Only through e-mail

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/ 94 **New Delhi, 11th July, 2022**

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 25th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 29th June, 2022.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 25th meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 29th June, 2022 for your kind perusal.

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

[Vivek Kumar 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, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Assam.
4. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Bihar.
5. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat.
8. The Director, Department of Industries, Government 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, Government 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 25th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 29th June, 2022

The 25th meeting of EC of NMET was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Alok Tandon, Secretary (Mines) on 29th June, 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 EC meeting has been convened as Ministry of Mines is organizing '6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals' as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on 12th July, 2022 and some decisions were needed to be taken before the event.

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 24th meeting of EC held on 18th May, 2022.

The minutes of the 24th meeting of EC held on 18th May, 2022 was circulated on 26th May 2022. No comments have been received.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the minutes of the 24th meeting of EC held on 18th May, 2022.

2. Action Taken Report (ATR) for minutes of 24th meeting of EC held on 18th May, 2022.

The ATR on minutes of the 24th meeting of EC held on 18th May, 2022 were presented in the meeting.

Shri Vivek Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET informed that necessary action has been taken on decisions of the minutes of 24th EC meeting.

Decision of EC:

EC accepted the action taken reports on minutes of 24th meeting of EC held on 18th May, 2022.

3. Approval to provide NMET Fund for organizing 6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals.

EC was informed that country is celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav" to commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Accordingly, Ministry of Mines is organizing '6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals' as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on 12th July, 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, 15 Janpath, New Delhi. The event will be chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Mines, Coal & Parliamentary Affairs.

During the event, Technical Sessions involving the State Government officials on NMET and automation in mine operations will be held. The NMET session will be an interactive session on procedures and mechanism for mineral exploration projects to the state governments and stakeholders through NMET fund. Over all, the event will provide good opportunity to State Government to interact with stakeholders and state officials and would be an enriching experience.

Ministry of Mines has proposed that budget for organizing '6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals' may be met from NMET fund. The tentative budget for this event is approx. ₹1.00 Crore. NMET has also been requested to make the final bills payment to the concerned entity, as and when the bills are submitted. The said payment will be made from NMET budget Head "Professional Services" for FY 2022-23. On completion of the event, NMET will make the final payment on receipt of verified bills from Administration Section, Ministry of Mines.

EC may kindly approve the proposal for providing NMET fund of ₹1.00 Cr. for 6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals to be held on 12th July, 2022 from NMET budget Head "Professional Services" for FY 2022-23.

Decision of EC:

EC approved to provide NMET fund of upto ₹1.00 Cr. for 6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals to be held on 12th July, 2022 from NMET budget Head "Professional Services" for FY 2022-23.

(Action: NMET)

4. Approval for NMET funding to National level awards to the States who take initiative to increase mineral production in the country.

EC was informed that Ministry of Mines has developed a mechanism of incentivizing States for grant of early clearances for mines and facilitate early start of production by instituting national level awards to states who take initiative to increase mineral production in the country. The awards are proposed in under three categories:

(1) Iron ore, limestone & bauxite,

(2) Other minerals

(3) Minor Mineral (Other than sandstone, gravel) like mica, granite, marble etc.

The award money will be ₹3 Cr., ₹2 Cr. and ₹1 Cr. for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in each category respectively to be awarded by the Hon'ble Minister of Mines, Coal & Parliamentary Affairs in '6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals'. The award will be given as under:

i. Award of ₹18.00 Cr. approved in 3rd GB meeting held on 31st July, 2021 in respect of the combined performance for two years i.e. 2019-20 and 2020-21.
ii. Proposed award of ₹18.00 Cr. in respect of performance for the financial year 2021-22.

Thus, a total sum of ₹36.00 Cr. would be required for the award money in respect of 9 awards (three awards under three categories) to be given to selected State Governments for combined performance for two years [2019-20 and 2020-21] and year 2021-22 respectively.

