Only through e-mail

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/509 New Delhi, 23rd February, 2024

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 33rd meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 19th February, 2024.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 33rd meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 19th February, 2024 for your kind perusal.

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

23.02.24

[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, 2" Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
7. The Principal Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal- 462004.
8. The Principal Secretary, Industries, Energy and Labour Dept. 114 Annex Building Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400032.
9. The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Mines and Petroleum Main Building Secretariat, Jaipur- 302005.
10. The Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Dept. Industries Department Secretariat, Chennai- 600009.
11. Shri Alok Sharma, (Retd.) GM & HoD (Exploration), CMPDIL, 402, Lake Garden, Kanke Road, Ranchi- 834008.
12. Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (Business Development & Planning) (Retd.), MECL, 109, KT Nagar, Katol Road, Nagpur- 440013.

13. Dr. Yamuna Singh, Scientist-H, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (Retd.), Flat G-7, Block G, Rainbow Vistas Rock Garden, Opp- IDL, Green Hills Road, Sanathnagar PO, Moosapet, Hyderabad- 500018.

14. Dr. Laxman Singh Shekhawat, Dy. Director General (Retd.), Geological Survey of India, 695 Shanti Nagar (Road No-3), Near Durgapura Railway Station, Durgapura, Jaipur- 302018.

15. Dr. Sahendra Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Geology, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad- 826004.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology and Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and 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 and Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (Industry and Mines), Government of Gujarat.
9. The Commissioner Secretary (Industries and Commerce), Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
10. The Secretary (Industries, Mines and Geology), Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Secretary, (Industries and Commerce), Government of Karnataka.
12. The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala.
13. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Commissioner and Secretary, Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Commissioner & Secretary, Geology and Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Principal Secretary (Steel and Mines), Government of Odisha.
18. The Principal Secretary, Mines and 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 and Mines), Government of Telangana.
22. The Secretary (Mines and Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce and 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 and Commerce, Government of Tripura.
28. The Secretary, Commerce and Industries, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Secretary, Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Government of Manipur.
30. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Assam.
4. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar.
5. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Director of Mines and 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 and Geology, Government of Karnataka.
12. The Director, Directorate of Mining and Geology, Government of Kerala.
13. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government 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 and Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Director, Directorate of Geology, Government of Odisha.
18. The Director, Directorate of Mines and Minerals, Government of Punjab.
19. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.
22. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Director, Directorate of Mines and Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
25. The Director, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Ladakh.
26. The Director, Department of Mines, Minerals and Geology, Government of Sikkim
27. The Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura
28. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mineral Resource, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Director, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur.
30. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. Dr. S. Ravi, Deputy Director General and Chairman, TCC-NMET, SU: Karnataka & Goa, GSI, Bengaluru 560111

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-751 001.

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary/PPS to AS(SL)/PS to JS&FA, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
2. The Director and Member Secretary, TCC-NMET, SU: Karnataka & Goa, GSI, Bengaluru 560111

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

Minutes of the 33rd Executive Committee (EC) meeting of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 19th February 2024 at New Delhi

The 33rd meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of NMET was held under the Chairmanship of Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Mines on 19th February 2024 at Shastri Bhawan in hybrid mode. The list of participants is given in Annexure-1.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Mines and Member Secretary, EC welcomed all the participants in the meeting. Shri Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET presented the agenda points for the meeting. The details of the agenda points discussed and decisions taken in the meeting are given below:

Agenda 33.1: Approval of minutes of 32nd Meeting of EC held on 06th December, 2023.

The minutes of the 32nd EC meeting were circulated on 08th December, 2023. No comments were received from the member.

Decision of EC: EC approved the minutes of the 32nd Executive Committee (EC) meeting of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

Agenda 33.2: Action Taken Report (ATR) for minutes of 32nd EC meeting held on 06th December, 2023.

Shri Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET presented the ATR on minutes of the of the 32nd EC meeting held on 06th December, 2023. EC was informed that necessary action has been taken on decisions of the minutes of 32nd EC meeting. There were 12 actionable points and actions on all the points have been completed.

Decision of EC: EC accepted the action taken reports for minutes of the 32nd EC meeting.

Agenda 33.3: Ratification of exploration proposal on "Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Limestone and Dolomite in and Around Menga Area (26 sq.km.) of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh".

[Agency: DGM, Arunachal Pradesh]

The Technical-cum- Cost committee (TCC) of NMET in its 52nd meeting held on 27th & 28th April 2023 recommended the project "Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Limestone and Dolomite in and around Menga Area (26 sq.km.) of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh" proposed by Department of Geology and

Mining (DGM), Arunachal Pradesh with an estimated cost of ₹176.02 Lakhs (including GST) in time schedule of 12 months.

