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STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

(FINAL RELEASE)

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INTRODUCTION

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the State Governments accord grant/renewal of reconnaissance permits, prospecting licences and mining leases. Also, the State Governments are required to submit a copy of every permit/licence/lease granted/renewed to the Controller General, IBM, under Rule 57 (1) of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Additionally, the State Governments also have to submit a consolidated Annual Return of all reconnaissance permits, prospecting licences and mining leases granted or renewed to the Controller General, IBM, in a prescribed format under Rule 57 (2) of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 not later than 30th day of June of each year, for the previous financial year.

RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS

Reconnaissance Permit is a permit granted for the purpose of undertaking “reconnaissance

operations” which means any operation undertaken for preliminary prospecting of a mineral through regional, aerial, geophysical or geochemical surveys and geological mapping, but does not include pitting, trenching, drilling (except drilling boreholes on a grid specified from time to time by the Central Government) or subsurface excavation.

The provision of Reconnaissance Permits (RP) was introduced in 1999 under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and in 2000 under the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and Mineral Conservation & Development Rules, 1988 made under the Act.

During 2011-12, the Government has approved/granted 15 Reconnaissance Permits covering a total area of 15341.66 sq km. Out of these, the maximum number of RPs are in Karnataka (6), Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh (4 each) and Rajasthan (1). The details of the RPs approved / granted during 2011-12 are given in Table - 1.

Table – 1: Reconnaissance Permits Approved/Granted during 2011-12

State	Mineral	No.	Area (sq km)
India		15	15341.66
Chhattisgarh	Diamond, Gold & Associated minerals	2	1426.15
	Diamond, Gold	1	622.00
	Diamond, Gold, Copper ore, Lead	1	2200.00
Karnataka	Gold & Associated Minerals	4	5272.01
	Diamond, & Associated minerals	2	2500.00
Madhya Pradesh	Diamond, Gold, Copper ore, & Lead	2	1994.00
	Diamond, Gold, Copper & Associated Minerals	2	1250.00
Rajasthan	Lantherum, Cerium & Associated minerals	1	77.50

PROSPECTING LICENCES

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, "Prospecting Licence" (PL) means a licence granted for the purpose of undertaking "prospecting operations" with a view to exploring, locating or proving mineral deposits. The State Governments and Union Territories are empowered to grant/renew/revoke Prospecting Licences (PL) under provisions of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

As per information received from the State Governments/Union Territories, 115 prospecting licences were granted covering an area of 19746.57 ha during 2011-12 as compared to 131 prospecting licences covering 35682 ha area during 2010-11.

The states where prospecting licences were granted during 2011-12 include Madhya Pradesh (67), Uttarakhand (16), Rajasthan (13), Andhra Pradesh (7), Chhattisgarh & Manipur (4 each),

Maharashtra & Jharkhand (2 each). Areawise, Madhya Pradesh covered 4810.25 ha, Rajasthan 4190.27 ha, Andhra Pradesh 2040.16 ha, Chhattisgarh 1540.65 ha, Maharashtra 1031.55 ha. The remaining area of 178.19 ha was accounted for rest of the States. The statewide distribution of prospecting licences granted during 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given in Table-2.

Mineralwise, in 2011-12, prospecting licences granted are limestone (14), manganese ore (20), iron ore (10), Talc/soapstone/steatite (16) and dolomite (7). Twenty-two PLs were granted in respect of group of minerals. Limestone accounted for an area of 6222.10 ha out of the total area of 19746.57 ha covered by the Prospecting Licences granted during 2011-12 followed by Chromite (6000 ha) and Iron ore (2746.63 ha). Group of minerals covered an area of 2176.76 hectares. The mineralwise distribution of prospecting licences granted during 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given in Table - 3.

**Table – 2 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2009-10 to 2011-12
(By States)**

State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-2012	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	81	21386	131	35682	115	19746.57
Andhra Pradesh	9	4854	9	3364	7	2040.16
Arunachal Pradesh	2	42	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	1	5	5	71	4	1540.65
Gujarat	-	-	2	25	-	-
Jharkhand	-	-	10	2587	2	44.50
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	50	11182	66	25637	67	4810.25
Maharashtra	5	2802	14	3282	2	1031.55
Manipur	-	-	-	-	4	6000.00
Rajasthan	12	2499	11	652	13	4190.27
Tamil Nadu	2	2	1	2	-	-
Uttarakhand	-	-	13	62	16	89.19

Area figures rounded off.

