

Minutes of 39th SGPAB Meeting held on the 27th July, 2010 at Kolkata.

39.00.01 : List of the participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

39.01.01 : At the outset Shri N. Samai, Member Secretary of the 39th meeting of SGPAB made a warm welcome to

Shri D. Mukhopadhyay, Chairman of State Geological Programming and Advisory Board, West Bengal

And Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, West Bengal and all the participants

Representing the Member Organizations.

39.01.02 : The Chairman got himself acquainted with the participants attending the meeting and on his request all

the participants gave their introduction. The Chairman gave a hearty welcome to all the members and

their representatives present in the meeting. He explained the function of the Board and motto of the

Meeting in brief. He also wished for a fruitful discussion beneficial to the State of West Bengal.

39.02.01 : On the issue of approval of the minutes of the 38th meeting of SGPAB, the representative of the ONGC-CIL

Consortium pointed out that the decision made in the 38th meeting of SGPAB on the issue of overlapping

Case of Bengal Aerotropolis Project area and CBM PEL Block allotted to the Consortium should be

Incorporated in the Minutes of 38th meeting. The Chairman agreed upon the issuance of corrigendum in

This regard. Other contents of the Minutes were approved by the house.

(Action : DMM, WB)

39.03.01 : The Chairman briefed the house the actions taken on the Minutes on 38th meeting as laid down under

38.04.01(a)-(i) as follows : -

38.04.01(a) : DMM, WB was passing through a phase of capacity building in terms of enhancing technical

Skill of workforce and introduction of modern machinery & equipments.

38.04.01(b) : WBMDTC was requested by DMM to send five representative samples of apatite ore from

Beldih Mines, Purulia district to IBM for test beneficiation study. Shri M. Jain, MD, WBMDTC intimated

The House that the samples had already been sent.

38.04.01(c) : WBMDTC was requested by DMM to send a georeferenced database of the boundary of the

Area which was needed to be explored to delineate extension of apatite mineralization at Beldih.

(Action : WBMDTC Ltd.)

38.04.01(d) : DMM requested GSI, ER to take up programme to prepare thematic map of apatite Mineralization in Purulia district. Shri M. Tiwari, Dy. DG, GSI informed that they were working on

Apatite mineralization in the Northern part of Purulia district. On Completion, they may consider the

Preparation of Thematic Map as requested by IBM.

(Action : GSI, ER)

38.04.01(e) : The Dy. DG, GSI informed that they were unable to undertake the investigation of

low

Grade iron ore in the State due to law and order problem.

38.04.01(f) : It was revealed that the reports on exploration of coal by GSI would be available on finalization in their portal.

(Action: All Concerned)

38.04.01(g) : It was revealed that the crisis of fund had already been over.

38.04.01 (h) : It was revealed that the baseline data on mineral resources was in the process of Finalization by the DMM. On completion, the matter of proposal for detailed exploration may be Probed into as requested by MECL.

(Action: DMM, WB)

38.04.01(i) : Shri C. Parameswaran, Asstt. Controller of Mines, IBM was informed that the georeferencing

Of limestone and dolomite resources of Purulia district had been done by DMM and database on the

Matter will be extended to IBM shortly.

(Action : DMM. WB)

38.04.01(j) : Dr. A.K.Mishra, Suptdg. Hydrogeologist, CGWB informed that they had undertaken

some

Projects with SWID and PHED for the drought prone districts of West Bengal.

39.04.01 : On request of the Chairman, Shri N. Samai, DMM, WB and Member Secretary, SGPAB narrated about the

Progress of work undertaken by the State Directorate in F.S. 2009-10 and programme proposed

for

F.S. 2010-11. He also requested GSI, ER to take up a collaborative programme with DMM. WB

on

Microzonation of Landslide Risk Areas in parts of Darjeeling districts (F.S. 2010-11 onwards for a

period

of 3 years) considering it as a Societal issue. Preliminary discussion among the geo-scientists of

DMM

West Bengal and GSI, ER revealed scope of investigation was existing in parts of Kalimpong and

Darjeeling

Subdivisions Since GSI is carrying out a R&D programme in parts of Kureseong subdivision in

collaboration

With ITC of the Netherlands. It was agreed upon that the study for microzonation may begin at

(i)around

Chhobo Basti, (ii) around Sindibung Basti and (iii) along Algara - Pedong road section (all in

parts of

Kalimpong Subdivision). He added that the components of the study were already formulated in

the

Discussion and requested GSI to look into the matter of target fixation, sharing of responsibility

and

Approval of CGPB.