The Executive committee of NMET in its 30th meeting held on 6th June 2023 deferred the project and suggested the State Government to speed up the auction process of blocks available with the State government.

On 12th December 2023, a review meeting was held with State of Arunachal Pradesh under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Mines through VC. During the meeting, discussions were held on the project proposal "Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Limestone and Dolomite in and around Menga Area (26 sq.km.) of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh."

Accordingly, Secretary, Mines and Chairman, EC-NMET approved the project proposal "Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Limestone and Dolomite in and around Menga Area (26 sq.km.) of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh" with an estimated cost of ₹176.02 Lakhs (including GST) in time schedule of 12 months on 18.12.2023. The project will be implemented by DGM, Arunachal Pradesh. Accordingly, Sanction Order was issued on 15.01.2023.

Decision of EC: EC ratified the proposal "Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Limestone and Dolomite in and Around Menga Area (26 sq.km.) of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh" with an estimated cost of ₹176.02 Lakhs (including GST) with a timeline of 12 months.

Agenda 33.4: Ratification of expenditure incurred on "2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference" at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh [Agency: Ministry of Mines].

Ministry of Mines has organized the "2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference" on 23rd January, 2024 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The event was attended by States Mining Ministers, Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of Mines, State DGMs/ DMGs, Attached/ Subordinate/ Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs/ NPEAs of the Ministry and Industries. Hon'ble Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines chaired the conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Ministry of Mines requested Principal Secretary of Mines, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Madhya Pradesh for making arrangements of the conference viz. venue booking, event management, catering, transportation & logistics, accommodation, cultural programme etc. on behalf of Ministry of Mines and the payment will be made from NMET, Ministry of Mines as per the bills/invoices submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Subsequently, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Madhya Pradesh informed Ministry of Mines that Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Limited had been authorized for organizing the 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre (Minto Hall), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on 23rd January, 2024 and upon negotiation

submitted the Estimated Cost of Rs. 1,70,92,560/- for organizing the event. However, Secretary [Mines] directed to restrict the expenditure to 90% of the estimated cost.

As 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh provided an excellent platform for all the stakeholders to discuss and deliberate various issues pertaining to mining & exploration sectors paving way to more reform and enhance production of minerals in India. Therefore, it was proposed that entire expenses of the conference may be met from the Grant-in-aid General (2853.02.102.05.00.31) for the financial year 2023-24 of NMET.

In-principle approval from Secretary [Mines] and financial concurrence of JS & FA, Mines had been obtained by Ministry of Mines for incurring the expenditure from NMET funds in File No. 66/2/2023-NMET.

Accordingly, Secretary [Mines] & Chairman, EC, NMET approved the financial sanction of Rs. 1,53,83,304/- from NMET fund to Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Madhya Pradesh for organizing 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, through the Authorized Agency i.e. Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Limited.

Decision of EC: EC ratified the financial sanction of ₹1,53,83,304/- from NMET funds, for organizing 2nd State Mining Ministers' Conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Agenda 33.5: Ratification of additional expenditure incurred on setting up of "Mining Pavilion" at India International Trade Fair (IITF) organized by India Trade Promotional Organization [Agency: Ministry of Mines].

Ministry of Mines has set up a "Mining Pavilion" at India International Trade Fair (IITF) organized by India Trade Promotional Organization from 14th-27th November, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The event was a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Mines, its Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), attached & subordinate offices and associated organizations of Aluminum, Zinc & Copper.

Administration Section of Ministry of Mines had requested NMET for releasing of ₹ 84,45,099/- (Rupees Eighty-Four Lakh Forty-Five Thousand and Ninety-Nine only) for the payment to ITPO towards hiring of 506 sq. m. of area and ₹1,81,07,190/- (₹ One Crore eighty-one Lakh Seven Thousand One hundred and Ninety only) for hiring of event management agency for setting up of Mining Pavilion during the India International Trade Fair 2023.

Accordingly, Secretary, Mines & Chairperson, EC approved the financial sanction of ₹2,65,52,289/- (₹84,45,099 + ₹1,81,07,190) inclusive of 18% GST, from NMET funds, for setting up the Mining Pavilion at India International Trade Fair (IITF) organized by India Trade Promotional Organization from 14th-27th November, 2023

at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi and the same has been ratified in the 32nd EC meeting held on 06th December, 2023.