Secretary, Mines informed that the award money of ₹18.00 Cr. for combined performance of 2019-20 and 2020-21 was approved in 3rd GB meeting from NMET fund. He also informed that as on now Ministry of Mines doesn't have separate budget for the said award so the award money of ₹18.00 Cr. for performance during year 2021-22 may also be funded from NMET.

In view of above, EC may approve to provide funds amounting ₹18 Crore (Rupees eighteen crore only) from NMET to meet the expenditure towards award money of above proposed awards to State Government for performance during the year 2021-22.

Decision of EC:

EC approved to provide NMET fund of **₹18 Cr.** (Rupees eighteen Crore only) for expenditure towards award money to the State Government for performance during the year 2021-22. The fund will be disbursed depending on availability of NMET fund in appropriate budget head.

(Action: NMET)

5. Delegation of administrative and financial powers to Member Secretary of the Executive Committee (EC) of NMET.

EC was informed that as per Rule 18(2)(b) of NMET Rules 2015, the Member Secretary of the EC is to exercise such administrative and financial powers as may be delegated by the EC or as may be assigned by the Chairperson, EC.

As currently the Member Secretary of NMET does not have any delegated administrative and financial powers from EC, hence IFD makes it mandatory to have approval of EC for all administrative expenditure, over and above the financial powers of Director HoD, NMET.

In view of the above, EC may delegate full administrative and financial powers to Member Secretary of the EC for office administrative expenditure viz. purchasing office furniture, hiring of outsourced manpower/vehicle etc. mentioned in schedule V of DFPR 1978. The Member Secretary of the EC shall exercise such delegated powers in consultation with JS & FA, Ministry of Mines.

Secretary, Mines opined that delegation of financial powers to the Members Secretary, EC will be limited to sanction delegation of financial powers to the Joint Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Mines for incurring contingent and miscellaneous expenditure in accordance with schedule-V and VI of DFPR, 1978 as amended from time to time.

Decision of EC:

EC approved delegation of full administrative and financial powers to Member Secretary of the EC for office administrative expenditure as per the sanction delegation of financial powers to the Joint Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Mines in consultation with JS&FA

for incurring contingent and miscellaneous expenditure in accordance with Schedule-V and VI of DFPR, 1978 as amended from time to time.

(Action: NMET)

6. Approval of new project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) held on 30th and 31st May, 2022.

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 41st TCC meeting held on 30th and 31st May, 2022 for approval of EC at estimated cost of ₹51.77 Cr. [Diamond/Gold-1, Limestone- 2, Diamond-1, REE- 1, Phosphorite- 1 and Basemetal-1].

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

(i) Deep seated mineral prognosis by geophysical techniques: lithospheric structure and relationship with kimberlite clusters of Kalyandurg-Timmasamudram-Chigicherla, District: Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. [Duration- 36 months & Estimated cost ₹2.60 Cr.]

Discussion:

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG GSI & Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that the project proposal is for deep seated minerals prognosis by geophysical techniques like MT Surveys. GSI and NGRI signed MoU on 11th April, 2022 to carry out the survey work.

The Secretary, Mines asked about the inhouse capacity of GSI to carry out MT survey. He also pointed that scheduled timeline of the project is very long and GSI may complete the work within two years.

Dr. S. Raju, Director General, GSI informed that GSI doesn't have capacity to carry out specialized MT survey. GSI will carry out exploration survey work in collaboration with NGRI and GSI officers will be trained for such exploration work. He also informed that work will be completed within 24 months.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹2.60 Cr.** and timeline of **24 months.**

(Action: NMET)

(ii) Engaging a Technical Supervision and Quality Control (TS-QC) consultant for Monitoring of Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) of the Multi-sensor Aerogeophysical Surveys over Blocks 13 to 16 under Phase-II of National Airborne Geophysical Mapping Programme (NAGMP)" [Duration- 24 months & Estimated cost ₹9.30 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that GSI is carrying out Multi-sensor Aero-geophysical surveys over blocks-13 to 22 approved in 21st EC. TS-QC will be to overall supervision and quality control of geophysical data of survey work.

