**Government of India**
**Ministry of Mines**
**National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust**

F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/679 New Delhi, 19 th October 2026

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Standard Operating Procedure for Partial Reimbursement of exploration expenses to Holders of Exploration Licenses-reg.**

Ministry of Mines had notified the scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses to holders of exploration licenses granted through auction, for exploration of deep seated, critical and strategic minerals, vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/154 dated 24th June 2024. The Revised Guidelines have been issued vide OM No. 6/2/2015-NMET/678 dated 19th October, 2026.

To supplement the Revised Guidelines, the competent authority has approved the Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for Partial Reimbursement of exploration expenses.

The Revised SoP, including the eligibility criteria, conditions, procedure for submission of proposal, scale for reimbursement of exploration expenses etc. is enclosed herewith.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Digitally signed by
Geetika Sharma
Date: 19-10-2026 18:33:28

(Geetika Sharma)
Director & HoD, NMEDT

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

**Copy to**

1. The General Manager (Exploration), Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur
2. Mineral Exploration Department, KIOCL Limited, Block-II, Koramangala, Bangalore 560034, Karnataka
3. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited Kanke Rd, CMPDI Complex, Gondwana Place, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834008
4. Shri Atul Rathore, APC Drilling & Construction Private Limited, Room No.153/C7, Third floor, R.Gopal Complex Salem Road Namakkal, Tamil Nadu.
5. Shri Shekhar Joshi, Bhushilp Mines and Minerals Pvt Ltd, Gajanan Sanmitra Co. Op, Plot No. 186, Trisaran Nagar, Shastri Layout, Khamla, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440022.

6. Shri Anirudh Srivastava, BMRC Geomining Solutions Pvt Ltd, C-20 Sector, C1 LDA Colony, Kanpur Road , Lucknow Pin - 226012, Uttar Pradesh.
7. Shri Vikram K Y, Critical Mineral Trackers, 406, Concourse Bldg., Greenland's Main Road, OPP Lal Bungalow, Hyderabad CMT Geo Solution Center, E5, 3rd Floor, Technology Research Park, IIT, Kandi Hyderabad 500016, Telangana.
8. Shri Pradeep Agarwal, Deepsar Mineral Explorer, 6 Ka 16, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur
9. Shri Manorama Mohapatra, Eartnenviro Lab Private Limited, Shop no-36,BDA PH-II CSPUR, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar.
10. Shri Indraneel Dawande, Engeotech Consultant, 1338, Vijay Nagar Kachnar City Road Jabalpur-482002, Madhya Pradesh.
11. Smt. Sunita Mantri, Enkay Enviro Services Pvt. Ltd., 92,Heera Nagar- A,Near Shalimar Bagh, Ajmer Road, Jaipur , Rajasthan – 302021 .
12. Dr. Neeraj Srivastave, Envirogreen Consultants (India) Private Limited, 1B, Macchla, Magra, Near, Patel Circle, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313002.
13. Shri Nigel Job, Gemcokati Exploration Private Limited, Plot No 34, Bapat Nagar, , Chandrapur , Maharashtra – 442401.
14. Shri Deepak Kumar Swain, GEMS Project Pvt Ltd, 1236/2, Lajpat Nagar, Pundag Ranchi, Jharkhand-834004.
15. Shri Dr. Ifthikhar Ahmed, Geo Exploration and Mining Solution, 17, Advaitha Ashram Rd, Arthanari Nagar, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu 636004.
16. Shri P. Praveen Kumar, Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Door No. 15-17-909/9, 5th Cross Shivbagh, Kadri, Behind Silverwood apartment, Leslie, Haven Compound, Mangalore - 575005 Karnataka.
17. Shri Channamallik arjun B. Patil, GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd, No. 45 S 2nd A Main, 2nd Cross, Chandralayout, Bengaluru – 560040.
18. Shri Dr. S. Karuppannan, Geotechnical Mining Solutions, 1/213B Natesan Complex Tamil Nadu, Dharmapuri – 636705.
19. Shri Biplob Chatterjee, Geovale Services Pvt Ltd, GN 38/5, 3rd Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091, India West Bengal.
20. Shri Manvender Bharti, GMMCO Technology Services Ltd, 9A, Vaishnavi Cymbol, Financial District, Hyderabad, Nanakramguda, Telangana -500032..
21. Shri Rajil Chaudhary, Hindmetal Exploration Services Private Limited, Yashad Bhawan, Opp Swaroop Sagar,Udaipur, Rajasthan.
22. Shri Dr. Nirode Behari Chanda, Indian Mine Planners & Consultants, GE-61 Rajdanga Main Road, Behind Vivanta Hotel, West Bengal, Kolkata – 700107.
23. Shri Nitin Kohad, Kartikay Exploration & Mining Services Pvt. Ltd, 101 & 102, Bhaskar Building Near MLA Hostel, Civil Lines, Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440001.
24. Smt Bhavana Singh, Kundan Concentrates Private Limited, 3, Scindia House, 2nd Floor, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.
25. Smt Anusrita Thakur, Maheshwari Mining Private Limited (MMPL Private Limited), 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal.
26. Mining Associates Private Limited, Plot no. 110, Main Dhemo, Beside Railway Siding, P.O. - Sitarampur, Asansol Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal -713359.
27. Mining Tech Consultancy Services Limited, A 121, Paryavaran Complex, IGNOU Road, -110030, IGNOU Road, New Delhi, Delhi 110030.

