Only through e-mail

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/39 **New Delhi, 26th May, 2022**

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 24th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 18th May, 2022.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 24th meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 18th May, 2022 for your kind perusal.

Action Taken Report on relevant paras may kindly be forwarded to this office.

[Vivek Sharma]
Director & HoD, NMET

To,

1. The Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Anushakti Bhawan, C.S.M. Marg, Mumbai-400001.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
4. The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
5. The Director General, Geological Survey of India, 27, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700016.
6. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, 2nd Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
7. The Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, AP Secretariat, 2nd Block, Room No.101, Amravati, Vijayawada-522238.
8. The Secretary, Mineral Resources Dept., Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Naya Raipur, Raipur-492001.
9. The Principal Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal-462004.
10. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Mines & Geology, Govt. of Jharkhand, Second Floor, Above SBI Building, Besides MDI Building, Project Building, Dhurva, Ranchi-834004.
11. Dr. Hari Shankar Pandalai, Professor, Dept. of Earth Science, IIT, Bombay, Powai, Mumbai-400076.
12. Shri P. S. Parihar, Director (Retd.) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Department of Atomic Energy, A-202, Aashima Mall, Hoshangabad Road, Bhopal-462026.
13. Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (Retd.) Business Development & Planning, MECL, 109, KT Nagar, Katol Road, Nagpur-440013.
14. Shri Alok Sharma, Retd. GM & HoD (Exploration), CMPDIL, 402, Lake Garden Apartment, Opposite Gandhi Nagar, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology & Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Minerals, Government of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar.
5. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (Industry & Mines), Government of Gujarat.
9. The Commissioner Secretary (Industries & Commerce), Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
10. The Secretary (Industries, Mines & Geology), Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Secretary, (Industries & Commerce) Government of Karnataka.
12. The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala.
13. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries & Mines), Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Commissioner and Secretary, Mining & Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Commissioner & Secretary, Geology & Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Principal Secretary (Steel & Mines), Government of Odisha.
18. The Principal Secretary, Mines & Geology, Government of Punjab.
19. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Principal Secretary (Industries & Mines), Government of Telangana.
22. The Secretary (Mines & Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce & Enterprises), Government of West Bengal.
25. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
26. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim.
27. The Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Tripura.
28. The Secretary, Commerce & Industries, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Secretary, Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Government of Manipur.
30. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Director, Department of Geology & Mining
3. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Assam.
4. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Bihar.
5. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Gujarat.
8. The Director, Department of Industries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
10. The Director (Mines), Directorate of Mines, Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka.
12. The Director, Directorate of Mining & Geology, Government of Kerala.
13. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Director, Directorate of Mines, Government of Odisha.
18. The Director, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of Punjab.
19. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Commissioner of Geology & Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.
22. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
24. The Director, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
25. The Director, Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Government of Ladakh.
26. The Director, Department of Mines, Minerals & Geology, Government of Sikkim
27. The Director, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Tripura
28. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mineral Resource, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Director, Department of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Government of Manipur.
30. The Director, Department of Mines& Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. The Additional Director General and Chairman, TCC-NMET, Southern Region, GSI Complex, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad-500068.
2. The Director, AMD, Department of Atomic Energy, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.
3. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MECL, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur-440006.
4. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDIL, Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031.
5. The Dy. Director General, RSAS, GSI, Vasudha Bhavan, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078.
6. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, KIOCL Ltd, Block-II, Koramangala, Sarjapura Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560034.
7. The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, NMDC Ltd., Khanij Bhavan, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028.
8. The General Manager, Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited, H. No.6-2-915, HMWSSB premises, Rear Block, 3rd Floor, Khairatabad, Hyderabad.
9. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Indirawati Bhawan, Block-4, First & Second Floor Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492002.
10. The GM (Exploration), OMECL, Govt. of Odisha. Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. 3rd Floor, Boyan Bhawan, Unit-3, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001.
11. The Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd., Paryawas Bhawan, Block 'A', IInd floor, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462011.
12. The Director (Dept. of Mines & Geology), Govt. of Telangana, DRDK Building, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad-500022.
13. The Chief Executive Officer, Mineral Exploration Research and Innovation Trust (MERIT), Department of Mines & Geology, 6th Floor, B-Wing, Sri Anjaneya Towers, Ibrahimpatnam, District: Krishna-521456.
14. The Managing Director, Odisha Mining Corporation, OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001.