The Secretary, Mines asked GSI regarding the aero geophysical surveys completed and TS-QC carried out for the completed blocks. He also inquired about the inhouse capacity of GSI to carry out TS-QC work.

The Director General, GSI informed that GSI has completed aero geophysical surveys in five blocks [block-1, 2, 3, 4 and 11]. Out of five blocks, TS-QC for 4 blocks [block-1, 2, 3 and 4] have been done through engaging outsourced agency and for block-11, GSI has carried out inhouse. Further, GSI will do TS-QC work through inhouse capacity for block-6 and 8. He also informed the committee that GSI officers will be trained to carry out TS-QC work within a year.

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD informed that AMD is carrying out such work over a decade and has gained expertise in validating the aero-geophysical data at the time of acquisition and thereafter. Further, it was informed that AMD can impart a training for 15 days to GSI personnel during the ensuing Annual Programme of work 2022-23 scheduled from November 2022, if required. This may help GSI to develop expertise in technical supervision and quality control of the multi-sensor aero-geophysical surveys at the time of data acquisition, which will reduce dependency on external agencies for timely completion of the project.

The Secretary, Mines opined that GSI may engage TS-QC consultant for any two blocks from block-13, 14, 15 and 16. He advised GSI not to submit further proposal for engaging TS-QC consultant. He also suggested GSI to develop inhouse capacity for carrying out TS-QC for remaining blocks of Multi-sensor Aero geophysical Surveys.

The Director General, GSI informed that GSI will engage TS-QC consultants for block-14 and block-15 with estimated cost of ₹5,19,33,924/-

EC decision:

EC approved to engage TS-QC consultant for blocks-14 and 15 with estimated cost of **₹5.20 Cr.** and timeline of **24 months**.

(Action: GSI/NMET)

(iii) Procurement of Geophysical instrument for data validation of outsourced ground gravity-magnetic survey and follow up survey over recommended mineral targets derived from NGPM and NAGMP. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹32.18 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that GSI is carrying out the project entitled "Ground Gravity-Magnetic Survey under National Geophysical Mapping Programme (NGPM)" through outsourcing mode in identified area of about 13.5 lakh sq. km and planned to be completed by 2024-25. The quality of the geophysical data and deliverable is of paramount importance. Therefore, GSI will monitor the quality of acquired field data and all the deliverables. For data quality monitoring instrument are required.

EC decision:

EC approved for procurement of Geophysical instrument [11 sets of Gravimeters, Magnetometers (TF) and DGPS] with estimated cost of **₹32.18 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months.**

(Action: NMET)

(iv) General exploration (G2) for Gold in Sinduari Ghansyampur block (0.378 sq. km), District: Ranchi, Jharkhand. [Duration- 14 months & Estimated cost ₹4.29 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that Sindauri-Ghanshyampur block for Gold exploration is associated with Singhbhum Group of rocks south of Tamar Pora Pahar Shear Zone. He also informed that GSI has drilled 10 boreholes (SEB-7 to 16) during Field Season 2010-12. Based on the gold assay results of core samples of boreholes SEB-6 to 10, a total of 1.147 million tons of inferred mineral resources with average grade 1.030ppm have been estimated at 1.00m stoping width and 0.50 ppm Au cut off and categorised as inferred mineral resource (333) as per UNFC classification.

The Secretary, Mines suggested that the G3 exploration work has already been done by GSI and asked Department of Mines and Geology (DMG), Government of Jharkhand to auction the block for Composite Licence (CL).

EC decision:

EC did not approve the project proposal and asked DMG, Jharkhand to auction the block for Composite Licence (CL).