**Table – 3 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2009-10 to 2011-12
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	81	21386	131	35682	115	19746.57
Barytes	-	-	1	4	2	8.26
China clay	-	-	-	-	1	166.04
Calcite	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chromite	-	-	-	-	4	6000.00
Cherty Dolomite	-	-	-	-	1	148.00
Diamond	-	-	-	-	1	902.49
Dolomite	3	10	5	23	7	107.9
Fireclay	-	-	-	-	1	4.8
Garnet (abrasive)	1	26	-	-	-	-
Galena	-	-	-	-	1	4.05
Graphite	-	-	-	-	1	12.91
Iron ore	6	460	14	3803	10	2746.63
Jasper	1	185	-	-	-	-
Laterite	11	2392	4	75	4	162.28
Limestone	17	11159	27	17778	14	6222.1
Magnesite	-	-	2	9	-	-
Manganese ore	16	3156	18	3308	20	755.0
Mica	1	30	1	4	-	-
Moon Stone	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pyrophyllite	1	5	-	-	-	-
Quartz	-	-	-	-	1	26.57
Quartzite	-	-	1	4	-	-
Red ochre	1	5	2	14	3	85.87
Red Oxide	-	-	-	-	1	5.00
Rock Phosphate	-	-	-	-	1	26.41
Talc/Soapstone/steatite	-	-	10	49	16	89.19
Shale	1	18	-	-	-	-
Silica sand	-	-	6	225	1	3.19
White Clay	-	-	1	5	-	-
Wollastonite	-	-	-	-	2	88.88
Yellow ochre	-	-	-	-	1	4.24
Group of minerals	21	3939	39	10381	22	2176.76

Area figures rounded off.

MINING LEASES

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

The status of mining leases as on 31.3.2012 indicates that 11456 mining leases were in force in the country in 23 states covering an area of 530282.70 ha for 64 metallic and non-metallic minerals excluding lignite, coal, petroleum, natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.

During 2011-12, the statewise break up of leases as reflected in Table-4 indicates that

Rajasthan was leading with 3,085 leases followed by Andhra Pradesh (2,031), Gujarat (1,162), Madhya Pradesh (1,105), Tamil Nadu (972), Karnataka (762), Odisha (496), Goa (336), Jharkhand (332), Chhattisgarh (320), and Maharashtra (255). These eleven states together accounted for about 95% of the total mining leases in force.

Of the total mining lease area covered by different States, Rajasthan accounted for 22% followed by Odisha (14%), Andhra Pradesh (13%), Karnataka (11%), Jharkhand (7%), Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat (6% each), Goa (5%) Chhattisgarh (4%), Maharashtra (3%) and Tamil Nadu (2%). These eleven states accounted for about 93% of the total mining lease area granted and the remaining 7% was accounted for by the rest of the twelve states.

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

Scheduled minerals are those listed in the First Schedule of the MM (DR) Act, 1957. There are 10 minerals under Scheduled Minerals for which mining leases were in existence as on 31.3.2012. The number of existing mining leases are 1,600, i.e., 14% of the total mining leases accounting for an area of 1,85,978.85 ha which is 35% of the total mining area in the country. Out of the ten scheduled minerals, the total number of mining leases for iron ore is placed at 798 followed by bauxite (343), manganese ore (343), chromite (35), asbestos (34), copper ore (17), lead and zinc ores (12), gold (12), diamond (2), ruby (3) and sapphire (1).

During 2011-12, mining leases in force were in both Private and Public sectors including Central and State Government Undertakings. Out of the total 11456 mining leases in force in the country, 10907 (95%) mining leases with an area of 369260.22 ha (70%) are in the Private Sector and the remaining 549 (5%) leases are in the Public Sector over an area of 161022.48 ha (30% of the total mining lease area). Most of the scheduled minerals, namely copper ore, lead & zinc ores, gold, iron ore, manganese ore, chromite, asbestos and non-

scheduled minerals like limestone, dolomite, pyrite, fluorite, apatite, barytes, kyanite & magnesite, etc. are being exploited by both Public and Private Sectors.

In the metallic minerals, ferrous group of minerals include iron ore, manganese ore, chromite, while non-ferrous group of minerals comprises bauxite, copper-lead-zinc, molybdenum, nickel, tin and the noble metals include gold, silver and platinum group of metals. There were no mining leases for molybdenum, nickel, silver and platinum group of metals in the country. In 2011-12 for 8 metallic minerals, existing mining leases were 1,575 (14%) covering an area of 1,83,708.56 ha (35%). On the other hand, existing leases for non-metallic minerals/industrial minerals were 9881(86%) covering an area of 346574.14 ha (65%).

