

**MINUTES OF THE 47th MEETING OF STATE GEOLOGICAL PROGRAMMING AND
ADVISORY BOARD (SGPAB), WEST BENGAL, HELD ON 17th JANUARY, 2019, AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & ENTERPRISES, GOVERNMENT OF WEST
BENGAL, AT KOLKATA**

List of Participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

Proceedings of the 47th meeting of SGPAB, West Bengal :

47.01.00	<p>Shri Puneet Yadav, I.A.S., Secretary of the Government of West Bengal, Department of Industry, Commerce and Enterprises. took the chair and welcomed all the delegates and dignitaries and stated that the Additional Chief Secretary of the IC&E Deptt, owing to his other important engagements could not attend and chair the meeting. He initiated the discussion on the mineral scenario of West Bengal with special emphasis on the energy sector and urged about the importance of exploitation technology in the different energy sectors through collective advice of the of the researchers and workers in the field. with an ultimate aim of industrial development of the state.</p>
47.01.01	<p>Shri Utpal Bhadra, Special Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of the Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, stressed the potential and capability of the resources of West Bengal, mainly coal, CBM, Shale Gas, Apatite, Dolomite, Tungsten, Base Metal, Gemstone, Cesium, Natural Gas etc. and mentioned that a gap exists between the available resources and tapping of the said resources and also stressed the importance of exploration in the right direction. He specially mentioned about the occurrence of Pollucite (Cesium) at Purulia District and mentioned that it is the only occurrence reported in Asia. He requested GSI to take up plans carry out investigation for Cesium in G2 level. It was reported that 5 (five) exploration proposals on of 5 major minerals are in the pipeline and they are contemplated to be carried out through NMET fund by MECL.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">He reiterated about the two most important mineral resources of the state viz. Blackstone and Sand both of which are building materials. If the resources are properly utilised the same would generate a significant amount of revenue for the State since the resources are abundant proper exploitation and transportation to other States and even export could fetch further revenues.</p>

[Handwritten signatures]

	<p>The Director of Mines & Minerals, Shri Manabendra Das, and the Member Secretary, SGPAB, elaborated about the minerals occurring in the State and highlighted about the shortage of technical manpower in the ground level, causing a major hindrance in the exploration process. He also stated that proper exploration and exploitation of the resources can bring West Bengal within the top 5 States of India and can export to other countries.</p>
47.01.02	<p>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 46 TH MEETING OF SGPAB, WEST BENGAL</p> <p>The minutes of the 46th meeting of SGPAB was approved by the House unanimously.</p>
47.02.00	<p>DISCUSSION ON ACTION TAKEN REPORT</p>
47.02.01	<p>Agenda 1: (Ref. 46.02.02 of Minutes of 46th meeting of SGPAB)</p> <p>Framing of a definite guideline for establishing the minor mineral resources (other than Riverbed minerals), in the line of UNFC Guidelines by constituting a Task Force comprising geoscientists of GSI, IBM, WBMDTCL and DMM with the Director, DMM, Government of West Bengal as the Chairman.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: DMMWB, GSI, IBM & WBMDTCL)</p> <p>Comment of DMM:</p> <p>The matter is under active consideration of the Task Force.</p>
47.02.02	<p>Agenda II: (Ref. 46.02.03 of Minutes of 46th meeting of SGPAB)</p> <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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: IBM and GSI, ER)</p> <p>Comment of GSI:</p> <p>Only one block of G4 investigation for gold. in and around Rudra village, Bankura district, West Bengal has been identified. as greenfield" area. The dossier for the same is ready with GSI and can be extended to DMM, West Bengal as and. when required.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: DMMWB & IC&E Dept.)</p>

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: DMMWB & IC&E Dept.)

In reference to the request to IBM for providing its database of Brownfield areas and GSI, ER for Greenfield areas for the purpose of preparing both Long-term and Short-term Plans for the next five-year plan period (April, 2017 – March, 2021).