(Action: DMG, Jharkhand)

(v) Preliminary exploration (G3) for manganese in Hardatal block (1.38 sq. km), District: Balangir, Odisha. [Duration- 9 months & Estimated cost ₹1.53 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that Directorate of Geology and Mines, Government of Odisha has submitted the project for manganese exploration. The Mn content of 20.84% was estimated up to a depth of 2.5 m below surface by DGM, Odisha through G4 stage of exploration.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹1.53 Cr.** and timeline of **9 months.**

(Action: NMET)

(vi) Preliminary exploration (G3) for manganese in Rongha block (38.34 sq. km), District: Nagpur, Maharashtra. [Duration- 15 months & Estimated cost ₹0.91 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that Directorate of Geology and Mining (DGM), Government of Maharashtra has submitted the project for manganese exploration. The chemical analysis of grab samples from Ronga area carried out by GSI indicates: Mn 37.33%, Fe_2O_3 9.03%, SiO_2 5.98% and P_2O_5 0.26%.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹0.91 Cr.** and timeline of **15 months**.

(Action: NMET)

(vii) Preliminary exploration (G3) for limestone in Savalhira block (4.04 sq. km), District: Chandrapur, Maharashtra. [Duration- 15 months & Estimated cost ₹0.74 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that DGM, Maharashtra has submitted the project for limestone exploration. The DGM Maharashtra has also analysed 10 nos. of grab sample having 42% CaO.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹0.74 Cr.** and timeline of **15 months**.

(Action: NMET)

(viii) Procurement of Ore/Polarizing Microscope with Transmitted/Incident Light and oil immersion objectives. [Duration- 12 months & Estimated cost ₹0.25 Cr.]

Discussion:

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka submitted the proposal for procurement of Ore/Polarizing Microscope for establishing laboratory to carry out the mineral exploration work by DMG officers. He further informed that during Financial Year 2021-2022, total four projects at the cost of ₹7.67 Cr. have been approved in Karnataka State and the cost of the equipment is well within the limit of 10% of the total approved exploration project in a year i.e. ₹76.70 Lakh.

EC decision:

EC approved the project for procurement of Ore/Polarizing Microscope with Transmitted/ Incident Light and oil immersion objectives with estimated cost of **₹0.25 Cr.** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

EC approved total of 7 nos. of projects with estimated cost of ₹43.41 Cr. (Annexure-2)

7. Approval of timeline extension for ongoing projects.

EC was informed that the MECL has requested for timeline extension for ongoing projects due to delay in mineral exploration work.

TCC in its 41st meetings held on 30th and 31st May, 2022 recommended timeline extension for 1 no. of ongoing project with timeline 4 months. The details of the projects and timeline extension are given below-

S. No.	Block/Project	Implementing Agency	Schedule date of completion	Required timeline (upto)	Status of Exploration work/Geological Report
1	Preliminary exploration for potash in Lakhasar-sub basin, North-Western part of Rajasthan, District-Bikaner, Rajasthan.	MECL	30.03.2022	31.07.2022 (4 months)	Geological report writing is in progress

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 of 4 months for above project without cost overrun.

(Action: NMET)

8. Approval of financial sanction for revised cost of Multi Sensor Aero-geophysical survey over block-15 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-15 was ₹25.12 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-15 has completed and M/s McPhar International Pvt. Ltd. in consortium with M/s Xcalibur Multiphysics Group of Companies with Xcalibur Geophysics Spain S.L. (referred as Xcalibur) is selected as lowest bidder with final cost of ₹33,41,93,637/- (including 18% GST).

As the estimated cost for block-15 approved by EC was ₹25.12 Cr. which is lower than the final bid cost of ₹33.42 Cr. The details are as under:

NAGMP Block No.	Proposed cost approved by EC (in ₹ including 18% GST)	Name of GSI selected lowest bidder	Final Cost (in ₹ including 18% GST)	Difference (Final Cost- approved Cost) (in ₹)
15	25,11,04,997/-	M/s McPhar International Pvt. Ltd. in consortium with M/s Xcalibur Multiphysics Group of Companies with Xcalibur Geophysics Spain S.L. (referred as Xcalibur)	33,41,93,637/-	8,30,88,640/-

In view of above, EC may accord the financial sanction of final project cost for block-15 of ₹33,41,93,637/- (Rupees Thirty three crore Forty one lakh Ninety three thousand Six hundred and Thirty seven only).

