

**MINUTES OF THE 46<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STATE GEOLOGICAL PROGRAMMING & ADVISORY BOARD, WEST BENGAL HELD ON THE 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2018 AT THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & ENTERPRISES, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, AT KOLKATA**

List of Participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

Proceedings of the 46th meeting of SGPAB, West Bengal :

46.01.00	<p>Sri S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary and Chairman of the meeting welcomed all the members present and initiated the discussion.</p> <p>He stressed on target oriented planning for exploitation of mineral resources of the State to attract more and more investment in the mineral sector.</p>
46.01.01	<p>Shri Utpal Bhadra, Director of Mines &amp; Minerals and Member Secretary, SGPAB, West Bengal gave an account on the achievements during the current year. Successful introduction of auction regime for awarding mineral concessions was discussed. The efforts of a meagre 10 Technical Officers of Directorate to approve 3636 mining plans within a short period of time was appreciated in achieving this. Further, he intimated that the State Government has made significant achievement in (i) Revision of Rates of Royalty of Minor Minerals, (ii) Establishing DMF in the districts, (iii) Collection of contribution to NMET Fund etc.</p> <p>The Member Secretary stated that a Task Force was constituted to frame "Guidelines for Exploration of <i>in-situ</i> Minor Minerals in West Bengal". The Task Force has framed the said guidelines for developing stage-wise exploration database and codification of the mineral resources following the principle of UNFC for better understanding of the risk factor of investment by the intending investors in mineral sector. He categorically mentioned that this is the first attempt of such kind in the country.</p> <p>The Member Secretary appraised the House about the 77 mineral resources established by DMM and 45 mineral resources established by GSI which were in G3/G4 level and therefore, those were needed to be upgraded to G2/G1 level for being considered for auction. He added that in order to achieve the target, DMM and WBMDTCL had proposed to undertake exploration programme during 2018-19 as State Agencies. Besides, State Government had intention to explore the Rare Metal Resource of Purulia district by MECL using the NMET Fund.</p> <p>He also stated that apart from mineral exploration studies geoscientific inputs should be made on the societal issues like Monitoring of Neotectonic activity through Seismological survey, Study of Accretion pattern in the major river basins and Geohydrological studies for identifying fluctuations of water table, especially in drought -prone districts, and the pattern of ground water pollution. He requested all concerned organizations to submit specific proposals to the Government for consideration.</p>

	<p>Last of all, the Member Secretary informed the House that State Government had been intending thrust in mineral sector. Mineral Resource Mapping, framing of a new Transportation &amp; Storage Rules, framing a State Mineral Policy and automated online Mineral Administration were now under the active consideration of the State Government.</p>
46.01.02	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SGPAB, WEST BENGAL</b></p> <p>The minutes was approved by the House.</p>
46.02.00	<p><b>DISCUSSION ON ACTION TAKEN REPORT</b></p>
46.02.01	<p><b>Agenda I :</b></p> <p><i>As a follow up of the Notification on the Mines and Minerals Development &amp; Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2015 the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India had declassified 31 Major Minerals as "Minor Minerals"</i></p> <p><i>GSI was requested to provide the database of such minerals.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Action : DMM, WB and GSI, WB)</b></p> <p><b>GSI had provided the information in the desired format</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>[Action : DMM, Dept. of IC&amp;E]</b></p>
46.02.02	<p><i>Framing of a definite guideline for establishing the minor mineral resources (other than Riverbed minerals), in the light of UNFC Guidelines by, constituting a Task Force comprising geoscientists of GSI and DMM with the Director, DMM, Government of West Bengal as the Chairman..</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Action : DMMWB, GSI, IBM, MECL &amp; WBMDTCL)</b></p> <p><b>Action Taken :</b></p> <p><b>The Task Force, had framed the 'Guidelines for Exploration of in-situ Minor Minerals in West Bengal' following the principle of UNFC for submission before State Government for adoption as a part of relevant rule under WBMMCR, 2016 and WBMM(Auction) Rules, 2016.</b></p> <p><b>The said guidelines was duly circulated among the Members for review and it was accepted by the house.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>[Action : Dept. of IC&amp;E]</b></p>
46.02.03	<p><b>Agenda III :</b></p>