The statewide summary of mining leases during 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given in Table-4. The mineral-wise summary of existing mining leases as on 31.3.2012 is given in Table-5. Sectorwise distribution of mining leases as on 31.3.2012 is given in Table-6.

Table – 4 : Existing Mining Leases, 2009-10 to 2011-12 (By States)

State	2009-10		2010-2011		2011-12	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	10488	507403.84	11003	547814.31	11456	530282.70
Andhra Pradesh	1948	71072.74	1999	68047.13	2031	69607.07
Assam	8	929.50	8	929.50	8	929.50
Bihar	11	2074.72	11	2074.72	10	1427.22
Chhattisgarh	314	20143.54	316	23551.77	320	23502.06
Goa	337	24445.88	336	24393.26	336	24394.55
Gujarat	1125	30817.62	1152	30035.65	1162	29430.04
Himachal Pradesh	54	2665.09	54	3440.41	54	3623.80
Haryana	110	11638.53	118	12255.12	118	12255.13
Jammu & Kashmir	57	2671.84	57	2671.84	59	2680.89
Jharkhand	330	37059.58	332	37071.32	332	36987.64
Karnataka	615	46784.85	754	59204.59	762	58582.73
Kerala	85	2943.33	82	2878.62	87	3274.35
Manipur	2	610.17	2	610.17	2	610.17
Meghalaya	22	1448.53	21	1297.63	18	606.19
Madhya Pradesh	963	28524.20	1100	30930.93	1105	32985.83
Maharashtra	254	16312.35	251	16093.72	255	15962.33
Odisha	528	76356.67	532	77743.91	496	74990.98
Rajasthan	2587	106479.18	2696	107102.01	3085	116009.93
Sikkim	3	96.32	3	96.32	3	96.32
Tamil Nadu	925	11180.67	945	37780.11	972	12558.61
Uttar Pradesh	88	9290.11	95	7608.54	98	7651.28
Uttarakhand	69	3077.78	89	1276.76	94	1411.56
West Bengal	53	780.64	50	720.28	49	704.52

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**Table – 5 : Existing Mining Leases as on
31.3.2012
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease area (ha)
India	11456	530282.70
Agate	3	59.62
Amethyst	8	80.85
Apatite	2	20.17
Asbestos	34	1632.75
Ball clay	75	2744.56
Barytes	167	2614.26
Bauxite	343	30078.21
Borax	1	159.00
Calcareous sand	14	151.54
Calcite	89	1810.92
Chalk	163	651.77
China clay	519	16904.36
Chromite	35	9432.58
Clay (Others)	106	1270.34
Copper ore	17	9960.09
Corundum	17	247.80
Diamond	2	275.96
Diaspore	12	94.38
Dolomite	542	7669.75
Dunite	1	14.28
Epidote	2	10.00
Felsite	6	102.29
Felspar	890	11766.22
Fireclay	269	5520.78
Fluorite	16	1670.71
Garnet	102	1110.35
Garnet (Gem)	2	17.08
Gold	12	6753.31
Graphite	112	3481.98
Gypsum	108	19108.88

(Contd.)

Table - 5 (Concl.)

Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease area (ha)
Iolite	11	104.35
Iron ore	798	96946.26
Jasper	5	211.70
Kyanite	33	3354.49
Laterite	189	2348.79
Lead & Zinc ore	12	7175.19
Lime kankar	19	654.62
Limeshell	37	5109.36
Limestone	2109	160875.26
Magnesite	40	3099.02
Manganese ore	343	23041.9
Marl	2	9.15
Mica	307	7358.07
Moulding sand	61	1376.27
Ochre	162	3563.16
Perlite	1	144.88
Phosphorite	16	3705.78
Pyrophyllite	104	2276.85
Pyroxenite	10	90.84
Quartz	2161	17348.98
Quartzite	86	1463.21
Ruby	3	9.20
Sand (Others)	54	13497.90
Sapphire	1	673.40
Shale	46	738.52
Silica sand	569	18121.58
Sillimanite	7	3027.06
Slate	18	683.31
Talc/Steatite/Soapstone	505	16739.88
Tin	15	321.02
Vermiculite	16	285.94
White clay	26	218.32
White shale	14	71.63
Wollastonite	7	222.02

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

**Table – 6 : Existing Mining Leases as on 31.3.2012
(By Sectors)**

Sector	No. of Leases	Percent (%)	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
India	11456	100	530282.70	100
Public	549	4.79	161022.48	30.37
Central Government Undertakings	208	1.81	85491.5	16.12
State Government Undertakings	341	2.98	75530.98	14.25
Private	10907	95.21	369260.22	69.63