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary/PPS to AS(SL)/PS to JS&FA, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust [NMET]

Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 18th May, 2022

The 24th meeting of EC of NMET was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Alok Tandon, Secretary (Mines) on 18th May, 2022 in Khanij Kaksh, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi through video conference. The list of participants is given in **Annexure-1.**

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Mines welcomed all the participants in the meeting. He informed that the project proposals put for approval in the meeting are from remaining in 22nd EC meeting and recommended by 39th TCC & 40th TCC meetings.

Shri Vivek Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET presented the agenda points for the EC meeting.

Following are the agenda points discussed and decisions taken.

1: Approval of minutes of 23rd meeting of EC held on 11th March, 2022 and supplementary 23rd EC meeting on 16th March, 2022.

The minutes of the 23rd meeting of EC held on 11th March, 2022 and supplementary 23rd EC meeting on 16th March, 2022 was circulated on 16th and 17th March, 2022 respectively to all EC members and no comments have been received.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the minutes of the 23rd meeting of EC held on 11th March, 2022 and supplementary 23rd EC meeting on 16th March, 2022 and which were circulated on 16th and 17th March, 2022.

2: Action Taken Report (ATR) for minutes of 23rd meeting of EC held on 11th March, 2022 and supplementary 23rd EC meeting on 16th March, 2022.

The ATR on minutes of the 23rd meeting of EC held on 11th March, 2022 and supplementary 23rd EC meeting on 16th March, 2022 was presented in the meeting. Shri Vivek Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET informed that necessary action has been taken on decision of the minutes of 23rd EC Meeting except one point S. No. 7 project proposal for Reconnaissance survey for PGE in Chandiposh block (111.00 sq. km), District: Sundargarh, Odisha. MECL will be submitting the project proposal in next TCC meeting after incorporating modifications and suggestions of technical expert members of EC.

Decision of EC:

EC accepted the action taken reports on minutes of 23rd meeting of EC held on 11th March, 2022 and supplementary 23rd EC meeting held on 16th March, 2022.

(Action: MECL)

3: Approval of new project proposals deferred in 22nd EC meeting and recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC).

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG and Chairman, TCC, NMET presented the details of projects recommended for EC approval. He informed that 8 nos. of projects have been recommended in 39th and 40th TCC meeting held in March and April, 2022 for approval of EC at estimated cost of ₹26.59 Cr. [Potash-1, Limestone- 2, Diamond-1, REE- 1, Phosphorite- 1 and Basemetal-1].

He also informed that in 22nd EC meeting, 11 nos. of coal projects were deferred as the finalization of Indian Standard Procedure [ISP] 2022 for coal resource estimation was under consideration. Now the final report of ISP 2022 for coal resource estimation has been approved and circulated, hence coal projects with estimated cost of ₹58.48 Cr. were put for EC approval.

During 22nd meeting, EC agreed with the proposal for procurement of the two instruments and suggested that after approval of NMET rules, funds be made available for this project. Now Governing Body (GB) of NMET in its 4th meeting held on 13th April, 2022 has approved the proposal for financial assistance for procurement of machinery/equipment/ chemical analysis instruments aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. Accordingly, IBM has submitted the proposal for the procurement of WD-X-Ray Fluoresence Spectrometer [₹ 3.00 Cr.] along with standards, spares and ancillary units and ICP-Mass Spectrometer [₹ 2.00 Cr.] along with standards, spares and ancillary units.

The detailed discussion and EC decision for project proposals recommended for approval of EC are as follows:

i. **Reconnaissance survey (G4) for coal in Pawanchora Central block, Wardha Valley Coalfield, District: Chandrapur, Maharashtra. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹4.44 Cr.]**

Discussion:

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG GSI & Chairman, TCC, NMET discussed the technical and financial aspect of each project.

