move follows an observation by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) that steel wire rod was being exported by China at rates "Below the normal value" and "the domestic industry has suffered material injury" from these cheap imports.

(The Telegraph, dated 04.11.2016)

Tata Steel signs pact for sale of UK Speciality Steels business

Tata Steel today clinched a pact with UK-based Liberty House Group that allows it to start exclusive talks for potential sale of its Speciality Steels business for an enterprise value of 100 million pounds subject to due diligence and corporate approvals.

The signing of the letter of intent (LoI) is in line with the company's overall restructuring strategy of the UK portfolio. Liberty House Group, led by India-origin businessman Sanjeev Gupta, had emerged as the frontrunner for the Indian steel giant's UK plants when these were put on the block earlier this year.

The agreement covers some of Tata Steel's South Yorkshire-based assets, including the Rotherham electric arc steelworks, the steel-purifying facility in Stocksbridge and a mill in Brinsworth as well as service centres in Bolton and Wednesbury in the UK and in Suzhou and Xi'an in China. Speciality Steels employs nearly 1,700 people making steel for aerospace, automotive and oil and gas industries.

"The Speciality Steels business is independent of the pan-European strip products supply chain and today's announcement is in line with the overall restructuring strategy of the UK portfolio," said Bimlendra Jha, CEO of Tata Steel UK.

The firm on Monday also revealed plans to pursue 85 million pounds worth of capital investments covering a range of "sustenance and improvement schemes".

(The Hitavada, dated 29.11.2016)

Tata Steel reaches pact with unions over Port Talbot plant

Unions and politicians welcomed Tata Steel's accord with unions which entails the steel giant derisking its pension liabilities and committing to secure jobs at its Port Talbot plant in Wales, at least until 2021. The deal also includes plans to invest for a further five years.

Questions over the precise future shape of the plant and its 4,000 employees had hung over the firm since earlier in the year when Tata Steel stalled plans to sell the facility and began potential merger discussions with German steel producer ThyssenKrupp over its existing European assets.

"This is good news that secures the future of steel-making at Port Talbot for at least 10 years," Carwyn Jones, the First Minister of Wales, said on Thursday. "Earlier this year, I was very pessimistic about what the future might hold for steel-making. This agreement was achieved by a lot of hard work by everyone involved."

"This proposal would secure jobs for years to come and brings serious investment not just to Port Talbot but to steel works across the U.K.," Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of the Community Union, said following the announcement of the deal on Wednesday evening.

The union said that it was a "significant shift" from Tata Steel's opening offer, which didn't include any commitments regarding jobs and Port Talbot's two blast furnaces.

(The Hindu, dated 9.12.2016)

India's iron exports under scrutiny by EU, S. Korea

India's exports of certain iron items to the European Union (EU) and shipments of ferro alloys to South Korea have come under the scanner of local authorities in those jurisdictions.

The European Commission (EC) has initiated an investigation into certain items of grey iron and ductile cast iron from India on allegations that they were being 'dumped' (or sold below the price charged in the home market or below production cost) into the EU region.

This, the EC probe suggests, is adversely affecting local industry as these articles are used to cover and, or give access to ground or sub-surface systems.

Seven EU producers of the item including Saint-Gobain, together representing more than a quarter of the total EU production of certain cast iron items, lodged a complaint with

the EC on October 31 that imports of such articles from India and China are being dumped causing material injury to them.

The complainants also provided ‘evidence’ of increase in imports (to the EU) of these items in absolute terms and in terms of their market share in the EU.

(The Hindu, dated 27.12.2016)

India working to placate Japan on steel duties, avoid WTO dispute panel

India is firming up its arguments to convince Japan that its concern on safeguard or penal duties imposed by New Delhi on certain steel imports was misplaced, as they were in line with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules and there was no need for a full-fledged dispute on the matter.

“The Director-General (Safeguards) is going through the points raised by Japan against the calculation of our safeguard duties so that it could build up its arguments to defend the duties. The Ministries of Steel and Commerce are also working on the matter,” a government official told *BusinessLine*.

A date for consultations between Japan and India has not yet been firmed up where the two sides will discuss the issues of contention face-to-face. Last month, Japan requested dispute consultations with India at the WTO on ‘certain measures on imports of iron and steel products’.

While such ‘measures’ include both safeguard duties (levy imposed to stop a surge in imports that are hurting domestic producers) and minimum import price (MIP) on some steel items, New Delhi is focussing on dealing with the former.

(Business Line, dated 14.01.2017)

Tata Steel agrees to sell speciality unit

Tata Steel agreed to sell its U.K. speciality steel business, which employs about 1,700 people, to Sanjeev Gupta’s Liberty House Group for £100 million. The two companies reached a definitive agreement on Thursday after having initially signed a letter of intent over the deal in November. The speciality division covers assets in Yorkshire, and services centres in Britain and China, and focuses on steel for the aerospace, automotive and oil and gas industries.

The sale would leave Tata Steel with its strip products business, after selling its long products business to Greybull Capital last year, as it seeks to transform and restructure its European operations in the face of unrelentingly tough conditions for the industry.

“It’s good for Tata Steel, which has turned around in the December quarter,” said Paras Bothra, president equities at Aashika Stock Broking in Mumbai. “The sale of the U.K. speciality business will further add to its profitability. Now it is to be seen if the company is able to find a solution to the U.K. pension scheme,” Mr. Bothra said.

The deal is subject to regulatory clearances, Britain’s largest steelmaker said in a statement. “We will be handing over a business which has been transformed following

difficult decisions to restructure and refocus on higher-value markets,” Bimlendra Jha, CEO of Tata Steel UK, was quoted as saying in the statement.

(The Hindu, dated 10.02.2017)

Arcelor Mittal’s talks with SAIL on Joint Venture at an impasse

A proposed joint venture between state-owned Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL.NS) and Arcelor Mittal SA (ISPA.AS) to build an \$897 million automotive steel plant in India has hit an impasse, with the two disagreeing on key terms, officials said.

India's biggest state-owned steel company and the world's No. 1 producer of the metal signed a deal in May 2015 to set up a plant for automotive grades to tap rising demand in one of the world's fastest growing steel markets and a major car export hub.

After a series of failed attempts to hammer out several sticking points - the most important being a revenue-sharing formula - negotiations have come to a standstill, the sources said. A deadline to close the deal ends in May. Arcelor Mittal declined to comment. A SAIL spokesman said the negotiations are still in progress.

SAIL, which has been posting losses for seven straight quarters, was hoping the joint venture will help it move to higher grades of steel in the automotive segment, dominated by private players such as Tata Steel Ltd (TISC.NS) and JSW Steel Ltd (JSTL.NS).

A separate technical tie-up between South Korean steel major POSCO (005490.KS) and SAIL has also failed to take off.

A collapse of the proposed joint venture with Arcelor Mittal would further hamper its efforts at a turnaround, and would add to steel ministry's headache when the government is looking to sell its stakes in three of SAIL's loss-making units.

Failure to close the deal would also hurt billionaire Laxmi Niwas Mittal-controlled Arcelor Mittal, which had been looking at the deal as a way to expand its presence in India, one of the most lucrative markets in the world.

Late last year, India's steel ministry expressed hopes that the joint venture would be finalised by December 2016 and last month SAIL chairman said he was seeking a fair share of return.

(The Hindu, dated 18.2.2017)