In addition to this, Ministry of Mines vide File No. ADM-34/24/2023-ADM and Note No. #82 had requested for releasing payment of ₹3,64,165/- to M/s Matrix India Private Limited, a Pune based private company which deals in prospecting, mining and extraction of minerals, in connection with showcasing minerals specimens at Mining Pavilion in IITF-2023. The expenditure had been approved by Secretary [Mines] on 03.02.2024

It is also mentioned that an amount of ₹8,54,406/- will be refunded to NMET towards security deposit by ITPO. Thus, the total expenditure incurred on the event from NMET is ₹ 2,60,62,048/- (₹84,45,099 + ₹1,81,07,190 +₹ 3,64,165 - ₹ 8,54,406).

Decision of EC: EC ratified the financial sanction of additional payment of ₹3,64,165/- to M/s Matrix India Private Limited, from NMET funds, for showcasing minerals specimens in the Mining Pavilion at India International Trade Fair (IITF).

Agenda 33.6: Ratification of expenditure incurred on Launch of the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal and Road show for the auction of critical mineral blocks [Agency: Ministry of Mines].

Ministry of Mines had launched the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal and organized the Road show for the auction of critical mineral blocks for the First Tranche of the Auction of 20 Critical and Strategic Mineral Blocks on 19th December, 2023 at The Ashok Hotel, Chankayapuri, New Delhi.

Mines-IV section of Ministry of Mines had requested NMET for releasing of **₹15,50,062/-** for venue booking, dinner etc. and **₹12,12,903/-** for hiring of event management agency by Ashoka event (Event Management Division of ITDC), both inclusive of GST.

In-principle approval from Secretary [Mines] and financial concurrence of JS & FA, Mines had been obtained by Ministry of Mines for incurring the expenditure from NMET funds in File No. M.IV-2306/5/2023-Mines IV-Part(1) vide Note No. #21 & Note No.#22.

Accordingly, Secretary, Mines & Chairperson, EC approved the financial sanction of **₹27,62,965/- (₹15,50,062 + ₹12,12,903)**, from NMET funds, for organizing the Launch of the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal and Road show for the auction of critical mineral blocks on 02.01.2024.

Decision of EC: EC ratified the financial sanction of ₹27,62,965/-, from NMET funds, for organizing the Launch of the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal and Road show for the auction of critical mineral blocks.

Agenda 33.7: Proposal of non-coking coal exploration up to grade G12 for NMET funding [Agency: CMPDIL].

Ministry of Coal, vide Office Memorandum F. No. 55013/1/2015-CRC-I (Voll-II)-Part (1) (FTS-340028) dated: 26/12/2023, had requested to consider the proposal of non-coking coal exploration up to grade G12 for NMET funding.

However, during the 17th Executive Meeting (EC) of NMET held on 05.11.2020, it was decided that NMET would only consider exploration proposals of coal grades of G1 to G10.

In view of this, NMET has requested CMPDIL to submit a comprehensive justification outlining the reasons, encompassing the potential benefits, for considering the non-coking coal exploration proposals up to grade G12 through NMET fund.

CMPDIL vide Letter No. CMPDI/DG/93 dt. 02.02.2024 submitted the justification:

1. 70% of the measured and indicated coal resources of the country falls within the grade range of %9 to G14.
2. Grades of coal vary upon the geological condition within the block. Without systematic exploration the true picture of the quality of coal may not emerge, without proper scientific investigation.

and requested for reconsidering the decision of EC provided during 17th EC meeting and considering the proposal of coal grades up to G12 for NMET funding.

Decision of EC: EC deliberated on the proposal in length. It was decided to defer the proposal.

Agenda 33.8: Proposal for Exploration Incentive against Larambha-Kanaital & Pudapadar Bharatbahal Block (G-4 level) for Manganese ore and Graphite, Balangir, Odisha [Agency: MECL].

NMET vide OM 6/2/2015-NMET/237 dt. 3rd September, 2023 modified the Schedule of Charges of NMET for Exploration Incentive (EI) and announced and exploration incentive of 25% of the approved cost of the project for G4 items in Greenfield areas for Gold, basemetal, precious minerals, strategic/ critical minerals and fertilizer minerals, if the block is successfully auctioned or upgraded from G4 to G3 stage.

The project Reconnaissance survey for manganese ore and graphite in Larambha-Kanaital & Pudapadar- Bharatbahal Blocks, District: Balangir, Odisha was sanctioned to MECL in 23rd EC meeting held on 16.03.2022 with a timeline of 18 months and estimated cost of ₹ 1,93,51,252/-. The sanction order was issued on 25.03.2022.