28. My World Consultancy Services Private Limited, My World Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd, Plot No: 766, Telengapentha, Cuttack, Odisha- 754001.
29. Natural Resources Division-Tata Steel Limited, Natural Resources Division, Room No 349, 3rd Floor, Commercial Centre, General Office, Tata Steel Ltd, Bistupur, Jamshedpur – 831001.
30. Ocean Drilling and Exploration Private Limited, 24 A, Shanti Nagar,Near Diamond Residency, Jhotwara-302012, Rajasthan.
31. Shri Bhupendra M. Raghushe, PRB Infraprojects Private Limited, S-3, 2nd Floor, Beside Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Medical Square, Nagpur– 440024.
32. Shri Om Prakash Somani, Ramgad Minerals and Mining Limited, Baldota Enclave, AbherajBaldota Road, Hosapete 583203.
33. Shri M.A.Samad, S and S Geological Consultants, H.No-6-2-37/A, Second Floor, Midas Touch Commercial Complex, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad - 500004,Telangana.
34. Shri Shubham Banerjee, Shijay Projects India Private Limited, A-23,24,25, Ground Floor, Logix Technova, Noida Sector 132, Uttar Pradesh.
35. Shri Siddharth Singh, Siddharth Geo. Consultant, 621/3, First Floor, Ramkund, Samta Colony, Behind Life Worth Hospital Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
36. Shri Karunakar Gandarapu, Steiger Geoscience and Engineering Private Limited, Steiger Geoscience and Engineering Private Limited 3rd Floor, 2-2-24/A/46, D.D. Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad 500 013, Telangana
37. Smt Dr. Sonali Guha, Synergy Geotech Private Limited, 51, Wardha Rd, Panchdip Nagar, Narendra Nagar, Somalwada, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440025.
38. Shri Neeraj, Unised Research Consultants Private Limited, 152 Sector-B, New Vistar Yojana, Jarouli Phase-II,Barra Kanpur, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 208027.
39. Shri Joydeep Banerjee, United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., Tower 2A, 5th Floor, Action Area II, Ecospace Business Park, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata, West Bengal-700156. 143/1/2026-NMEDT I/3016616/2026
40. Shri Anshul Yadav, Vardan Environet Llp, Plot No. 82A, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon- 122051, Haryana.
41. Shri Raj Kumar Yadav, Vibrant Techno Lab Private Limited, Steiger Geoscience and Engineering Private Limited 3rd Floor, 2-2-24/A/46, D.D. Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad 500 013, Telangana Above SBI DD colony branch Phone: 9799397960.
42. Shri Abhijit Pednekar, Infrastructure Logistics Private Limited, 205, 2ndFloor, Kamat Metropolis-I, Behind Caculo Mall, St Inez Panaji North Goa 403001.
43. Shri Soumi Chakraborty, Novomine India Private Limited, 4th Floor, Building No-65, Opp-The Children's Hospital, Pohkseh, Shillong, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya-793006.
44. FCI Aravali, Gypsum and Minerals Ltd, B Rd, Bhadwasiya, Paota, Jodhpur, Rajasthan 342001
45. OMC Limited, Gopabandhu Marg, Unit-IV, Keshari Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001
46. Hindustan Copper Limited, 2nd Floor, North Tower, Core-2, Scope Minar, Dist. Centre, Laxmi Nagar, Swasthya Vihar, New Delhi-110092.
47. M/s. AVSG Solutions (OPC) Private Limited, Shop No 10, Tulip, Lifestyle, Atomic Energy Road, Kachimet, Wadi, Nagpur-440023.