Shri Alok Sharma, Expert Member, EC enquired about the escalation of the project cost after tendering process. The estimated cost of the project was ₹25.12 Cr. and final cost of the project after tendering process and selection of L1 bidder is ₹33.42 Cr. The final cost of the project has variation of (33%) from the approved estimated cost during 21st EC meeting.

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD opined that final cost of the project has variation of approx. ~33% with respect of estimated cost approved by EC. The bid value is excess of maximum permissible limit of 10% with respect to estimated cost as per extant rules. He requested that the opinion of financial adviser may be sought before the approval of EC.

Dr. S. Raju, Director General, GSI informed that the base price was calculated taking Last Purchase Price (LPP) / price bid values of earlier blocks during 2016-2019. He also informed that there is sudden cost increase globally for Aviation Fuel (₹58 Thousand to 141 Thousand/K Litre from 2019 to 2022) and US Dollar exchange rate increased by 12%. Post Covid scenario and Russia-Ukraine war have put many uncertainties in global business (Aircraft, Equipment, Expert).

Ms. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor suggested that the GSI may submit the reasonability of rate and justification for the escalation of cost from estimated approved cost. She also informed that there is no set rules that only 10% escalation cost is permissible.

The Additional Secretary, Mines informed that GSI has selected the bidder through open tendering in GeM and 4 bidders participated for the tender. Out of 4 bidders, 3 bidders have qualified and 1 disqualified based on Pre-Qualification Criteria. The financial price bids were evaluated for 3 technically qualified bidders and L1 was selected with cost ₹33,41,93,637/-.

The Secretary, Mines asked GSI to submit the justification for cost escalation with respect to the approved cost for block-15. He also suggested to check the reasonability of rates with market price. The detailed justification will be evaluated and discussed in next EC meeting.

Decision of EC:

EC suggested GSI to submit the justification for the cost escalation with respect to the approved cost for Multi Sensor Aero-geophysical survey over block-15.

(Action: GSI/NMET)

9. Cancellation of approved projects of DGM, Telangana/TSMDC.

EC was informed that TCC in its 14th meeting held on 21st and 22nd May 2018 recommended to club 15 limestone blocks of DMG Telangana to grouped 8 clusters for G4 level limestone exploration. The TCC also recommended that exploration work will be reviewed after completion of G4 stage exploration and thereafter the decision on further stage of exploration will be taken up.

On the basis of TCC recommendation, EC in its 8th meeting held on 12th June 2018 approved exploration work for G4, G3 and G2 for above projects. The details are given in the table.

S. No.	Cluster	Block Name	G4 (₹ Lakh)	G3 (₹ Lakh)	G2 (₹ Lakh)	Total Cost (₹ Lakh)
1	**Cluster-1**	Mellacheruvu Block	63.32	73.30	125.58	655.82
2		Mallareddy Gudem Block		80.06	107.15	
3		Yepal Madhavaram Block		86.27	120.14	
4	**Cluster-2**	Mattampally-1 Block	47.90	72.61	120.04	394.23
5		Mattampally-2 Block		61.21	92.47	
6	**Cluster-3**	Raghunathapalem-1 Block	47.55	72.26	120.03	390.17
7		Raghunathapalem-2 Block		59.62	90.71	
8	**Cluster-4**	Wazigudem Block	43.72	77.68	129.81	430.37
9		Veerappagudem Block		70.68	108.48	
10	**Cluster-5**	Ramapuram Block	33.81	51.93	109.74	195.48
11	**Cluster-6**	Dondapadu Block	47.90	70.68	125.48	396.87
12		Kothagudem Block		51.93	100.88	
13	**Cluster-7**	Jiwangi-1 Block	47.55	41.57	81.10	308.05
14		Jiwangi-2 Block		47.96	89.87	
15	**Cluster-8**	Malkapur Block	34.31	47.26	124.31	205.88
		Total	**366.06**	**965.02**	**1645.79**	**2976.87**

TSMDC has completed G4 level mineral exploration in 8 clusters and submitted the geological reports for peer review. TCC in its 25th meeting held on 05th & 06th November, 2020 reviewed Cluster-2 and Cluster-6 and recommended not to take further exploration. EC in its 18th meeting held on 17th February, 2021 approved to cancel G3 and G2 level of exploration in Cluster-2 and Cluster-6.

