

MINUTES OF THE 51ST MEETING OF STATE GEOLOGICAL PROGRAMMING AND ADVISORY BOARD (SGPAB) WEST BENGAL, ON 16TH JANUARY, 2024, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & ENTERPRISES, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, AT KOLKATA: -

The list of Participants is enclosed in Annexure-I.

Proceedings of the 51st Meeting of SGPAB, West Bengal.

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| 51.01.00 | Smt. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Principal Secretary of the Government of West Bengal, Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises took the chair and welcomed all the delegates and dignitaries and requested all to introduce themselves. She initiated the discussion on the mineral scenario of West Bengal with special emphasis on sustainability and employment generation in the mining sector with emphasis on proper mine closure plan and the significance of newly introduced WB Raiyati Mining Policy. She also requested all the agencies viz. GSI, ONGC, ECL etc. to actively share information related to their works of different areas of West Bengal to promote more mining activity in the state. |
| 51.01.01 | Shri P. Mohan Gandhi, IAS, Secretary of the Government of West Bengal, Department of Industry Commerce & Enterprises, emphasized upon revamping of the entire Mining related activities of the state undertaken in the last 2-3 years, and accordingly the Minor Minerals have been totally re-assigned by the State Govt. with introduction of WB Sand Mining Policy in 2021 & WB Raiyati Policy in 2022. Simultaneously, the state has focused upon the Major Mineral deposits namely, Apatite, Cs, Li & REE, Rudra Gold prospect etc. as per the changing amendments of MMDR to upgrade them into Auction able form. He also requested GSI to share their previous exploration works data on Major minerals in this state with DMM in order to avoid duplication of works regarding project proposals submitted by NPEAs for exploration using NMET Fund. |
| 51.01.02 | <p>Thereafter, Smt. Sonali Datta (Ray), Director of Mines and Minerals and the Member Secretary, SGPAB mentioned that the 50th SGPAB meeting was conducted on 25.08.2022 and Minutes/ Action Taken Report on Agenda Items of 50th SGPAB are placed for confirmation before the house. She briefly described the achievements of DMM for 2022-2023 viz. approval of 257 no. of Mining Plans&. 41 Geological Reports and updating work of 6 DSRs (for E.C. purposes) as per the guidelines of MoEF & CC, GoI, SSMG, 2018, Sand Fining Framework,2018 & EMGSM,2020.</p> <p>Moreover, she stated about the exploration activity for establishment of mineral reserves of Dimension Stone deposits in Purulia district undertaken by the DMM, WB wherein two prospective reserves have been identified & delineated. She informed that the G2 level exploration reports for the reserves are in the process of finalization. Moreover, 5 nos of Granite exploration projects in Bankura district, Talc-Steatite & Geo tourism project in east Bagrakote, Kalimpong district have been taken up for 2023-2024.</p> <p>Thereafter, she informed the house the details of the 04-prospective Apatite Mineral Blocks in Purulia district for grant of direct Mining Leases & 03- Cesium & REE Mineral Blocks for grant of Composite License, which are under active consideration by the Dept. of I C & E.</p> <p>She requested for a coordinated approach among all the stakeholders which would help the state of West Bengal to emerge as a notable mineral exporter in the country.</p> |
| 51.01.03 | <p>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 50th MEETING OF SGPAB, WEST BENGAL.</p> <p>The minutes of the 50th meeting of SGPAB, West Bengal was confirmed by the House unanimously.</p> |
| 51.02.00 | <p>Member participants (GSI SUWBAN and ONGC) has discussed the action taken report on the agenda items of the 50th WBSGPAB.</p> |
| 51.03.00 | <p>DISCUSSION ON THE REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF WORKS (F.S. 2022-2023) AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME (F.S. 2023-2024) OF DMM, WBMDTCL, GSI, ONGC & CMPDI.</p> <p>The proposed programmes of all the Member organizations were approved by the house after respective PPT presentation .</p> |
| 51.04.00 | <p>DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS OF 51ST SGPAB:</p> |

51.04.01

Agenda 1

Issue 1: As per the norms of NMET, NPEAs are forwarding exploration proposals to the State Govt. for obtaining in-principal approval and preferring the recommended proposals to NMET with views of GSI, ER. It is requested that the reports of GSI, ER may be expedited for acting on the proposals within shortest possible time.