48. M/s. Ecomen Mining Pvt. Ltd., 1st Floor, Sy. No. 91/A, Ward No. 7, MCHS Jakkur LayoutJakkur Bangalore.
49. M/s. Geo Consultants Private Limited, 853, Govind Prasad, Cuttack Road, Mahavir Nagar, Laxmisagar, Khordha, Odisha, 751006.
50. M/s. H K & Associates, H K House, 114 Ganesh Nagar, St Teresa roadPahada, Udaipur
51. M/s. HITTITES Exploration, t number 212/4, Bellary Road, Sadashiv Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560080.
52. M/s. Midwest Limited, 19 th floor, Tower -1, Prestige skytech, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad-500032.
53. M/s. Minedge Global Private Limited, No.16, Shambala, 9th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560003.
54. M/s. N G Gadhiya, 22-B-22, Opp. NRI Colony, Haldighati Marg, Pratap Nagar Jaipur, 302033.
55. M/s. Reval Consulting Private Limited, 6$^{th}$ Floor, 604, World One West, S. P. Ring Road, Ambli, Ahmedabad.
56. M/s. S K Khetan Infraprojects Private Limited, 43-44 I Block, Hiran Magri Sector 14, Udaipur -313002, Rajasthan.
57. M/s. Sathi Planners Private Limited, 5th Floor, Maru Tower, Kanke Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834008.
58. M/s. South West Pinnacle Exploration Limited, Ground Floor, Plot No. 15, Sec-44, Gurgaon.
59. M/s. Wattfin Ventures Private Limited, 32, Prakash Aprt., Behind Sengupta Hospital, Ravi Nagar, Nagpur 440010.
60. Jharkhand Exploration and Mining Corporation Limited
61. Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited
62. Ms Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited
63. Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited
64. M/s West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited
65. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation
66. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited
67. Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
68. Manganese Ore India Limited
69. National Mineral Development Corporation Limited
70. Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
71. Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd.

**Copy for kind information to:**

1. P.S. to Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines
2. APS to Hon'ble Minister of State of Mines
3. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines
4. PPS to Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Mines
5. PPS to JS & FA, Ministry of Mines
6. PPS to JS (FMN), Ministry of Mines
7. PPS to JS (NCMM), Ministry of Mines
8. PS to Director General, NMEDT
9. Technical Secretary to Director General, GSI
10. TS to Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines

11. The ADG, PSS GSI
12. Members of Executive Committee, NMEDT
13. Chairmen and members, TCC-I and TCC-II, NMEDT
14. Members of Project Sanctioning Committee, NMEDT

**Ministry of Mines**
**National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust [NMEDT]**

**New Delhi**

## Standard Operating Procedure for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for holders of Exploration License

The scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Exploration Licence was issued vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/154 dated 24.06.2024 and modified vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/678 dated 19.10.2026 (Annexure A). The Standard Operating Procedure for Exploration Licence Scheme was issued on 25.04.2025. The revised Standard Operating Procedure is being issued for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by the Exploration Licence (EL) holders.

1. The eligibility criteria and conditions for partial reimbursement are as set out in OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/678 dated 19.10.2026 hereinafter referred to as "Guidelines" (Annexure A).
2. It is optional for holder of Exploration Licences granted by auction to avail of partial reimbursement of exploration expenses after the date of issue of the "Guidelines", in which case the EL holder shall apply for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses within a period of 6 months from the grant of the EL.
3. Acceptance or rejection of a proposal under these "Guidelines" or any dispute regarding reimbursement under the "Guidelines" shall not have any bearing on discharging the obligation of the EL holders as per the terms and conditions of the Exploration License prescribed by the State Government at the time of the auction of the concession.
4. In case the exploration leads to commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, the holder of such EL shall pay back the amount released by NMEDT within six years, in six equal annual instalments, of the commencement of production and dispatch of minerals and receipt of share in auction premium from any of the mining lease blocks auctioned pursuant to exploration undertaken by the EL holder. Further, in exceptional circumstances, the repayment period to NMEDT by the EL holder may be extended by the PSC on case-to-case basis.
5. In case the EL holder receives lump-sum payment from the mining lease holder in lieu of share in auction premium, the EL holder shall pay back the amount to NMEDT within one month of receipt of lump-sum payment.
6. The EL holders applying under the "Guidelines" shall submit their project proposal to NMEDT. The proposal shall contain – (i) general information (in the format specified in Annexure-1 of "Guidelines"), (ii) detailed proposal along with estimated expenditure details (in the format specified in Annexure-2 of "Guidelines"), (iii) annual work plan (in the format specified in Annexure-3 of "Guidelines"), and (iv) a copy of the Exploration Licence.
7. Upon receipt of proposal from the Exploration Licence (EL) holder, NMEDT shall seek comments from the concerned State Government within 30 days. The State Government shall certify the validity of the Exploration Licence, confirm the EL holder's compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and convey it's No Objection for reimbursement of eligible exploration expenditure under these Guidelines.

8. After receiving the project proposal from the EL holder, the TCC of NMEDT will evaluate it on technical and cost parameters and send its recommendations to the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT.

9. Based on the recommendation of TCC, the PSC will again evaluate the proposal before taking a decision. In case of approval, a sanction order will be issued by NMEDT. The reimbursement of various components of expenditure will be as per the approved Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMEDT.