Dr. S. Raju, Director General, GSI enquired about the cost of the drilling and other charges for the NMET funded projects.

The Chairman, TCC informed that approved Schedule of Charges (SoC) for NMET funded project is available and on the basis of the recommended rate for each activity, the TCC evaluate the project cost and recommend for EC approval.

It was decided that the reasonability of rates for SoC NMET may be carried out in the next one month.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹4.44 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

ii. **General exploration (G2) for coal in south of Damuda block, Jharia Coalfield, District: Dhanbad, Jharkhand. [Duration- 18 months & Estimated cost ₹11.25 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹11.25 Cr.** and timeline of **18 months**.

iii. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in North of Parbelia, Raniganj Coalfield, District: Purulia, West Bengal. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹2.86 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹2.86 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

iv. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in West of Borda and Ghonsa-Parsoda block, Wardha Valley Coalfield, District: Chandrapur, Maharashtra. [Duration- 18 months & Estimated cost ₹12.02 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹12.02 Cr.** and timeline of **18 months**.

v. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in North of Rajathari, Pench Kanhan Tawa Valley Coalfield, District: Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh. [Duration- 20 months & Estimated cost ₹13.88 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹13.88 Cr.** and timeline of **20 months**.

vi. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in West of Chano-Rikba Coal Block, North Karanpura Coalfield, District: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹3.75 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹3.75 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

vii. **Reconnaissance survey (G4) for coal in North West of Madheri Extension block, Wardha Valley Coalfield, District: Wardha, Maharashtra. [Duration- 9 months & Estimated cost ₹1.24 Cr.]**

Discussion:

Director General, GSI enquired about the thickness of coal seam and depth of coal seam.

The Chairman, TCC informed that coal seams are found approximately at 350m to 400m depth with seam thickness of about 0.3m to 1m and quality of G7-G10 category. He also informed that only two boreholes with 1250m drilling may be taken up to check thickness and continuity of coal seams in the proposed block.

EC decision:

EC deferred the project and suggested CMPDI to take comments from GSI and State Government regarding the feasibility of exploration work and drilling in proposed block.

(Action: CMPDI/GSI/DGM, Maharashtra)

viii. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in North of Labji Pusla Block, Sonhat Coalfield, District: Korea, Chhattisgarh. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹3.18 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹3.18 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

ix. **Reconnaissance survey (G4) for coal in North of Chulaha Bhulia block (8.77 sq km), Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹2.56 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹2.56 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

x. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in West of Sheetaldhara block (3.94 sq km), Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹0.98 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹0.98 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

xi. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for coal in Ulia-Gamhardih Block, East of Bisrampur Coalfield, District: Surguja, Chhattisgarh. [Duration-12 months & Estimated cost ₹2.32 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹2.32 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

xii. **Procurement of Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (WD-XRF) Spectrometer through NMET fund. [Duration-12 months & Estimated cost ₹3.00 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹3.00 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

xiii. **Procurement of Inductively Coupled Plasma- Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) through NMET fund. [Duration-12 months & Estimated cost ₹2.00 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹2.00 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

xiv. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for Limestone in Periyakurichi block (1.88 sq. km) District: Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu. [Duration-8 months & Estimated cost ₹0.97 Cr.]**

Discussion:

The Director General, GSI enquired about the depth of the drilling and total drilling for both limestone blocks.

The Chairman, TCC informed that both projects [Periyakurichi block (1.88 sq. km) and Sendurai & Maruvathur block (1.54 sq. km)] have been recommended for preliminary exploration

(G3) with geological mapping (1: 4,000 scale), 400m drilling (5 boreholes), and collection of 200 samples in each of the projects. The five boreholes will be planned to form a polygon covering the entire block area of each block.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹0.97 Cr.** and timeline of **8 months**.

xv. Preliminary exploration (G3) for Limestone in Sendurai & Maruvathur block (1.54 sq. km) District: Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu. [Duration-7 months & Estimated cost ₹0.96 Cr.]