(Action : GSI, ER & DMM, WB)

39.04.02 : Shri M Jain, Managing Director, WBMDTC briefed the house on different exploration projects they Had undertaken in F.S. 2009-10 and project proposals for F.S. 2010-11. He requested DMM to formulate a programme on drilling operation in Beldih, Purulia district, West Bengal at selected points from F.S. 2010-11.

(Action: DMM, WB & WBMDTC Ltd.)

39.04.03 : Shri M. Tiwari, Dy. D.G.of GSI, ER (OP : WB & AN) briefed the house about the works carried out by

Geologist Different missions of GSI in West Bengal during F.S. 2009-10. He also stated about programme Proposed for F.S. 2009-10> He also stated about programme proposed for F.S. 2010-1. On request Of the Chairman, he elaborated their work on Urban Geology in Malda. Shri S.S.Ghosh, Suptdg. Geologist Supplemented his statement through presentation on their works on Talc-Steatite investigation Around Gok-Karmi area, Darjeeling district and Apatite mineralization in the northern part of Purulia district.

(Action : GSI, ER)

that their S/Shri S. Chakraborty and B.B. Swain, Directors of GSI, Coal Wing (now Mission II-B) informed Activity was them concentrated in Raniganj and Birbhum Coalfield areas for regional scale exploration In the coal blocks as awarded by MoC , and as finalized in the meeting of CGPB and also about their plan Of work during F.S. 2010-11.

(Action : GSI, Coal Wing)

39.04.04 : Shri A.K.Sen, Chief Geologist of ONGC, MBA Basin briefly narrated the ongoing works of ONGC for oil

And gas exploration in the Bengal Basin area. On an enquiry from the Chairman he clearly explained

one The geological complexity of Bengal basin area and difficulty of drilling operation in off-shore area Due to shallow depth of Bay of Bengal. He also added that the suitable geological structure was

made Of the key factors that played a role a trap for accommodating petroleum and/or natural gas in large Quantity in nature; he cited the presence of such geological structure in Tripura and Bangladesh. S/Shri S.K.Bose, Chief Geologist and D. Chakraborty, Chief Geologist of ONGC – Cil Consortium

2009-10 A presentation on their performance on CBM exploration in the Raniganj Coalfield during F.S.

It was revealed that they have covered an area of 350 Sq. Kms., as allotted to them of which about 40 Sq. Kms. Of area was identified as the most promising zone for CBM. Shri D. Chakraborty added

that about 10sq kms. Area of this promising zone was overlapped with the Bengal Aerotropolis Project area which crippled the CBM exploration work. On an enquiry of the Chairman, he stated that a total of 8 (eight) core holes and 1(one) exploratory well were planned to be operated in the overlapped area. In Addition, Shri Chakraborty illustrated, in the presentation., all the locations of core holes and exploratory Wells they had planned for CBM exploration in the area. After an interactive discussion with him the Chairman suggested to verify the area of the Moira and Modhujhore collieries for any change of Overlapping with the Promising zone of CBM Project. In response to an enquiry of Shri M. Jain, M.D., WBMDTC Ltd., the Representatives of ONGC-CIL Consortium informed that extraction of CBM would not cause any subsidence of land. They added That extraction of CBM would be followed by extraction of Coal; the incidence of subsidence of land might be caused during mining depending on faulty planning or incomplete stowing. Shri Parmeshwaran of IBM agreed with ONGC. Shri Pallab Mazumdar and A.Kulbhushan, Sr. Managers of Essar Oil Ltd. Supported the view on ONGC in this matter and added that there is no reported subsidence available globally which was caused by CBM extraction. Shri B. Basu from ECL raised the point of pulverizing of underground coal due to hydrofracturing at the time of CBM extraction. In response, representatives from ESSAR Oil Ltd. Incormed that there was no such instance of splitting of coal in similar cases in Australia. On the issue of simultaneous extraction of CBM and coal from a common resource area Shri Parmeshwaran of IBM, Shri Basu of ECL and the Representatives of GSI, Coal Wing informed the house that The surface work and underground work could be done simultaneously; rather, there must be a sequence Of operations depending on the sub-surface rock properties and stability of geological structures, Considering structurally weak planes like faults, joints, fractures etc. The Chairman requested all concerned with this matter to introspect deeply so that the outcome would be Beneficial to the State as well as the concerned organizations.