GSI had submitted dossier for only one block of G4 investigation for gold in and around Rudra village, Bankura district and IBM had submitted list of brown field areas (Freehold Areas) as on 2015.

It was resolved that Dept. of IC&E would to take initiative to prepare 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)

Comments of DMM:

DMM has extended the Database on 'Freehold Area as on 2015 (as submitted by IBM) to Dept. of IC&E for review to finalize the Dossier on auctioning process of mineral blocks and long-term & short term planning of mineral exploration & mining, especially in respect to in-situ mineral resources.

Comment of IC&E:

Government is actively working on this matter and works on preparation of District Survey Reports (DSR) in the 5 (five) major districts have been taken up.

47.02.03 Agenda III: (Ref. 46.02.04 of Minutes of 46th meeting of SGPAB)

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>Action Taken: The information on Freehold areas had been shared with Dept. of IC&E for taking appropriate steps in utilizing the said freehold mineral resources.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: Dept. of IC&E)</p> <p>Comments of DMM: For the selection of resources for auctioning of mineral blocks, IBM has submitted 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 which had been shared with Dept. of IC&E for taking appropriate steps in utilizing the said freehold mineral resources.</p> <p>Comment of IC&E Dept.: Selection of Agency through tender, for DSR of minor mineral resources has already been done for developing database to locate auctionable <i>in-situ</i> minor mineral blocks, along with Riverbed Mineral Resources in different district. The work is in progress.</p> <p>Comment of DMM: The matter is under progress. Process of exploration of <i>in-situ</i> minor mineral resources has already been started by DMM, through e-tender process for selection of Exploration Agency.</p>
47.03.00	REVIEW OF WORK DONE BY DIFFERENT MEMBER ORGANIZATION (2018-19)
47.03.01	Progress of work during 2018-19 was briefed by representatives of the respective organisations viz. DMM, WBMDTCL, GSI, ONGC MBA Basin and was accepted by the house.
47.04.00	The proposed programme (2019-20) of different member organizations were briefed by representatives of DMM, WBMDTCL, GSI, ONGC - MBA Basin and was approved by the House.
	(Action : All Member Organizations)
47.05.00	DELIBERATION & PRESENTATION BY MEMBER ORGANIZATION
47.05.01	A Power-point presentation was given by Shri A.K. Huin, Director, GSI on the significant findings of mineral resources of GSI in West Bengal and expressed that it needs more attention for development of those to the fullest extent. The presentation was very well appreciated by the House.

	<p>Another Power-point presentation was given by Shri P. Roy, Chief Geologist of ONGC-MBA Basin on the discovery of Oil & Natural Gas in Ashokenagar, West Bengal and highlighted the Techno-commercial and economic prospects of the findings in the coming days. Since this is the first discovery of oil & gas after 60 years of exploration in Bengal Basin, it was well appreciated by the House.</p>
47.06.00	DISCUSSION ON AGENDA POINTS
47.06.01	<p>Agenda 1 : <u>Issue of Exploration & Mining of Rare Metal</u></p> <p>DMM, in recent past, has entered into a Tripartite Agreement with NMET & MECL on exploration of Mineral resources using the NMET Fund.</p> <p>Review of established resources has already done by DMM and a total of 5(five) project proposals on [Apatite, Rare Metal & Lead and Zinc multi metal Resources] have been selected for submission to NMET. The process of finalizing the project proposals are in progress.</p> <p>Now, in considering that the auctionable mineral block of Rare Metal has been established by MECL, the Revenue deposit in respect of royalty of Rare Metal on mining, may face hindrance since the rate of Royalty in respect of Rare Metal (Cesium) has not yet been fixed by GoI.</p> <p>Therefore, IBM may be requested to comment on the issue and to take initiative towards fixation of Royalty of Rare Metal [Pollucite (ore of Cesium)].</p> <p>Further, IBM may be requested to comment on the available metallurgy, in commercial scale, for extraction of Rare Metal (Cesium) together with Rubidium and Lithium of the Pollucite (as reported by GSI).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: DMM)</p> <p>The point was well taken by the house and it was resolved that the matter would be referred to 58th meeting of CGPB for discussion and appropriate decision in this regard.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action DMM & IC&E)</p>
47.06.02	<p>Agenda 2 : <u>Issue of possibility of WBMDTC Ltd. as prospecting Agency in West Bengal.</u></p> <p>Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines has notified WBMDTC Ltd., vide No. 16/08/2015-M.6 (Pt.1), dated 24.10.2017, as one of the Public Sector Entities for taking up prospecting operation under the second provision of Sub-section 1 of section 4 of MMDR Act, 1957. House may explore the possibility of engaging WBMDTC Ltd., in different prospecting works within West Bengal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: WBMDTCL)</p>

Comment of DMM:

Issue may be discussed in the House.

WBMDTC Ltd expressed their desire to explore both Major and Minor minerals in the State and also outside the State. Further they expressed that they may be allowed to carry out exploration work through NMET fund.

WBMDTC Ltd may take the exploration work of Minor minerals, following the Guidelines of exploration of Minor Minerals, to be notified in near future, subject to approval of the Government. In case of exploration of Major Minerals, since the matter is under the purview of Ministry of Mines, GoI, any specific proposal of WBMDTCL would be referred to MoM, GoI.

It was resolved that the proposal of WBMDTCL on undertaking mineral exploration utilizing the NMET Fund will be referred to MoM for comment on the issue.

(Action : WBMDTCL & ICE)

47.06.03 Agenda 3 : Issue of Exploration of Apatite by GSI to upgrade the resources as per UNFC.

GSI may be requested to take up their programme for upgradation of Apatite deposits as per UNFC already established by them.

(Suggestion: WBMDTCL)

Comment of DMM:

DMM has already decided to prepare exploration proposals of the Apatite Resources of Chirugora, Purdah and Panrkidih of Purulia district for submission through NMET fund, and the same will be submitted shortly. It is to be undertaken by MECL as per the Tripartite Agreement made amongst DMM, NMET & MECL.

WBMDTC Ltd. may interact with GSI to develop G2 level database (As per UNFC) of the remnant resource of Beldih area of Purulia district, in considering the technical knowhow of upgrading the low grade Apatite ores to suitable level for commercial marketing.

It was resolved in the house that as GSI has expressed their inability at present, to carry out exploration work in the said areas would be undertaken by MECL by utilising NMET fund for the benefit of the State.

(Action: DMM & ICE)

47.06.04	<p>Agenda 4 : <u>Issue of Grant of extension of PEL in favour of ONGC-CIL consortium.</u></p> <p>The PEL fees, after obtaining recommendations on grant PEL extension from MoPNG, GoI for the period from 08/12/2012 to 08/06/2017 vide letter No. F.No. 11019(18)/616/2017-EXPL-I-PNG, E-13976, dated 11/10/2017, has been submitted on 08/06/2018.</p> <p>Dept. of IC&E is requested to issue the grant order of PEL extension in favour of ONGC-CIL consortium for the period 08/12/2012 to 08/06/2018 at an early date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: ONGC-CIL consortium)</p> <p>Comment of DMM/ IC&E:</p> <p>Issue may be discussed in the House.</p> <p><i>The issue could not be discussed in the house as there was no representative of the said organization.</i></p>
47.06.05	<p>Agenda 5 : <u>Issue of Grant of PML in favour of ONGC-CIL consortium for 311.79 sq.km. area by Govt. of WB.</u></p> <p>A consensus has been arrived between ONGC-CIL consortium and BAPL on the issue of exploration and mining activity in the overlapped area of CBM as per mutually agreed terms and conditions between ONGC-CIL consortium and BAPL.</p> <p>Govt. of WB is requested to issue approval of PML in favour of ONGC-CIL consortium, in respect of an area of 311.79 sq. km., as per earlier application on the strength of said agreement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: ONGC-CIL consortium)</p> <p>Comment of DMM/ IC&E:</p> <p>Issue may be discussed in the House.</p> <p><i>The issue could not be discussed in the house as there was no representative from the said organization.</i></p>
47.06.06	<p>Agenda 6 : <u>Issue of EOI floated by ONGC-CIL consortium for implementing FDP activities in Raniganj CBM Block.</u></p> <p>ONGC-CIL consortium has floated an EOI on 08/08/2018 for implementing FDP activities in Raniganj CBM block. However, in order to make it under smooth workflow, ONGC-CIL needs grant of extension of from GOWB, in term of the agreement executed between ONGC-CIL consortium and BAPL, at an early date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: ONGC-CIL consortium)</p>

	<p>Comment of DMM/ IC&E:</p> <p>Issue may be discussed in the House.</p> <p><i>The issue could not be discussed in the house as there was no representative from the said organization.</i></p>
47.06.07	<p>Agenda 7 : <u>MECL desires to take up exploration programme on Base Metal Ore in the adjoining area of Gorubathan in forthcoming year.</u></p> <p>In this regard, MECL seeks comment of Govt of West Bengal to proceed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: MECL)</p> <p>Comment of DMM:</p> <p>It is a welcome issue, DMM is shortly submitting project proposal on Exploration of Lead and Zinc around Gorubathan area of Kalimpong district, WB. to NMET along with 4 other projects, for undertaking it by MECL as per Tripartite agreement.</p> <p><i>The issue could not be discussed in the house as there was no representative of the said organization.</i></p>
47.06.08	<p>Agenda 8 : <u>Issue of resolving overlapping areas of Coal mines between ECL & GEECL.</u></p> <p>Overlap of coal bearing areas (6 coal mines covering 22.17 sq. km. area) AND Dhangajore, Modhukunda Coal blocks is a burning issue since long. Despite the direction of Ld. Court rejecting the write petition of GEECL, the work of ECL is being obstructed by GEECL.</p> <p>Govt. of WB is requested to look into the matter to resolve the issue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Suggestion: ECL)</p> <p>Comment of DMM /IC&E:</p> <p>Issue may be discussed in the House.</p> <p><i>The issue could not be discussed in the house as there was no representative for the said organization.</i></p>
47.06.09	<p>Agenda 9 : <u>Miscellaneous Issues</u></p> <p>1. GSI expressed that an investigation programme on Rare Metal in the area around Khatanga of Purulia district, West Bengal has already been approved for the year 2019-20 and so, DMM may look into matter while sending the Project Proposal on Rare Metal to NMET.</p>

	<p>It was resolved that DMM will revise the Proposal on Rare Metal Exploration to NMET excluding the Khatanga area to avoid duplication of work.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action : DMM, WB & Dept. of IC&E)</p> <p>2. WBMDTC Ltd. expressed that it would like to be a Member of CGPB for having a close interaction with MoM and other Stakeholders for better functioning.</p> <p>It was resolved that the matter will be looked into by the Government of India.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action : Dept. of IC&E)</p>
<p>47.07.00</p>	<p>Concluding Remarks of the Chairman :</p> <p>Shri Puneet Yadav, Secretary to the Government of West Bengal and the Chairman, SGPAB stated that such kind of gathering and interactions among the Stakeholders of mineral sector enriches all to a large extent. We would have to join hands together to achieve the target more comprehensively and to develop the mineral sector in a meaningful way.</p> <p>He requested all the Member Organizations to come forward for development of the mineral sector in all segments of earth science with an eye on scientific mining to keep the environment in eco-friendly manner.</p>

The 47th meeting of SGPAB ended with vote of thanks to and for the Chair.


 10.4.19
CHAIRMAN
SGPAB
 &

Secretary to the Government of West Bengal
Department of Industry Commerce & Enterprises


