Jharkhand. Further, Laterite Iron ores occurring as cappings over Precambrians are reported to contain iron in significant level (28-59%).

It was also emerged from the discussion that the State of West Bengal possesses non-conventional iron ore but the metallurgical process in commercial scale is yet to develop for meaningful utilization of the said resources. So, a R&D is required to develop the metallurgical process as a follow up of mapping of the area, sampling and analysis to locate the areas of target. It was advised by the members that, while undertaking prospecting for low grade iron ore at Belpahari in W. Midnapur district, the State Govt. should approach the IBM to take up a pilot project to fix the parameters of elements like silica and phosphorous along with the threshold value of iron (45% Fe_2O_3). They also opined that manganese or aluminium, in association with the iron ore, may add value to the development of the resources. **(Action: DMM)**

42.04.03 : It was revealed in the discussion that no coal block in Raniganj Coal Field in this State was free at the time to be allotted for CBM exploration.

42.04.04 : GSI opined that the State Govt. might launch a programme for China Clay at Pachami in Md. Bazar PS in Birbhum district where GSI had found a 40 m thick clay bed over coal.

(Action: WBMDTCL/ DMM)

42.04.05 : The MD, WBMDTCL requested GSI to take up programme for locating small patches of Coal in RCF. GSI suggested WBMTCL to send a formal proposal in this issue.

(Action: WBMDTCL)

42.04.06 : GSI opined that the State Govt. should come up with more programmes on societal issues like DOVEMAP.

It was emerged from the discussion that the State of West Bengal strongly feels involvement and application of Geoscience in different societal issues pertaining to the State. A few of these are, (i) Urban Geology, which is an essential component of Township Planning etc., (ii) Microzonation of earthquake hazard mapping and remedies thereof especially in Asansol-Durgapur area on the strength of NDMA database.