10. The component of expenditure(s) which is not available in the approved SoC shall be reimbursed to the maximum extent as provided in the "Guidelines" issued vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/678 dated 19.10.2026.

11. The reimbursement towards exploration costs will be considered only for geological mapping, sampling, geophysical investigation, exploratory drilling, chemical/petrological analysis, mineral beneficiation studies, research collaboration/ consultancy/advisory and logistics. The expenses incurred for any other activities as part of the exploration will not be considered for reimbursement.

12. The Exploration Licence (EL) holder shall submit to NMEDT an Annual Work Plan detailing the proposed exploration activities, timelines, and estimated expenditure for the year.

13. NMEDT shall monitor the progress of work from time to time. The EL holder shall provide access to all sites and records, such as geological maps, drill logs, drill hole/ sample location sites, etc., to the experts of NMEDT during the inspection visit.

14. NMEDT will monitor the progress of the project work on its own/ by officers of the Central Government/ by any other entity engaged/ decided by NMEDT/ Ministry of Mines. The cost towards the logistics arrangements (TA/DA, hotel stay, etc.) for the inspection visit of the experts shall be borne by NMEDT.

15. The EL holder shall make the exploration expenses for carrying out the exploration activities through a dedicated bank account and maintain duly audited books of accounts.

16. As per Rule 172 (1) Para (ii) of GFR 2017, in case the EL holder wishes to avail mobilisation advance (up to 30% of the approved reimbursable cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 6 Cr.), the EL holder has to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG, including e-bank guarantee) of equal value of the advance to NMEDT. Advance paid will be adjusted in the first bill submitted by the EL holder, and a Utilization certificate of the same has to be submitted along with the bills. Further payment will be made on a reimbursement basis against the bills submitted by the EL holder. The BG should remain valid for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of the project and acceptance of the geological report by NMEDT. The Bank guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilization advance. The reimbursement shall be settled through PFMS.

17. The EL holder shall share geological and geophysical data/ results of the detailed exploration campaign along with a geological report with the Directorate of Geology and Mines of the respective State, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) for National Mineral Inventory (NMI) and Geological Survey of India (GSI) for uploading the same in the NGDR for future reference or any other mechanism as specified by NMEDT from time to time.

18. Upon completion of prospecting operations, the EL holder shall submit the Geological Report (GR) to NMEDT within two months from the date of completion, and shall also submit an interim/progress report at the end of every six months.

19. The recovered cores from the exploratory drilling activities will be handed over by the EL holder to DMG/DGM of the concerned State/ GSI core library for future reference.

20. The reimbursement shall be made in a maximum of six instalments. The amount reimbursed in each instalment will not be more than 50% of the expenditure incurred. The reimbursement shall be made on submission of half-yearly expenditure bills duly certified by a chartered accountant.

21. Since the reimbursed amount is repayable to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) within six years of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, reimbursement shall be released only upon submission of a Bank Guarantee (BG) issued by a scheduled commercial bank or an Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) of an amount equal to the reimbursement claimed. The Bank Guarantee or Insurance Surety Bond must be drawn in favour of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), payable to the Pay & Accounts Office, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi.

22. The Exploration Licence (EL) holder shall repay the reimbursed amount to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) within six years (in equal annual instalments) of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals and receipt of share in auction premium from any of the mining lease blocks auctioned pursuant to exploration undertaken by the EL holder. In case the EL holder receives lump-sum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium, the EL holder shall pay back the amount to NMEDT within one month of receipt of lump-sum payment. Further, in exceptional circumstances, the repayment period to NMEDT by the EL holder may be extended by the PSC on a case-to-case basis.

23. The bank guarantee or insurance surety bond shall remain valid for 5 years initially. If the validity of ISB/BG expires prior to full repayment to NMEDT, it is to be renewed at least 6 months prior to expiry, for the period till the amount is repaid to NMEDT. Failure to renew the bank guarantee or insurance surety bond in the due time frame will lead to NMEDT encashing the Bank Guarantee/Insurance Surety Bond, without any notice.

24. The beneficiary holder of the EL shall submit an undertaking to repay the sanctioned amount to NMEDT. In case the holder of the exploration licence (EL) fails to repay the amount reimbursed by NMEDT, the same will be recovered by NMEDT by encashing the Bank Guarantee/insurance bond, without any notice. A standard format of undertaking is attached as Annexure B.

**In addition to the above provisions, the following instructions are issued for monitoring and verification:**

1. Verification of the quantum of work carried out by the EL holder: The details of the work carried out by the EL holder during Geological mapping, sampling, Geophysical investigation, exploratory drilling, chemical/petrological analysis, mineral beneficiation studies and logistics, as per the sanction order issued by NMEDT, are to be submitted by the EL holder to the DDG of the concerned State Unit of GSI for verification.

2. On submission of the claim by the EL holder, along with supporting documents, the verification process will be based on the quantum of work executed by the EL holder as per the sanction order. The bill verification will be completed by the concerned DDG of GSI within a reasonable period of time. In case of deficiency, clarification will be sought by the concerned DDG of GSI within 5 working days and/or return the claim to the EL holder under intimation to NMEDT and DG, GSI office.

3. While evaluating the project proposal, the Technical-cum-Cost Committee of NMEDT will also evaluate the project components outside the SoC of NMEDT, such as research collaboration/ consultancy / advisory services; accordingly, payment will be made by NMEDT to the maximum extent as provided in the guidelines issued vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/678 dated 19.10.2026 (Annexure A)

4. NMEDT shall maintain a register in respect of each Exploration Licence (EL) holder containing the date of application under the NMEDT "Guidelines", date of issuance of Letter of Intent (LoI), date of grant of Exploration Licence (EL), date of execution/signing of the Mining Lease, date of commencement of production dispatch of minerals and receipt of share in auction premium from any of the ML blocks auctioned pursuant to exploration, date of receipt of lump sum payment, if any.

5 (a). To ensure the recovery of exploration expenses reimbursed by NMEDT to the EL holder, the sanction order to be issued by NMEDT will contain the clause that the EL holder shall pay back the amount released by NMEDT under the "Guidelines" within 6 years (in six equal annual instalments) of the commencement of production and dispatch of minerals and receipt of share in auction premium from any of the mining lease blocks auctioned pursuant to exploration undertaken by the EL holder or within 1 month of receipt of lumpsum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium, as the case may be.

5 (b). In the event that the Licence (EL) holder fails to refund the amount reimbursed under the "Guidelines", such amount shall be treated as dues payable by the EL holder and the same will be recovered by NMEDT by encashing the Bank Guarantee/insurance bond, without any notice.

6. A copy of the sanction order will be endorsed to Mines-IV Section/Auction Division of Ministry of Mines, the State DGM/DMG/CGM, the concerned State unit of GSI and IBM. The Mines-IV Section/Auction Division shall share the information regarding successful auction of mine to NMEDT and IBM.

7. The holder of the EL shall inform NMEDT of the prospecting plan for each year in advance before the reimbursement is made. The same shall be evaluated by the TCC before the release of payment by NMEDT.

8. Mines-IV Section / Auction Division of Ministry of Mines shall add a clause in the NIT document (for auction of mineral block pursuant to exploration undertaken by the EL holder) stating that the successful mining bidder will inform NMEDT regarding the release of payment w.r.t. auction premium from any of the mining lease blocks auctioned and/or regarding lump sum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium.

9. The Exploration Licence holder shall intimate NMEDT about the date of commencement of production and mineral dispatch from the Mining Lease blocks auctioned pursuant to exploration undertaken by the EL holder or about lump sum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium.

10. NMEDT shall independently verify from the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and the concerned State Government the execution/signing of the Mining Lease (ML) and the date of commencement of production and mineral dispatch in respect of the Exploration Licence (EL) holder.

**Annexure A**

## Guidelines for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licence

### BACKGROUND

The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 envisages private sector participation in mineral exploration and aims to facilitate, encourage and incentivise private sector participation in all spheres of mineral exploration to harness the technical expertise, technological capability and the financial resources of the private sector to discover and exploit the country's vast mineral resources. It also envisages incentives for exploration agencies to mitigate their risk in exploration work.

To further the objectives of the NMEP, 2016, the Central Government has made several policy reforms to boost mineral exploration and production and make the country self-reliant in the mineral sector. Further, the amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) in 2023 has introduced a new mineral concession of exploration licence to be granted for exploration of critical and deep-seated minerals specified in the Seventh Schedule of the Act to encourage participation of the private sector in exploration of these minerals, considering their importance in the national economy and the need for the use of the latest technology in exploration of these minerals.

During the consultations on the draft amendment of the MMDR Act as well as on the draft rules for implementation of the provisions of the exploration licence, the Ministry of Mines has received several suggestions from the State Governments, industry and other stakeholders for providing incentives to exploration licence holders to mitigate the risks in exploration of critical and deep-seated minerals.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Mines constituted a committee of experts to fix the norms for reimbursement of exploration expenses to exploration licence holders. Based on the recommendations of the committee, guidelines for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for exploration licence (EL) holders has been formulated.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Guidelines is to provide partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for exploration licence holders which are granted through auction.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

EL holders granted under section 10BA of the MMDR Act shall be eligible to apply under the present Guidelines.

### CONDITIONS

I. It is optional for EL holders who are granted EL through auction to avail of partial reimbursement of exploration expenses after the date of issue of the present Guidelines, in which case he shall submit a proposal for reimbursement of the exploration expenses within a period of 6 months from the grant of EL.

II. Acceptance or rejection of a proposal or any dispute regarding reimbursement under the Guidelines shall not have any bearing on discharging the obligation of the EL holders as per the terms and conditions of Exploration Licence prescribed by the State Government at the time of auction of the concession.

III. The EL holder shall pay back to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) the amount released by NMEDT under these Guidelines within six years (in equal annual instalments) of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals and receipt of share in auction premium from any of the mining lease blocks auctioned pursuant to exploration undertaken by the EL holder. Further, in exceptional circumstances, the repayment period to NMEDT by the EL holder may be extended by the PSC on case-to-case basis. In case the EL holder receives lump-sum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium, he shall pay back the amount to NMEDT within one month of receipt of lump-sum payment.

IV. Since the reimbursed amount is repayable to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) within six years of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, reimbursement shall be released only upon submission of a Bank Guarantee (BG) issued by a scheduled commercial bank or an Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) of an amount equal to the reimbursement claimed. The Bank Guarantee (BG) or Insurance surety bond (ISB) must be drawn in favour of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), payable to the Pay & Accounts Office, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi.

**PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

The EL holders applying under the Guidelines shall submit a project proposal to the NMEDT. The proposal shall contain -

I. General information (in the format specified in Annexure-1 to these Guidelines)

II. Detailed proposal along with estimated expenditure details (in the format specified in Annexure-2 to these Guidelines)

III. Annual work plan (in the format specified in Annexure-3 to these Guidelines)

IV. A copy of EL.

The EL holder may revise the project proposal, including annual work plan, depending upon the progress of the exploration activities already undertaken. The revision must be recommended by TCC and approved by PSC of NMEDT.

**EVALUATION, APPROVAL AND REIMBURSEMENT**

I. After receiving the project proposal from the EL holder, TCC, NMEDT will evaluate the proposal on technical and cost parameters and recommend to Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC). Based on the recommendation of TCC, the PSC will evaluate and approve the proposals. After the approval of the PSC, necessary sanction order will be issued by the NMEDT, for reimbursement of exploration expenses as per the details provided by the EL holder (Annexure-1). The entire process from submission of proposal by EL holder to issuing of sanction order by NMEDT shall not take more than two months.

II. The NMEDT shall monitor the progress of work from time to time. The EL holder shall provide access to all sites and records such as geological maps, drill logs, drill hole/ sample location sites etc. to the experts of the NMEDT during the inspection visit.

**SCALE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPLORATION EXPENSES**

I. The exploration expenses incurred by the EL holder towards **geological mapping and sampling** will be reimbursed **up to 50% of direct costs** as per the SoC of NMEDT with a **maximum ceiling of ₹1.50 Crore.**

II. The exploration expenses incurred by the EL holder towards **geophysical investigations** will be reimbursed **up to 50% of direct costs** as per the SoC of NMEDT with a **maximum ceiling of ₹3.00 Crore.**

III. The exploration expenses incurred by the EL holder towards **exploratory drilling** will be reimbursed **up to 50% of direct costs** as per the SoC of NMEDT with a **maximum ceiling of ₹10.00 Crore.**

IV. The exploration expenses incurred by the EL holder towards **chemical and petrological analysis/ mineral beneficiation** will be reimbursed **up to 50% of direct costs** as per the SoC of NMEDT with **a maximum ceiling of ₹2.50 Crore.**

V. The exploration expenses incurred by the EL holder towards **Research collaboration/ consultancy/advisory** and not covered by other activities in the proposal will be reimbursed **up to 50% of direct costs** with **a maximum ceiling of ₹1.50 Crore.**

VI. The exploration expenses incurred by the EL holder towards **logistics** including setting up camp office site, transportation arrangement, hiring of personnel, consumables, etc. and not covered by other activities in the proposal will be reimbursed **up to 50% of direct costs** with a **maximum ceiling of ₹1.50 Crore**, subject to limit of Rs.30 Lakhs per year.

**OTHER CONDITIONS**

i. NMEDT will monitor progress of project work on its own/ by officers of Central Government/ by any other entity engaged/ decided by NMEDT/ Ministry of Mines. The cost towards the logistics arrangements (TA/DA, hotel stay, etc.) for the inspection visit of the experts shall be borne by the NMEDT.

ii. EL holder shall make the exploration expenses for carrying out exploration activities through a dedicated bank account and maintain duly audited books of accounts.

iii. As per Rule 172 (1) Para (ii) of GFR 2017, in case the EL holder wishes to avail the mobilisation advance (up to 30% of the approved reimbursable cost subject to a ceiling of ₹6 Crore), the EL holder has to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG, including e-bank guarantee) of equal value of advance to NMEDT. Advance paid will be adjusted in the first bill submitted by the EL holder, and a Utilization certificate of the same has to be submitted along with the bills. Further payment will be made on a reimbursement basis against the bills submitted by the EL holder. The BG should remain valid for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of the project and acceptance of the Geological Report by NMEDT. The Bank guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilisation advance.