In this context, the Secretary (Mines), I C & E also inquired about the exact guidelines for NPEAs regarding approval of exploration projects using NMET Fund in the areas previously explored by GSI.

Comments of GSI: GSI stated that for exploration work proposed by NPEAs for same Mineral (earlier explored by GSI), in same UNFC level in the same area shall not be entertained until there exists a strong justification with application of innovative technology behind the proposed project. However, for other mineral commodities, the matter may be considered with proper justification.

(Action: DMM/IC&E, GSI ER)

Issue 2: In view of the 2 no's recently introduced amendments in MMDR Act (dated 9th August, 2023) & in Mineral Auction Rules, 2015(dated 01/09/2023), it seems that conducting of auction for grant of composite license including the Beneficiation for the Rare Metal deposits in Beku, Belamu & Khatanga areas in Purulia District may be a more acceptable alternative. If deemed feasible, the Land Availability Report along with details under Part-IV A of MEMC Rules, 2015 may be shared with the Ministry of Mines for considering to initiate the Mineral Auction process under the newly amended statute. Similarly, the Apatite/Phosphate minerals have also recently been included under Section-11D, Part-D in the category of "Critical & Strategic Minerals" under newly amended MMDR Act (dated 9th August, 2023). Therefore, 04-Apatite deposits in Purulia, namely: Pankridih, Purdaha, Chirugoda & Mednitanr may be dealt with similar manner.

Comments of GSI: GSI stated that they shall check the issues regarding the documents needed in connection with the requirement of land availability report and inform to the DMM/Dept. later on.

(Action: DMM/IC&E, GSI ER)

51.04.02

Agenda 2 (Issue: GSI)

- A. Status of Reconstitution of JWG for auctioning of Mineral blocks and requested to hold a meeting of JWG at the earliest.

Comments of IC&E: JWG has already been reconstituted and 03 meetings have already been taken place and as per the resolutions, the four Apatite Mineral Blocks in Purulia have been selected in the first phase. They shall be dealt as per latest Amendments in MMDR & Mineral Auction Rules in August, & September, 2023 respectively, and, GSI, ER is hereby requested to provide information regarding the list of dossiers (especially, Land Availability Report) required for conducting Auction Composite License.

Comments of GSI, ER: The requisite information shall be provided shortly.

- B. Preservation and maintenance of Geo-heritage sites of West Bengal viz. Amkhoi Wood fossil park at Bolpur, Dist. Birbhum & Gangani Canyon on Silabati river, Dist. Paschim Medinipur district.

Comments of DMM: DMM stated about the possibilities of materializing the Geo-Heritage sites preservation project in East Bagrakote Colliery in Kalimpong district.

(Action: DMM, WB & GSI, ER)

- C. Forest clearance issues for taking up drilling work.

Comments of DMM: DMM also agreed to this problem.

(Action: GSI ER)

51.04.03

Agenda 3 (Issue ONGC): -

- a) Grant of Prospecting cum Mining Lease of 5.88 Sq. km. for Oil & Gas Discovery in the well Asokenagar-1, Block WB-ONN-2005/4 Application for PML grant of 5.88 sq.km. was submitted to Government of West Bengal on 10.09.2020 which was part of Early Development Plan based on one wall data i.e. Asokenagar-1. Grant of PML is awaited.
- b) PEL for the Block BP-ONHP-2021/1 PEL application dtd. 22.70.2021 for Block BP-ONHP-2021/1 was submitted to Dept. of Industry, Commerce and Enterprises, Government of West Bengal. Grant of PEL is awaited.
- c) Declaration of inaccessible area of OALP-III Block BP-ONHP-2018/1 for hydrocarbon exploration activities
 - A substantial part of North & South 24 Parganas along with some part of Kolkata of the OALP-III block BP-ONHP-2018/1 having an area of 2468 sq.km is under rapid urbanization.
 - As per NABET accredited EIA consultant M/s ABC Techno Laboratory Report, out of the 2468 sq.km area 44.17% i.e. 1116 sq.km is inaccessible for hydrocarbon exploration work.
 - In view of reduction of the accessible area in the block, ONGC had requested DGH/MoP&NG for proportional reduction in CWP, to which DGH asked ONGC to submit the proposal again with "relevant permission/denial letter/rejection letter or objections from statutory authorities (i.e. Govt. of west Bengal) thus prohibiting operator to carry out petroleum operation within PEL granted area. Accordingly, ONGC requested the District Magistrates of North & South 24 Parganas through letters dated 09.12.2022 and 06.02.2023, for declaring 1116 sq.km. as inaccessible area for hydrocarbon exploration activities within the block BP-ONHP-2018/1. However, response is awaited.