On the successful completion of G-4 level exploration for Manganese and Graphite in Larambha-Kanaital & Pudapadar-Bharatbahal Block, MECL submitted

proposals for upgradation of the same to G-3 level exploration, during the 59th TCC held on 28th and 29th November 2023 and the proposals were approved in the 32nd Executive Committee meeting held on 6th December, 2023.

Ministry of Mines has released the fresh list of 30 critical minerals on 28.06.2023. Accordingly, MECL has requested for an Exploration Incentive (EI) of 25% for the Larambha-Kanaital &Pudapadar-Bharatbahal Block in Balangir, Odisha.

The approved project cost is ₹ 1,93,51,252/-, however, the total expenditure incurred in the project is ₹ 1,76,65,829/-. Therefore, the amount of incentive on the expenditure incurred would be ₹ 44,16,457/- (25% of the actual expenditure).

TCC in its 61st meeting held on 30th 31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 observed that as per the recent amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2023 dated 9th August 2023, Graphite has been categorized as Critical and Strategic minerals under Part D of First Schedule. Therefore, TCC recommended for providing 25% Exploration Incentive against Larambha-Kanaital & Pudapadar-Bharatbahal Block (G-4 level) for Manganese ore and Graphite, Balangir, Odisha to MECL.

Decision of EC: EC deliberated on the proposal in length and suggested to devise the mechanism for providing incentive for critical mineral findings. Chairman, EC also asked to formulate norms/ guideline for proportions/ level/ reserve estimate for particular minerals that are economically viable. EC accorded approval of ₹44,16,457/- for providing incentive to MECL.

Agenda 33.9: Approval of Proposals for Financial Assistance for procurement of Machinery/Equipment

TCC in its 60th meeting held on 27th-28th December, 2023 and 61st meeting held on 30th-31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 recommended the following 02 nos. proposals for financial assistance for procurement of Machinery/Equipment:

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (in ₹ Lakh Including GST)
Agency: MECL			
1.	Proposal for procurement of equipment through NMET fund for capacity augmentation in MECL	12	3244.87
Agency: DMG, Bihar			
2.	Financial assistance from NMET fund to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instrument etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.	6	6.0

Agency: CGM, Gujarat			
3.	Financial assistance from NMET fund to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instrument etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.	12	413.70
		Total Cost	**3664.57**

The total cost of Financial Assistance for procurement of Machinery/Equipment to states is **₹ 3664.57 Lakh.**

Decision EC:

1. **Agency: MECL –** EC has accorded financial sanction for ₹3244.87 Lakh (excluding GST, custom duties etc., which will be paid as per actual) to MECL towards procurement of following instruments:

S. No.	Name of Equipment	Rate (approx. in Lakh)	Unit	Amount (in Lakh)
1	Hyper Spectral Core Scanner with LIBS	1868.00	01	1868.00
2	Hyper Spectral Core Scanner with XRF	1110.00	01	1110.00
3	Gamma Ray Spectrophotometer	30.00	02	60.00
4	WD-XRF	206.87	01	206.87
Total (excluding GST, custom duties etc.)				**3244.87**

- Further, EC decided that the procured instruments shall be National Property funded by Government of India that will be installed at MECL premises.
- MECL shall provide subsidized rates for all the Central and State Government Organizations. All the charges for analysis that will be raised by MECL for government, public and private sectors are to be approved by NMET, Ministry of Mines.
- NMET will not bear the cost of AMC for more than three years after warranty of one year. MECL will have to bear the AMC cost thereafter.
- IITs, Universities, all research institutions, Central and State Government organization, private and public enterprises and Principal Scientific Advisor to Prime Minister are to be informed and wide spread publicity to be done about the creation of this National Facility for optimum utilization of the instruments.

2. **Agency: DGM, Bihar –** EC has accorded financial sanction of ₹6.00 Lakh to DGM, Bihar for procurement of following items:

S. No.	Name of Equipment	Rate (approx. in Lakh)	Unit	Amount (in Lakh)
1	Handheld GPS	0.30	20	6.00
Total				**6.00**

3. **Agency: CGM, Gujarat –** EC has accorded financial sanction of ₹413.70 Lakh to CGM, Gujarat for procurement of following items:

S. No.	Name of Equipment	Rate (approx. in Lakh)	Unit	Amount (in Lakh)
1	Millipore water purification system	16.2	1	16.2
2	Digital Viscometer	10	1	10
3	Photometer	2	1	2
4	Ph-meter	0.5	1	0.5
5	Bomb calorimeter	5	1	5
6	UV-Visible Spectrophotometer	7	1	7
7	Analytical Weighing Balance	1	5	5
8	Platinum Crucible	1	30	30
9	Shaking table	10	1	10
10	Jaw crusher	10	2	20
11	High capacity microwave sample digestion unit	27	1	27
12	Certrifugal concentrator	3	1	3
13	Fluorescent spectrometer	5	2	10
14	Automated sieve shaker Digital recorder with ultrasonic sieve cleaner	6	2	12
15	Rotary sample divider	2	1	2
16	XRD Equipments	14	As Required	14
17	ICPMS	150	1	150
18	Fusion Bead machine	20	1	20
19	Muffle Furnace	1	3	3
20	Proximate Analyzer	5	1	5
21	Air Oven	2	2	4
22	Rock cutting Polishing and mounting unit	42	1	42
23	Stereo zoom microscope	15	1	15
24	Digital Electronic Weighing Scale	0.50	2	1
TOTAL				**413.70**

Agenda 33.10: Approval of Additional costs for ongoing projects recommended by TCC

TCC in its 60th meeting held on 27th-28th December, 2023 and 61st meeting held on 30th-31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 recommended the additional cost for following 01 nos. of mineral exploration projects:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Approved cost(₹ in Lakh)	Additional cost (₹ in Lakh)	Remarks
1	Preliminary exploration for Manganese in Hardatal block (1.38 sq. km), District: Balangir, Odisha	DMG, Odisha	159.26	28.81	Additional Chemical Analysis
2	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Glauconitic Sandstone in Pindra SW Extension Block, Satna District, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	117.43	2.31	
3	Preliminary exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Simariyakalan-Baheria Limestone Block, Narsinghpur District, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	116.50	10.35	

Decision of EC: As per the decision of EC taken during its 16th meeting held on 25th February, 2020, EC accorded approval of additional cost for project at S. No. 1 (which exceeds the limit of 10% of the original approved cost) and took a note of the of additional cost for projects at S. No. 2 to 3.

Agenda 33.11: Approval of revision of Block Name and Cost for ongoing projects recommended by TCC

TCC in its 60th meeting held on 27th-28th December, 2023 and 61st meeting held on 30th-31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 recommended the following 01 no of mineral exploration projects for revision of targets for approval by EC:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Targets	Revised Targets	Remarks
1.	**Present Block Name:** Preliminary exploration (G3) for Phosphorite, Baryte & REE in Katamadevarahalli Area, Kalburgi Dist, Karnataka	KIOCL	₹ 76.25 lakhs	₹ 69.47 lakh	Revision of cost & revision of commodity from Phosphorite,

	Recommended by TCC: Preliminary exploration (G3) for Limestone in Katamadevarahalli Area, Kalburgi Dist, Karnataka				Baryte and REE to Limestone

Decision of EC: EC approved the revision of cost and block name of the project.

Agenda 33.12: Approval of Extension of timeline for ongoing projects recommended by TCC

TCC in its 60th meeting held on 27th-28th December, 2023 and 61st meeting held on 30th-31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 recommended the following 08 nos. of mineral exploration projects for timeline extension for approval by EC:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Schedule date of completion	Required timeline (up to)	Remarks
1.	Preliminary Exploration for Coal in DhaskaNaugai block, East of Bisrampur Coalfield, District: Surguja, Chhattisgarh	CMPDI	24.11.2023	31.12.2023 **(1 month)**	For submission of Geological Report
2.	Preliminary Exploration for Coal in UliaGamhardih block, East of Bisrampur Coalfield, District:Surguja, Chhattisgarh	CMPDI	30.11 .2023	31.12.2023 **(1 month)**	
3.	Preliminary Exploration for Coal in North of Rajathari block, Penchkanhan Coalfield, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh	CMPDIL	01.02.2024	01.08.2024 **(6 months)**	Delay in award of Tender due to Govt. of India directives
4.	Preliminary Exploration for Bauxite in Garhpat block, Lohardaga district Jharkhand	CMPDIL	31.12.2023	31.03.2024 **(3 months)**	Delay in Chemical Analysis
5.	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Phosphorite, Baryte & REE in Katamadevarahalli Area, Kalburgi Dist, Karnataka	KIOCL	25.02.2024	25.08.2024 **(6 months)**	
6.	Reconnaissance Survey Iron Ore in Rowghat area, District-Kanker, Chhattisgarh	DGM, Chhattisgarh	30.11.2023	29.02.2024 **(3 months)**	For submission of Geological Report
7.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Iron Ore in Gopaltola Area, Dist. Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.	DGM, Chhattisgarh	31.03.2021	31.07.2024 **(40 months)**	Delay in forest clearance (project initiated in 16.02.2023)