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹0.96 Cr.** and timeline of **7 months**.

xvi. Preliminary exploration (G3) for Potash in Lakhasar East block, Lakhasar-Sub Basin, North Western Part of Rajasthan, District: Bikaner, Rajasthan. [Duration-18 months & Estimated cost ₹15.51 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC informed that G3 level exploration has already been carried out in 13.107 sq. km area and exploration work is in progress in 16.79 sq. km area of Lakhasar Sub Basin of 29.90 sq. km.

He briefed about the outcome of exploration work carried out and on the basis of encouraging results of boreholes drilled in Lakhasar block, a new proposed Lakhasar East block (7.16 sq. km) in the eastern side of the existing Lakhasar block within the Lakhasar sub basin has been recommended with 7700m drilling in 11 nos. of boreholes with average depth 700m to established the continuity of the Potash zones. He also informed that 10 correlatable main potash zones (six in Halite cycle H1 and four in Halite cycle H2) and seven local potash zones have been identified in Lakhasar block.

The Director, AMD informed that the process of consultation with the exploration agencies in respect of gamma ray logging of the boreholes may be finalised so that logging of boreholes can be taken up by the Directorate.

The Secretary, Mines enquired about the status of auction of explored blocks and feasibility for auction of block in Composite Licence (CL). He suggested to defer the project proposal and asked to take comments from the State Government.

EC decision:

EC deferred the project and asked for status of auction of explored blocks from State government.

(Action: MECL/DGM Rajasthan)

xvii. **Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Nickel, Copper, and associated minerals in Salewara-Kumarwara-Murum block (52.00 sq. km), District: Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. [Duration- 9 months & Estimated cost ₹0.39 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹0.39 Cr.** and timeline of **9 months**.

xviii. **Preliminary exploration (G3) for phosphorite in Pahadi Kalan-Gora Kalan block, District: Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹3.62 Cr.]**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹3.62 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

xix. **Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Copper, Lead, Zinc and Gold in Tarichar Khurd block (101.00 sq. km), District: Niwari, Madhya Pradesh. [Duration-12 months & Estimated cost ₹0.50 Cr.]**

Discussion:

The Director General, GSI informed that GSI has carried out work in these area and samples of quartz reef had been analyzed. The malachite stains are seen at places in quartz reef only.

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD suggested that values associated with malachite may not be an encouraging one.

The Secretary, Mines asked to take comments from GSI regarding the feasibility for further exploration work in proposed area.

EC decision:

EC deferred the project and suggested MECL to take comments from GSI regarding the feasibility for further exploration work in proposed area.

(Action: MECL/GSI)

xx. Reconnaissance survey (G4) for REE mineralization in Maniram-Bhajyang area (70.42 sq. km), District: South Sikkim, Sikkim. [Duration-12 months & Estimated cost ₹1.74 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC informed that AMD and DMG, Sikkim had reported occurrences of Zone of U-Th-REE mineralization in proposed block and is spatially confined to the Buxa-Gondwana tectonic zone, into which the alkaline rocks have been emplaced.

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD informed that exploration work has been carried out early parts of 1950s. Recently, sampling work for REE has been carried out in the said block covering the locations viz. Deo-Simkharka-Chumluk-Reshi by the Directorate for suspected carbonatite occurrence hosting REE mineralisation. The analysis of samples is under progress and can be shared, which will be helpful in deciding the merit of proposal and accordingly, further work can be worked out.

The Secretary, Mines suggested to hold the project proposal till the chemical analysis of samples available from AMD. He asked AMD to share the chemical analysis and also comments on the feasibility for further exploration in the proposed block.

EC decision:

EC deferred the project. It was suggested that AMD will share the chemical analysis and comments on the feasibility for further exploration in the proposed block.