(Action : C&I Dept., DMM,WB and All Concerned)

39.04.05 : Shri B. Basu, Dy. G.M. of ECL briefed the house about the quantum of work done by ECL during F.S. 2009-10 and the programme undertaken for F.S. 2010-11.

(Action: ECL)

39.04.06 : The Representative of Essar Oil Ltd., CGPB, SWID and PHED narrated the Summary of their progress of works during F.S. 2009-10 and the respective work-plans for F.S. 2010-11.

(Action: Concerned Organizations)

39.04.07 : Shri Parmeshwaran, Asstt. Controller of Mines, IBM briefed the house about the works carried out by IBM

In the State in F.S. 2009-10 and the plan for F.S. 2010-11. He added that IBM could not make the inspection of limestone and dolomite resources of Purulia during F.S. 2009-10 because the georeferences of the locations of the resources in concern were not provided to IBM by DMM as requested in the 38th meeting of SGPAB. He requested the Chairman to look into this matter to expedite. In response, the Chairman requested DMM to provide the database to IBM in the earliest opportunity since the related works were over.

(Action : DMM, WB &

IBM)

39.04.08 : Shri S.K.Sarkar of MECL informed the Chairman that MECL was the specialist in carrying out Detailed

Exploration in this country on the strength of the baseline data generated by GSI as well as other State agencies. He requested the Chairman to look into the possibility of detailed exploration in the Coalfield areas. He also requested for sending a proposal to MoM by Government of West Bengal in this matter on finalization of the baseline data of DMM. The Chairman requested DMM to expedite the finalization of the baseline data generation following the UNFC guidelines and to look into the scope of detailed exploration of specific mineral resources.

(Action : DMM, WB and C&I Dept.)

39.05.01 : The programmes proposed by the different member organizations for F.S. 2010-11 were approved by the

State Geological Programming & Advisory Board in its 39th meeting and would be followed up as per the

Resolutions taken in the meeting.

The Member Secretary thanked all the participants for their interaction in the discussions and extending

Valuable suggestions expressed during the meeting for the benefit and development of mineral sector

of West Bengal.

The meeting ended with Vote of thanks to the Chair.

CHAIRMAN

Addendum to the Minutes of 38th meeting of State Geological Programming and Advisory Board, West Bengal
held on 22.12.2009 at Kolkata on the basis of discussion in the meeting of SGPAB held on 27.07.2010.

Whatever contained in the Minutes of the 38th meeting of SGPAB, WB held on 22.12.2009, the following will be considered as the addendum to the Minutes of the said meeting. The resolution taken under the said addendum may be considered for the follow up action along with other points discussed and resolved in the 39th meeting of SGPAB, WB held on 27.07.2010.

38.04.01(K) : Dr. S.K.Das of ONGC-CIL Consortium raised the issue of overlapping of the proposed Bengal Aerotropolis

Project at Andal, Burdwan, W.B. with the CBM Block allotted to the Consortium due to which the exploration work of CBM was severely hampered. In response, Dr. Sabyasachi Sen, Chairman, SGPAB and Principal Secretary, C&I Department expressed his desire to conduct a meeting shortly with all concerned agencies and the Commerce & Industries Department.

(D. MUKHOPADHYAY)
CHAIRMAN,SGPAB,WB