(Action: IC&E, ONGC)

Comments of IC&E: The Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department shall take required steps to resolve the issues shortly.

51.04.04

Agenda 4:

Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI) is a Government of India enterprise having its corporate headquarters at Ranchi in India. It is a fully owned subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) and a Schedule-B company. Various consultancy services are provided by CMPDI like Exploration, Planning and Design, Environment Management, Geomatics etc. are to name a few. For more kindly visit the website at <https://www.cmpdi.co.in/en/services>.

1. However, CMPDI RI-1 unit would like to request to kindly provide support in regular coal exploration activities in the State especially the exploration work in 2 large coal blocks in Birbhum Coalfield in Birbhum District would only be commenced with active administrative help of the authorities.
2. If any non-coal project of DMM is to be done, CMPDI has the expertise to complete jobs either departmentally or by outsourcing. Any such project may be shared with CMPDI. A bauxite project (Madua Pat I in Lohardaga District) has been successfully executed in State of Jharkhand by CMPDI, Ranchi unit (RI-3).
3. CMPDI, RI-1 has expertise in Geomatics works encompassing survey related jobs with sophisticated equipment's and state of the art software to process the data. CMPDI has vast expertise ARC-GIS related works connected geological map preparation.
4. Comprehensive Hydrogeological Report with or without Modelling is being prepared in CMPDI. CMPDI is NABET Accredited consultant.
5. Expertise in the field of geophysics with experience in delineating water source through resistivity. Vast expertise in data acquisition of gravity, magnetic studies and processing of the data. State of the art equipment for seismic data acquisition, downhole geophysical logging. CMPDI, RI-1 can offer expert geophysical service in realms of exploration.
6. EIA, EMP reports also prepared in CMPDI RI-1, Asansol for mining projects. CMPDI, RI-1, Asansol is also equipped with NABET Accredited Lab for Air, water, noise quality analysis.

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| | <p>Comments of DMM: It is recorded and if required will be adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: CMPDI)</p> |
| 51.02.05 | <p>Agenda 5:</p> <p><u>Miscellaneous</u></p> <p>1. Due to large project area (25 Sq. km) having civil structures and habitats, Secretary requested GSI to take up a project on UNFC G3 level on Rudra gold block (based on their G4 level report).</p> <p>Comments of GSI: GSI would inform the house to send an urgent special request letter from the end of DMM/State and thereafter the G-3 exploration project shall be taken up by GSI.</p> <p>2. GSI, ER conveyed about the potentiality of the Copper in Tamakhun Block in the Purulia District having reserve of 1,13,000 Tonnes average Metal content of 1.85% cu. Therefore, in light of this matter, GSI may be requested for preparation of Part-IV A of the said mineral block.</p> <p>Comments of GSI: In light of this matter, GSI may be requested for undertaking Block Boundary DGPS Survey & preparation of Part-IV A of the said mineral block.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: DMM, WB, GSI, ER)</p> |
| 51.03.00 | <p>Concluding Remarks: The Member Secretary, Director of Mines & Minerals, requested all the member participants to come forward for strengthening the development of the Mineral Sector in West Bengal. Moreover, she stated that, Proper and Sustainable Exploration work on both Major & Minor Minerals may elevate the position of West Bengal in India in the realm of Mineral Production and Management. Thus, West Bengal may become a successful Mineral exporter of Major & Minor Minerals within India & abroad.</p> |

V. Y. Yadav
(Smt. VANDANA YADAV)

Chairperson, SGPAB West Bengal
&
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal
Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises