

technical and financial responsibilities. Later UDD, WB proposed to undertake developmental investigation in and around the "Kalyani" township area of Nadia district.

(Action : UDD, GoWB, DMMWB & GSI, ER)

43.06.04 AGENDA 4 :

Reservation of areas under MMDR Act for Conservation of Valued Mineral :

The northern part of Purulia district around Jabor, Belamu, Beku, Khatanga etc. has earned a unique place in the metallogenic map of India after the discovery of ores of Caesium (Cs) [Rare Metal], Rubidium (Rb) and Lithium (Li) in the area. The resource was later on explored in detail by MECL. It is learned to be the sole resource discovered in Asia and is the fourth one found on earth. Reserve has been established on the strength of the geoscientific investigations as 0.08 million tonnes of Pegmatite and 0.03 million tonnes of mineralised Aplite up to a depth of 20 m. having 0.67 % Cs and 1.23 % Cs respectively on average. It has been reported by GSI that the area in Purulia hosts about 9,04,000 kg of Caesium. It is the fourth resource of Caesium ore (Pollucite) discovered in the world after Canada, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Caesium has applications in many areas viz. Radiological Dispersions Devices, Power Generation, Atomic Clock, Radar for Defence use, Petroleum Exploration, GPS Tracking System for Aircrafts, Artificial Satellites & Space Shuttle. The cost profile of this invaluable rare metal is about US Dollar (\$) 52 per gram. Hence, the resource in concern may be considered as an asset of this State.

It has been felt that the said mineral asset of State is required to be protected under provision made in MMDR Act, for its proper utilization. Applications are being received for grant of PL/ML for other minerals like Quartz, Feldspar and Mica by DMM, WB; such minerals are available in the area in concern in the rock "Pegmatite" which is reported to be the host rock of Pollucite in the area along with ores of Rubidium and Lithium. The issue was discussed at length in the 51st meeting of CGPB. The CGPB (Central Geological Programming Board) made a direction to Atomic Mineral Directorate (AMD under Department of Atomic Energy) to take up an investigation programme on the mineral resource in concern and to report to CGPB for arriving at a decision making platform in this issue.

GSI, MECL (Mineral Exploration Corporation of India), and AMD are requested to express their views in this issue.

(Suggestion: DMM, WB)