Further, TCC in its 41st meeting held on 30th and 31st May, 2022 reviewed exploration work carried out for **Cluster- 1, 3 and 4**. The Committee noted the outcome of limestone exploration and suggested that blocks may be put up for auction in light of recent amendments in Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2021 and Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Amendment Rules, 2021 for Composite Licence (CL) and recommended not to take up further stage of exploration. The details are as follow-

S. No.	Cluster	Block Name	G3 (₹ Lakh)	G2 (₹ Lakh)	Total Cost (₹ Lakh)
1	**Cluster-1**	Mellacheruvu Block	73.30	125.58	592.50
2		Mallareddy Gudem Block	80.06	107.15	
3		Yepal Madhavaram Block	86.27	120.14	
4	**Cluster-3**	Raghunathapalem-1 Block	72.26	120.03	342.62

5		Raghunathapalem-2 Block	59.62	90.71	
6	Cluster-4	Wazigudem Block	77.68	129.81	386.65
7		Veerappagudem Block	70.68	108.48	
		Total	**519.87**	**801.90**	**1321.77**

In view of above, EC may approve to cancel the already approved G3 and G2 exploration work in Mellacheruvu, Mallareddy Gudem & Yepal Madhavaram limestone blocks; Raghunathapalem-1 & Raghunathapalem-2 limestone blocks; Wazigudem & Veerappagudem limestone blocks with estimated cost of **₹1321.77 Lakh.**

Decision of EC:

EC approved to cancel the already approved G3 and G2 exploration work in Mellacheruvu, Mallareddy Gudem & Yepal Madhavaram limestone blocks; Raghunathapalem-1 & Raghunathapalem-2 limestone blocks; Wazigudem & Veerappagudem limestone blocks with estimated cost of **₹1321.77 Lakh.**

(Action: NMET)

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

Annexure-1

List of participants in 25th EC Meeting held on 29th June, 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	Ms. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor	Ministry of Mines and Coal jsfa.moc@nic.in	Member, Ex officio
5	Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research	AMD, Dept. of Atomic Energy, director.amd@gov.in	Representative of Dept. of Atomic Energy
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 Kumar 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 25th EC meeting held on 29th June, 2022.

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (₹ Cr. including GST)
Implementing Agency: GSI					
1	Deepseated mineral prognosis by geophysical techniques: lithospheric structure and relationship with kimberlite clusters of Kalyandurg-Timmasamudram-Chigicherla, District: Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.	Diamond	--	24	2.60
2	Engaging a Technical Supervision and Quality Control (TS-QC) consultant for Monitoring of Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) of the Multi-sensor Aerogeophysical Surveys over Blocks-14 and 15 under Phase-II of National Airborne Geophysical Mapping Programme (NAGMP)"	--	--	24	5.20
3	Procurement of Geophysical Instrument for data validation of outsourced ground gravity-magnetic survey and follow up survey over recommended mineral targets derived from NGPM and NAGMP.	--	--	12	32.18
Implementing Agency: DGM Odisha					
4	Preliminary exploration (G3) for manganese in Hardatal block (1.38 sq. km), District: Balangir, Odisha.	Manganese	G3	9	1.53
Implementing Agency: DGM Maharashtra					
5	Preliminary exploration (G3) for manganese in Rongha block (38.34 sq. km), District: Nagpur, Maharashtra.	Manganese	G3	15	0.91
6	Preliminary exploration (G3) for limestone in Savalhira block (4.04 sq. km), District: Chandrapur, Maharashtra.	Limestone	G3	15	0.74
Implementing Agency: DGM Karnataka					
7	Procurement of Ore/Polarizing Microscope with Transmitted/Incident Light and oil immersion objectives.	--	--	12	0.25
				Total	**43.41 Cr.**

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