iv. The EL holder shall share geological and geophysical data/ results of the detailed exploration campaign along with a geological report with the Directorate of Geology and Mines of the respective State, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) for National Mineral Inventory (NMI) and Geological Survey of India (GSI) for uploading the same in the NGDR for future reference or any other mechanism as specified by NMEDT from time to time.

v. The recovered cores from the exploratory drilling activities will be handed over by the EL holder to DMGs/DGMs of the concerned state/ GSI core library for future reference.

vi. The reimbursement shall be made on submission of half yearly expenditure bills duly certified by a chartered accountant. The half yearly bills shall be accompanied by an interim report of the progress of the work carried out during the period. The amount reimbursed in each instalment will not be more than 50% of expenditure incurred. Reimbursement will be settled through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), in the dedicated bank account as furnished by the EL holder (Annexure-1).

vii. Since the reimbursed amount is repayable to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) within six years of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, reimbursement shall be released only upon submission of a Bank Guarantee (BG) issued by a scheduled commercial bank or an Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) of an amount equal to the reimbursement claimed. The Bank Guarantee or Insurance Surety Bond must be drawn in favour of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), payable to the Pay & Accounts Office, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi.

viii. Ministry of Mines/ NMEDT reserve the right to modify the Guidelines as may be necessary from time to time.

**Annexure-1**

**Details required for partial reimbursement towards exploration expenses for Exploration Licence holders**

| S.No. | Particular | |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | **Name of Exploration Licence holder** | |
| **2** | **Legal Status of Claimant (Power of Attorney/ Affidavit/Registered Deed)** | |
| | i. Postal Address: | |
| | ii. Telephone Number (Office): | |
| | iii. Fax Number (Office): | |
| | iv. Mobile No.: | |
| | v. Telephone Number (Residence): | |
| | vi. Email ID: | |
| **3** | **ITR Details (For the period of exploration)** | |
| **4** | **Details required for PFMS** | |
| | Type of Registration | Institution/CPSE/SPSE/Private etc. |
| | PAN Number | |
| | Agency Name | |
| | Act/ Registration No. (if available) | |
| | Date of Registration (if available) | |
| | Registering Authority (if available) | |
| | State of Registration | |
| | TIN Number | |
| | TAN Number | |
| | GST Number | |
| | Block No/Building/Village/Name of Premises/Road/Street/Post Office | |
| | Area/Locality/City | |
| | District/State | |
| | Pin Code | |
| | Contact Person | |
| | Designation | |
| | Mobile No. | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | E-mail | |
| | Bank Account Number | |
| | Names as per bank A/C | |
| | IFSC Code | |
| | Branch & Bank Detail | |
| | ITR Details (For the period of exploration) | |
| **5** | **Details of Exploration Licence** | |
| | i. Block Name/Project | |
| | ii. Block area (sq. km) | |
| | iii. Survey of India Toposheet Number(s) along with Lat. And Long. | |
| | vi. District (s) | |
| | vii. State | |
| | Mineral Commodity | |

Date:

Signature:

Name:

Designation:

**Annexure-2**

**Detailed description of the Proposal to be submitted by the EL holder**

**Proposal for_____ Block, _____District, _____State**

**For Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) under NMEDT**

**(Commodity to be mentioned here)**

**(to be selected from the Seventh Schedule Minerals under MMDR Act)**

**By**

**_____Agency**

**Place:**

**Date:**

**Detailed description on the following titles to be made in the proposal**

## 1. Block Summary

I. Physiography

II. Background Geology (Regional Geology, Geology of the Block).

III. Mineral potentiality based on geology, geophysics, ground geochemistry etc. Scope for proposed exploration.

IV. Observation and Recommendations of previous work.

## 2. Previous Work

I. Previous Exploration in adjoining area (Regional area); All the sample (bed rock/trench/groove/soil), borehole location should be plotted on the geological map and analytical data should be discussed briefly.

II. Previous Exploration in the proposed block area: All the sample (bed rock/trench/ groove/soil), borehole location should be plotted on the geological map and analytical data should be discussed briefly.