8.	Reconnaissance survey for Limestone in Sangmania Block, Dist. Satna, Madhya Pradesh	MPSMC Ltd.	30.11.2021	15.02.2024 **(26.5 months)**	Block has been put up for auction
9.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Iron Ore in Gilanguda-Padur Block, District: Gadchiroli, Maharashtra	DGM Maharashtra (M/s. Gemcokati Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	25.12.2023	15.03.2024 **(2.5 months)**	For submission of Geological Report
10.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Iron Ore in Murwada-Tumarikodi Block, District: Gadchiroli, Maharashtra		25.12.2023	15.03.2024 **(2.5 months)**	
11.	Geochemical analysis of 4966 GGCMP samples	CGM, Gujarat	31.12.2023	31.03.2024 **(3 months)**	For analysis of Au of 14 toposheets as discussed during review meeting
12.	Geochemical analysis of 4966 GGCMP samples	MECL	31.12.2023	31.03.2024 **(3 months)**	Recommended with justification from MECL to EC
13.	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Limestone, Bauxite and Fire Clay in Piparhat-Kubri Block (2.51 sq. km), District-Satna, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	02.01.2024	15.02.2024 **(1.5 months)**	For submission of Geological Report
14.	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Limestone in Kiranagi-1 and Kiranagi- 2 Block (11.41 sq. km), District-Gulbarga, Karnataka	MECL	26.01 .2024	15.02.2024 **(1 month)**	
15.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Phosphorite in Ram Ka Munna Block (40.00 sq. km), District- Banswara, Rajasthan	MECL	05.02 .2024	05.03.2024 **(1 month)**	
16.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Glauconitic Sandstone in Pindra SW Extension Block (40.00 sq. km), District- Satna, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	05.02 .2024	05.03.2024 **(1 month)**	
17.	Preliminary Survey (G-3) for Limestone in Piapriya - Nayakheda and Semariyakalan - Baheriya Block (10.00 sq. km), District- Narasinghapur, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	25.02.2024	31.03.2024 **(1 month)**	

18.	Preliminary Survey (G-3) for Diamond (Phase-I) in Tikamgarh cluster comprising of four sub-blocks A to D (Total area of cluster 109.68 sq. km), District- Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh	MECL	31.08.2023	15.03.2024 **(6.5 months)**	No encouraging results
19.	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 stage) for PGE, Nickel & Chromite in Chandiposh Block, District- Sundargarh, Odisha	MECL	05.02.2024	31.03.2024 **(2 months)**	For submission of Geological Report
20.	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Majhingamali block, District - Rayagada &Kalahandi, Odisha	OMC	31.12.2023	30.06.2024 **(6 months)**	Law & Order Issue
21.	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for graphite in Thapen-Bazargarh graphite block (116.498 sq. Km) in Kalahandi district of Odisha.	OMC	19.08.2023	15.03.2024 **(6.5 months)**	Law & Order Issue
22.	Procurement of Mineral Processing equipment, characterization and analysis instruments for MMPL, Nagpur and RMPL, Bengaluru (Project I & II)	IBM	08.02.2024	08.10.2024 **(8 months)**	Lack of participation of experience bidders
23.	Procurement of ICP-MS	IBM	01.02.2024	08.10.2024 **(8 months)**	
24.	Procurement of WD-XRF	IBM	01.03.2024	08.10.2024 **(7 months)**	

Decision of EC: EC accorded approval for extension of timeline for projects from S.No. 1 to 24.

Agenda 33.13: In-principle approval of Projects submitted by NPEAs

TCC in its 61st meeting held on 30th-31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 accorded in-principle approval for the following 06 nos. of mineral exploration projects:

S. No.	Block/Project	Agency	Received in NMET
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for REE & RM in Block A in Hazaribag district, Jharkhand	M/s Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd.	14.12.2023
2	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for REE & RM in Block B in Hazaribag district, Jharkhand		14.12.2023

3	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Glauconite in Dhamni-Piparwasi-Simliya block in Sheopur district, Madhya Pradesh		15.12.2023
4	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Graphite in Block E in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh		26.12.2023
5	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Graphite in Block F in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh		26.12.2023
6	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Graphite in Ranibandh Graphite in Bankura district, West Bengal		26.12.2023
7	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Lithium and associated minerals in Chhuri- Jenjara Block, Korba District Chattisgarh		30.12.2023

Decision of EC: EC took a note of the matter. EC appreciated the efforts of NMET in expediting the process for providing in-principle approval to NPEAs. The NPEAs may be directed to submit DPRs within 3 months of in-principle approval.

Agenda 33.14: Approval of new exploration project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC)

TCC in its 60th meeting held on 27th-28th December, 2023 and 61st meeting held on 30th-31st January, 2024 & 07th February, 2024 recommended the following 15 nos. of mineral exploration projects for approval by EC.

The estimated cost of mineral exploration projects is **₹ 1953.48 Lakh.** The details of the all new project proposals recommended for approval of EC are as follows:

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (in ₹ Lakh Including GST)
A. Implementing Agency: MECL					
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Gold in Bargur Block, Bargur Belt of Kolar Schist Belt, District- Krisnagiri, Tamil Nadu	Gold	G4	12	250.28
2	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for QPC Hosted Gold mineralization and Copper in Kalasapura Block (119.00 sq. km), District- Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka	Gold & Copper	G4	12	152.41

3	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Iron and Manganese ore in Silpunji Block, Jamda-Koira Valley Iron Ore Belt, District- West Singhbhum, Jharkhand	Iron & Manganese	G3	10	162.43
4	Preliminary Exploration for Bauxite, Titanium and associated minerals (G-3) Siskari Pat Block, District–Lohardaga, Jharkhand	Bauxite, Titanium & assoc. minerals	G3	6	74.21
5	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) [Phase-I] for Gold in Kudrekonda area by Geophysical Survey, Shimoga Schist Belt, Honnali Taluk, Devanagere District, Karnataka	Gold	G3	12	244.69
6	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Manganese and Graphite in Bharatbahal Block (2.00 Sq. Km.) District-Balangir, Odisha	Manganese & Graphite	G3	8	137.78
				Sub Total-A	**1021.80**
B. Implementing Agency: KIOCL					
7	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Gold in Yediyur area, Yediyur - Karighatta schist belt, Mandya district, Karnataka	Gold	G4	10	129.17
				Sub Total-B	**129.17**
C. Implementing Agency: DGM, Chhattisgarh					
8	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Alda Block Raipur & Balodabazar-Bhatapara Districts, Chhattisgarh	Limestone	G3	10	159.78
				Sub Total-C	**159.78**
D. Implementing Agency: MPSMC					
9	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Limestone in Dhanokhar Nagod Block, Panna & Satna Districts, Madhya Pradesh	Limestone	G4	9	78.74
10	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Limestone in Gunaur Pali Block, Panna District, Madhya Pradesh	Limestone	G4	9	52.99
				Sub Total-D	**131.73**

E. Implementing Agency: CGM, Gujarat					
11	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Chhasra Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat	Limestone	G3	6	174.05
12	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Vayor Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat	Limestone	G3	6	94.28
13	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Limestone in Jadva Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat	Limestone	G3	6	60.98
				Sub Total-E	**329.31**
F. Implementing Agency: CGM, Gujarat (M/s Geo Marine Solutions Private Ltd.)					
14	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for vanadium and titanium in Dandi-Onjal-Surwada Block in Navasari and Valsad Districts, Gujarat	Vanadium & Titanium	G3	12	86.28
				Sub Total-E	**86.28**
G. Implementing Agency: DGM, Uttar Pradesh (M/s. GeoExpore Pvt. Ltd.)					
15	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Iron Ore in Mahakoshal Group around Chakdiya, Kushaniya, Jobra and Tusgaon area, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh	Iron Ore	G4	9	95.41
				Sub Total-G	**95.41**
				Total A+B+C+D+E+F+G	**1953.48**

The total cost of new exploration projects recommended by TCC is **₹ 1953.48 Lakh**.

Decision of EC: EC has accorded approval for projects from S. No. 1 to 15 with an estimated cost of **₹1953.48/- lakhs**.

Agenda 33.15: Approval of project proposals under ST&PRISM Scheme recommended by the APEX Committee, Metal – 4, Ministry of Mines

Ministry of Mines is promoting Research and Innovation in Startups and MSMEs and issued guidelines for “Promotion of Research and Innovation in Startups and MSMEs in Mining, Mineral Processing, Metallurgy and Recycling Sector (S&T-PRISM).

The objectives of S&T-PRISM under S&T programme is to promote the ecosystem for research, design, development, proof of concept testing, IPR creation,

pilot project and manufacturing i.e., complete value chain in mining, mineral processing, metallurgy and recycling sector by Bridging the gap between R&D and commercialization.

Ministry of Mines has decided that NMET may fund projects under the S&T-PRISM Programme for funding of Startups, MSMEs and Individual Innovators through JNARDDC. The projects will be selected, sanctioned issued, fund will be released and progress will be monitored by JNARDDC. NMET will sanction fund on the list of projects approved by JNARDDC and release the fund to JNARDDC in instalments. JNARDDC will in turn release the fund to the project proponents and give UC to NMET. The Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines has approved the proposal of funding these projects from NMET on 22.12.2023.

Accordingly, Apex Committee under S&T PRISM in its 1st meeting held on 12.02.2024 recommended the following proposal for approval of EC, NMET:

Project No.: PRISM/45/2023:

Project Title	GARBH - A Software for Exploration of Rare-earth-elements (Project No.: PRISM/45/2023)
Implementing Agency	**JNARDDC (Caliche Private Limited, Shillong, Meghalaya)**
Project Cost & Duration	₹ 120 lakhs with a duration of 2 Years
Apex Committee Remarks	NMET Contribution (100%) - ₹ 120 Lakhs At the end of the project, the project lead should furnish data of 10 probable sites that can be taken up for exploration.

Decision of EC: EC accorded approval for the project with an estimated cost of **₹120 lakhs.**

Additional Points:

1. Chairman, EC directed that modalities may be worked out between Ministry of Coal, Atomic Mineral Directorate and Geological Survey of India to bring out all the data available related to mineral exploration and aerogeophysical surveys done by the organizations on one national platform i.e., NGDR Portal which will lead to create synergies between the organizations. He also asked that all the airborne data needs to be widely circulated so that new blocks can be identified for exploration purpose.

[Action: Ministry of Coal/GSI/AMD]

2. Chairman, EC asked Dr. Sahendra Singh, Expert member EC to prepare a comprehensive list of instruments available with different IITs/ Universities/

organizations that are readily available to all the institutions and organizations involved in mineral exploration.

[Action: IIT (ISM), Dhanbad]

3. Chairman, EC directed that review of ongoing projects has to be done by NMET in the first week of March, 2024

[Action: NMET]

4. Chairman, EC directed TCC to fix intermediate timelines are to be defined for each project recommended for approval of EC, for timely execution and completion of the projects and same has to be included in the sanction orders issued by NMET to implementing agencies.

[Action: NMET/TCC]

5. Chairman, EC directed to constitute a Committee having members from Ministry of Mines, QCI-NABET and Geological Survey of India who will assess the project implementing capacity of various agencies working with NMET.

[Action: NMET]

6. Chairman, EC asked NMET to write to all NPEAs who have not submitted any projects to NMET or State Government about the lag and give them strict warning about it.

[Action: NMET]

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure 1

S. No.	Name/ Designation	Status	Remarks
1	Sh. V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Chairperson, ex-officio	Physical
2	Sh. Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines & CG, IBM	Member Secretary, ex-officio	Physical
3	Sh. Janardan Prasad Director General, Geological Survey of India	Member, ex-officio	Physical
4	Smt. Nirupama Kotru, JS & FA, Ministries of Mines	Member, ex-officio	Physical
5	Sh. Anand Ji Prasad, Advisor (P), Ministry of Coal	Member, ex-fficio	Physical
6	Dr. Dheeraj Pandey, Additional Director, Department of Atomic Energy	Member, ex-officio	Through VC
7	Smt. Anandhi, Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan	Member, ex-officio	Through VC
8	Sh. Rajiv Ranjan Meena, Director, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh	Member, ex-officio	Through VC
9	Sh. Gajanan Kamde, Joint Director (Geology & Mining), Government of Maharashtra	Member, ex-officio	Through VC
10	Ms. Aruna V. Joint Director, CGM, Tamil Nadu	Member, ex-officio	Through VC
11	Dr. Yamuna Singh, Scientist-H, Atomic Minerals Directorate (Retd.)	Technical Expert	Through VC
12	Dr. Laxman Singh Shekhawat, DDG (Retd.), GSI	Technical Expert	Through VC
13	Dr. Sahendra Singh, Associate Professor, IIT (ISM), Dhanbad	Technical Expert	Through VC
14	Sh. Alok Sharma, GM (Exploration) (Retd.) CMPDIL	Technical Expert	Physical
15	Sh. Naresh Nautiyal, Head (Business Development and Planning) (Retd.), MECL	Technical Expert	Through VC
16	Dr. S. Ravi, DDG, GSI and Chairman TCC	Invitee	Physical
17	Sh. Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET, Ministry of Mines	Director & HoD, NMET	Physical