*IBM was requested to share its own database of Greenfield and Brownfield areas with the State with reference to mining activity, remaining resources of West Bengal for the purpose of preparing both Long-term and Short-term Plans for the next Five Year Plan Period (April, 2017 – March, 2021). It was decided that IBM would extend the detailed status of Brownfield areas in West Bengal to DMM, WB and GSI, ER would provide the Greenfield Data.*

**(Action : IBM and GSI, ER)**

**Comment of GSI :**

*Only one block of G4 investigation for gold in and around Rudra village, Bankura dist., West Bengal has been identified as green field area. The dossier for the same is ready with GSI and can be extended to DMM, West Bengal as and when required.*

**(Action : DMMWB & IC&E Dept. GoWB)**

**Action Taken by IBM :**

IBM has submitted list of brownfield areas (Freehold Areas) as on 2015.

**It was resolved that Dept. of IC&E would to take initiative in finalization of the Dossier that would act as the foundation of decisions on mineral auction process and long-term and short-term planning.**

**[Action : Dept. of IC&E & DMM]**

46.02.04

**Agenda IV :**

*IBM was requested to extend the dataset of NMI pertaining to State of West Bengal for the purpose of selection of resources for auctioning of mineral blocks. It was decided that IBM would share its own database of NMI-2010 immediately and NMI-2015 as and when prepared to DMM, WB.*

**(Action : IBM)**

**Comment of DMM :**

*IBM has extended its database on NMI – 2010 and NMI – 2015 to DMM containing existence of about 143 Freehold Areas in respect of Minor Mineral deposit in West Bengal.*

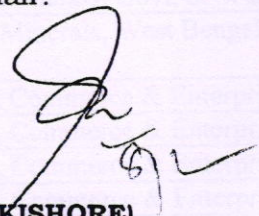
**(Action : DMMWB & IC&E Dept., GoWB)**

	<p><b>Action Taken :</b></p> <p>The information on Freehold areas had been shared with Dept. of IC&amp;E by for taking appropriate steps in utilizing the said freehold mineral resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>[Action : Dept. of IC&amp;E]</b></p>
46.02.05	<p><b>Agenda V :</b></p> <p><i>GSI was to be requested to extend its lab facility to the State for the purpose of establishing the Riverbed Resources in different parts of West Bengal.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Action: DMM, WB and GSI, WB)</b></p> <p><b>Comment of GSI :</b></p> <p>The Dy. Director General, GSI, SU : WBAN stated that they would be glad to provide all possible supports required by the State Government.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Action : DMMWB &amp; GSI, SU : WBAN)</b></p>
46.02.06	<p><b>Agenda VII :</b></p> <p><i>Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India had allocated Deocha-Pachami-Dawanganj-Hasinsingha Coal Block to Bengal Birbhum Cf Ltd. It had been detected some flaws regarding the block boundary and geological reserve in respect of documents/map enclosed with the allocation letter. The WBMDTCL suggested for a discussion with the Official of CMPDIL.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Action : WBMDTCL)</b></p> <p><b>Comment of WBMDTCL :</b></p> <p><i>A meeting was arranged among the officials of CMPDIL, WBMDTC Ltd and WBPDCCL and CMPDIL was requested to prepare a report in this regard. In the meantime the block has been deallocated and as such the issue does not exist now.</i></p>
46.03.00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVIEW OF WORK DONE BY DIFFERENT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (2017-18)</b></p>
46.03.01	<p>Progress of work during 2017-18 was briefed by DMMWB, WBMDTCL, GSI, ONGC-CIL Consortium and other Member Organizations.</p> <p><b>Representative of ONGC-CIL Consortium mentioned for that early disposal the PEL Extension with early settlement of the issue of overlapping area with BAPL.</b></p>