(Action: AMD)

xxi. Preliminary exploration (G3) for Diamond in Tikamgarh Cluster- comprising of four sub-blocks- A to D (total area of Cluster- 109.68 sq. km), District: Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh. [Duration-15 months & Estimated cost ₹2.90 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC informed GSI has carried out ground evaluation work of aerogeophysical anomalies and samples analysis and NMDC has done reconnaissance work in block area. He also informed that exploration work will be carried out in two phases- In first phase, geological mapping, and sample collection will be done (estimated cost ₹1.01 Cr.) and based on review of the findings of the first phase of work, the decision on geophysical survey, drilling, and analyses of follow-up samples will be taken up (estimated cost ₹1.89 Cr.)

The Director General, GSI enquired about the GSI work carried out in proposed block and suggested to take consent from State Unit of GSI to avoid any overlap of exploration work.

Prof. H. S. Pandalai, EC Member suggested to carry out the exploration work for Phase-I and accordingly, approval may be accorded in phases.

The Secretary, Mines asked MECL to check the overlap issue with GSI before start of the exploration work to avoid any duplication of mineral exploration work.

EC decision:

EC approved the project for Phase-I only with estimated cost of **₹1.01 Cr**. MECL has to check the overlap issue with GSI before start of the exploration work to avoid any duplication of mineral exploration work.

(Action: MECL/GSI)

EC approved total of 17 nos. of projects with estimated cost of ₹69.19 Cr. (annexure-2) and deferred 4 nos. of projects.

4: Approval of timeline extension for ongoing projects.

EC was informed that the Exploration Agencies (EA's) have requested for timeline extension for ongoing and completed projects due to delay in mineral exploration work.

TCC in its 39th and 40th meetings held on 29th & 30th March, 2022 and 27th & 28th April, 2022 respectively recommended timeline extension for 6 nos. of ongoing & completed projects with timeline ranging from 1 to 11 months. The details of the projects and timeline extension are given in **annexure-3**.

For the extended period, the payment will be as per Schedule of Charges (SoC) applicable during the original approved period of the project.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the timeline extension for projects (annexure-3) without cost overrun.

(Action: NMET)

5: Financial sanction for revised cost of Multi Sensor Aero-geophysical survey over block-14 of GSI project.

EC was informed that in 21st meeting held on 19th July, 2021, EC approved the project "Multi Sensor Aero-geophysical surveys over blocks-13 to 22 under National Airborne Geophysical Mapping Programme (NAGMP) at an estimated cost of ₹243.98 Cr. (including 18% GST). The estimated proposed cost in respect of block-14 was ₹30.20 Cr. out of total approved cost of ₹243.98 Cr.

The Delegated Investment Board (DIB) chaired by Secretary, Mines examined the project proposals and recommended for approval.

Now, GSI has informed that the tendering process in respect of block-14 has completed and M/s Sander Geophysics India Pvt. Ltd. is selected as lowest bidder with final cost of ₹33,47,90,000/- (including GST).

As the estimated cost for block-14 has been approved by EC was ₹30.20 Cr. which is lower than the final bid cost of ₹33.48 Cr. The approval of additional cost for block-14 is required. The details are as under:

NAGMP Block No.	Proposed cost approved by EC (in ₹ including GST)	Name of GSI selected lowest bidder	Final Cost (in ₹ including GST)	Difference (Final Cost- approved Cost) (in ₹)
14	30,19,91,294	M/s Sander Geophysics India Pvt. Ltd.	33,47,90,000	3,27,98,706

In view of above, EC may accord the financial sanction of final project cost for block-14 of ₹33,47,90,000/- (Rupees Thirty three crore forty seven lakh and Ninety thousand only).

Decision of EC:

EC approved the financial sanction for revised cost of Multi Sensor Aero-geophysical survey over block-14 of GSI project with estimated cost of **₹33,47,90,000/-** (Rupees Thirty three crore forty seven lakh and Ninety thousand only).

(Action: NMET)

6: Approval of additional cost due to applicable SoC rates for the approved projects of KIOCL.