	<p>It was resolved that ONGC-CIL would continue interaction with Dept. of IC&amp;E to settle the issues.</p> <p>[Action : ONGC-CIL Consortium &amp; Dept. of IC&amp;E]</p>
46.04.00	<p><b>DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF DIFFERENT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (2018 - 19)</b></p>
46.04.01	<p>Proposed Programme of work during 2018 - 19 was briefed by DMMWB, WBMDTCL, GSI and other Member Organizations. All the proposed programme of all the Organizations was well - accepted. The House approved the programme proposed by DMM for F. S. 2018 - 19.</p>
46.05.00	<p><b>DISCUSSION ON AGENDA POINTS</b></p>
46.05.01	<p><b>Agenda 1 : <u>Upgradation of Mineral Database for Apatite by GSI from G3 to G2/G1 level</u></b></p> <p>GSI agreed to undertake exploration programme to upgrade the resource database of Apatite Resources (except that of Kutni area) in Purulia district in F.S. 2018-19 for the interest of the State.GSI sought for a formal request letter from the State Government.</p> <p>[Action : DMM, Dept. of IC&amp;E &amp; GSI]</p>
46.05.02	<p><b>Agenda 2 : <u>Upgradation of mineral Database for Rare Metal by GSI from G3 to G2/G1</u></b></p> <p>GSI agreed to undertake exploration programme to upgrade the resource database of Rare Metal (Pollucite) Resources in Jhalda - Kotsila area of Purulia district in G2 level of UNFC for the interest of the State in F.S. 2018-19. GSI sought for a formal request letter from the State Government.</p> <p>[Action : DMM, Dept. of IC&amp;E &amp; GSI]</p>
46.05.03	<p><b>Agenda 3 : <u>Prevention of Loss of Valuable Minerals co-existing with Low-value Minerals</u></b></p> <p>It emerged from discussion that a suitable mechanism was to be developed for prevention of loss of valuable major/minor mineral/s in course of mining of target mineral/s if the existence and extent of valuable hidden mineral/s had not been covered under exploration stage. It was revealed from discussion that the value-adding mechanism for prevention of loss of valuable hidden minerals co-existing with <i>in-situ</i> minor minerals had already been considered by the Task Force Members at the time of finalizing the Guides for exploration of <i>in-situ</i> Minor Minerals in West Bengal.</p> <p>It was resolved that Government should, after notification of the guidelines, circulate the same among all stakeholders and District Authorities for better awareness and compliance at the time of planning and execution of exploration of minerals for establishing mineral blocks for auctioning.</p> <p>[Action : Dept. of IC&amp;E]</p>

46.05.04	<p><b>Agenda 4 : <u>WBMDTCL to function as an Exploration Agency in West Bengal</u></b></p> <p>Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines vide Gazette Notification No. F. No. 16/08/2015-M.VI (Pt. 1), dated 24.10.2017 has notified WBMDTC Ltd. as one of the Public Sector Entities for taking up prospecting operations.</p> <p>The House requested WBMDTCL to initiate exploration/prospecting operation at the earliest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Action : WBMDTCL]</p>
46.05.05	<p><b>Misscellaneous Issues :</b></p> <p><b>GSI may take up studies at costal regions of the State of West Bengal and come out with proposed suitable locations for setting up see-ports with adequate navigatilty and draft.</b></p> <p><b>GSI authorities started that a receipt of request letter from State Government, they would like to take up such studies.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action : Dept of ICE/ GSI</p>
45.06.00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONCLUDING REMARKS</b></p> <p>Sri Utpal Bhadra, the Joint Secretary expressed sincere thanks to all the participants attending the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Geological Programming and Advisory Board, West Bengal for their active participation and deliberations to arrive at several important decisions</p>

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from and to the Chair.

  
**(S. KISHORE)**  
**Chairman**  
**SGPAB, WB**  
**&**

**Principal Secretary**  
**Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises**  
**Government of West Bengal**