EC was informed that in 14th meeting (Para 14.12 of the minutes) has decided that *"escalation clause is part of SoC, therefore, the reimbursement of the projects spanning multiple financial years should be made as per the escalated rates of SoC during the scheduled time period of the project".*

The three projects of KIOCL have been approved by EC i.e. Neerbudhihal (East), Neerbudhihal (West) and Reddipalayam block with estimated cost of ₹93.66 lakh, ₹91.98 lakh and ₹282.15 lakhs respectively. Further, the Peer Review charges is ₹11,800/- (including GST) in respect of each Geological Report.

The applicable SoC in these projects was for the FY 2019-20. At the time of approval, the cost of these projects was calculated as per the then available SoC rates for the FY 2018-19. As mentioned above, the SoC rates of FY 2019-20 were applicable in the projects, KIOCL has submitted differential amount of bills as escalation bills apart from regular bills in respect of approved work in the project on account of SoC rates for FY 2019-20 and FY 2018-19. The balance amount to be paid to KIOCL is ₹17.90 lakhs. The details of the balance amount to be paid is as under:

S. No.	Project	Approved Cost (₹)	Amount Claimed (including Peer Review Charges of ₹11,800/GR (₹)	Applicable Escalation amount (₹)	Payment made (₹)	Balance to be paid (₹)
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F) = (C+D-E)
1	Neerbudhihal (East) Block	93,66,012	90,36,631	8,84,034	93,66,012	5,54,653
2	Neerbudhihal (West) Block	91,97,894	92,09,694	9,07,576	91,97,894	9,19,376
3	Reddipalayam Block	2,82,14,856	2,53,45,617	5,61,690	2,55,91,063	3,16,244
					TOTAL	**17,90,273**

In view of above, EC may accord additional cost approval of ₹17,90,273/- on account of application of applicable SoC rates for FY 2019-20 in the project.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the additional cost of ₹17,90,273/- on account of applicable SoC rates for FY 2019-20 in the project.

(Action: NMET)

Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Shri Vivek Sharma, Director & HoD NMET.

Annexure-1

List of participants in 24th EC Meeting held on 18th May, 2022 at Khanij Kaksh, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi

S. No.	Name & Designation	Organization/ email	Remarks
1	Shri Alok Tandon, Secretary	Ministry of Mines secy_mines@nic.in	In chair
2	Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Mines & CG, IBM	Ministry of Mines sanjay.lohiya@gov.in	Member Secretary, *Ex officio*
3	Dr. S. Raju, Director General	Geological Survey of India dg.gsi@gov.in	Member, *Ex officio*
4	Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director (AMD)	AMD, Dept. of Atomic Energy, director.amd@gov.in	Representative of Dept. of Atomic Energy
5	Shri Peeyush Kumar Director	Ministry of Coal	Representative of Ministry of coal
6	Prof. H. S. Pandalai (Retd.) IIT Bombay	Exploration Expert, hspandalai9@gmail.com	Nominated Member
7	Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (BD&P) (Retd.), MECL	Exploration Expert, nautiyal.naresh5@gmail.com	Nominated Member
8	Shri Alok Sharma, GM & HoD (Exploration) (Retd), CMPDIL	Exploration Expert, aloksharma360@gmail.com	Nominated Member
9	Shri Janardan Prasad, Addl. Director General, and Chairman, TCC	Geological Survey of India janardan.prasad@gsi.gov.in	Invitee
10	Shri Vivek Kr. Sharma, Director	Ministry of Mines vksharma.ofb@gov.in	HoD, NMET
11	Shri Maneesh Khar Director, GSI	Ministry of Mines nmet-mines@gov.in	NMET
12	Shri Ravi Chand, Joint Director	Department of Mines and Geology Govt. of Andhra Pradesh directormines@yahoo.co.in	State Representative
13	Shri V. K. Ojha, Director (Geology)	DGM, Govt. of Jharkhand ojha484@gmail.com	State Representative

Annexure-2

The details of the projects approved in 24th EC meeting held on 18th May, 2022.

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (₹ Cr. including GST)
Implementing Agency: CMPDI					
1	Reconnaissance Survey for coal in Pawanchora Central block, Wardha Valley Coalfield, District: Chandrapur, Maharashtra.	Coal	G4	12	4.44
2	General Exploration for coal in south of Damuda block, Jharia Coalfield, District: Dhanbad, Jharkhand.	Coal	G2	18	11.25
3	Preliminary Exploration for coal in North of Parbelia, Raniganj Coalfield, District: Purulia, West Bengal.	Coal	G3	12	2.86
4	Preliminary Exploration for coal in West of Borda and Ghonsa-Parsoda block, Wardha Valley Coalfield, District: Chandrapur, Maharashtra.	Coal	G3	18	12.02
5	Preliminary Exploration for coal in North of Rajathari, Pench Kanhan Tawa Valley Coalfield, District: Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.	Coal	G3	20	13.88
6	Preliminary Exploration for coal in West of Chano-Rikba Coal Block, North Karanpura Coalfield, District: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.	Coal	G3	12	3.75
7	Preliminary Exploration for coal in North of Labji Pusla Block, Sonhat Coalfield, District: Korea, Chhattisgarh.	Coal	G3	12	3.18
8	Reconnaissance Survey for coal in North of Chulaha Bhulia block (8.77 sq km), Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.	Coal	G4	12	2.56
9	Preliminary Exploration for coal in West of Sheetaldhara block (3.94 sq km), Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.	Coal	G3	12	0.98
10	Preliminary exploration for coal in Ulia-Gamhardih Block, East of Bisrampur Coalfield, District: Surguja, Chhattisgarh.	Coal	G3	12	2.32
Implementing Agency: IBM					
11	Procurement of Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (WD-XRF) Spectrometer through NMET fund.	Chemical analysis instruments	--	12	3.00

12	Procurement of Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) through NMET fund.	Chemical analysis instruments	--	12	2.00
Implementing Agency: MECL					
13	Preliminary exploration for Limestone in Periyakurichi block (1.88 sq. km) District: Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu.	Limestone	G3	8	0.97
14	Preliminary exploration for Limestone in Sendurai & Maruvathur block (1.54 sq. km) District: Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu.	Limestone	G3	7	0.96
15	Reconnaissance survey for Nickel, Copper, and associated minerals in Salewara-Kumarwara-Murum block (52.00 sq. km), District: Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.	Nickel, Copper, and associated minerals	G4	9	0.39
16	Preliminary exploration for phosphorite in Pahadi Kalan-Gora Kalan block, District: Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh.	Phosphorite	G3	12	3.62
17	Preliminary exploration for Diamond in Tikamgarh Cluster- comprising of four sub-blocks- A to D (total area of Cluster- 109.68 sq. km), District: Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh. (Phase-I)	Diamond	G3	15	1.01
					₹69.19 Cr.

Annexure-3

The details of the projects approved for timeline extension for ongoing projects executed by Exploration Agencies through NMET funding

S. No.	Block/Project	Implementing Agency	Schedule date of completion	Required timeline (upto)	Status of Exploration work/Geological Report
1	General exploration (G2) for copper in Tonda block, Eastern Khetri Copper Belt, District: Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.	MECL	17.01.2022	30.06.2022 (6 months)	Geological report writing is in progress
2	General exploration (G2) for Copper in Naila Ki Dhani Copper Block, Eastern Khetri Copper Belt, District-Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.	MECL	17.03.2022	31.07.2022 (4 months)	Geological report writing is in progress
3	Veeranam Block-IV, Neyveli Lignite field, District-Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.	MECL	30.04.2022	31.03.2023 (11 months)	Drilling work in progress
4	General exploration (G2) for phosphate deposit in Sonrai block, District: Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh.	MECL	24.10.2018 Revised after forest clearance 10.10.2021	31.01.2022 (4 months)	Geological report submitted
5	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Magnetite and Ni-Co-Cr in Mollen-Jopi-Ziphu and adjoining area, Naga Hills Ophiolite, District: Phek, Nagaland.	DGM Nagaland	31.01.2021	28.02.2021 (1 months)	Geological report submitted
6	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Limestone in Salumi block, District: Kiphire, Nagaland.	DGM Nagaland	31.01.2021	28.02.2021 (1 months)	Geological report submitted

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