## 3. Block Description

| Block Corner points Cardinal Points | Latitude | Longitude |
|---|---|---|
| **A**<br>**B**<br>**C**<br>**D**<br>**E etc.** | | |

## 4. Planned Methodology

| (To be filled by the agency) |
|---|
| |

**5. Nature Quantum and Target**

G4 stage GR should be submitted for G3 stage proposal and G3 stage GR for G2 proposal succinct details of the previous stage exploration

Nature and Quantum of work proposed

| Components | G4 Stage |
|---|---|
| Aerial Reconnaissance | Remote sensing, airborne geophysical survey etc. |
| Geological Survey | i) 1.25K/12.5K<br>ii) Assessment of lithology, structure, surface mineralisation and analysis of old history of mining, if any. |
| Geochemical Survey | i) Regional Grab / chip / Stream Sediment / Soil Sampling<br>ii) Recording of broad geomorphology, drainage, etc. |
| Geophysical Survey | Aero-geophysical/Regional ground geophysical survey (Refer another table below) |
| Pitting/ Trenching | Five to ten to expose mineralised zone. The location of Pitting and trenching should be judiciously planned to cover the entire mineralised body, to delineate the strike extension and also for planning scout boreholes. Sample length to be specified |
| Scout drilling/ Systematic drilling | Few boreholes if required along the positive profiles delineated by surface sampling/pitting trenching |
| Grab and Chip Sampling | A few samples from bed rock (few representative samples from all the exposed rocks in the area for first-hand information and more samples from rocks which host the mineralisation). |
| Core sample | Sample from mineralised zones as well as hanging wall/ footwall side to be collected. Sample length to be specified |
| Petrographic and Mineragraphic studies | Principal rock types, mineral assemblage, identification of minerals of interest |
| Synthesis of all available data | i) Integration of regional geophysical, geological and geochemical data<br>ii) Synthesis of all available data and Report writing |

***** Exploration shall be carried out following the norms of The Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and amendments thereafter.

**6. Estimated Expenditure details**

| (To be filled by the agency) |
| --- |
| |

**Detailed description of the Proposal to be submitted by the EL holder**

**Proposal for_____ Block, _____District, _____State**

**For G3 or G2 Stage of mineral exploration under NMEDT**

**(Commodity to be mentioned here)**

**(to be selected from the Seventh Schedule Minerals under MMDR Act)**

**By**

**_____Agency**

**Place:**
**Date:**

**Detailed description on the following titles to be made in the proposal**

## 1. Block Summary

I. Physiography
II. Background Geology (Regional Geology, Geology of the Block).
III. Mineral potentiality based on geology, geophysics, ground geochemistry etc. Scope for proposed exploration.
IV. Recommendations of G4 Stage Mineral Exploration Report.
V. Objectives

## 2. Previous Work

I. Attach Complete Previous Geological Report (G4 Stage); G4 and G3 stage reports for G2 stage.
II. Previous Exploration in adjoining area (Regional area): All the sample (bed rock/trench/ groove/soil), borehole location should be plotted on the geological map and analytical data should be discussed briefly.
III. Previous Exploration details in the proposed block area All the sample (bed rock/trench/groove/soil), borehole location should be plotted on the geological map and analytical data should be discussed briefly

## 3. Block description

| Block Corner points Cardinal Points | Latitude | Longitude |
|---|---|---|
| **A** | | |
| **B** | | |
| **C** | | |
| **D** | | |
| **E etc** | | |

## 4. Planned Methodology

| |
|---|
| **(To be filled by the agency)** |

**5. Nature Quantum and Target**

G4 stage GR should be submitted for G3 stage proposal and G3 stage GR for G2 proposal Succinct details of the previous stage exploration

Nature and Quantum of work proposed

| **Components** | **G3** | **G2** |
|---|---|---|
| Aerial Reconnaissance | Required if not covered in previous stage | Use G3 stage work |
| Geological Survey | RF 1:5,000/2,000/1000/500 | Use G3 stage maps |
| Geochemical Survey | Geochemical sampling (Chip/Channel/Pit/Trench/Core/Soil) | Detailed Geochemical sampling Channel/Pit/Trench/ Core/ Soil) in systematic manner |
| Geophysical Survey | Detailed ground geophysical work, borehole geophysical logging | Borehole geophysical logging Special geophysical traverses for problem solving, if enquired |
| Pitting/ Trenching | Pitting/trenching to expose mineralized zone | Refine: Systematic pitting and trenching at regular interval along each borehole profile for surface/ subsurface correlation, resource calculation and also to define the ore body in soil covered area |
| Scout drilling/ Systematic drilling Only Systematic drilling | Boreholes along the positive profiles delineated by surface sampling/pitting trenching. | Boreholes along the positive profiles delineated by surface sampling/pitting trenching |
| Grab and Chip Sampling | Systematic sampling of few representative samples | Refine sampling: Systematic Sampling |
| Petrographic and Mineragraphic studies | Rocks of the deposit (host rock for mineralisation), alterations connected with mineralisation, target mineral phases (ore and gangue metal/mineral), paragenesis, primary secondary zones | Petrographic character of rocks including grain size, texture, controls of mineralisation etc. |
| Synthesis of all available Data<br>Not required in the quantum of work | i) Integration of regional/ detailed geophysical, geological and geochemical data, if not done earlier. (should be given in soft copy in shape file)<br>ii) Synthesis of all available data and Report Writing | i) Integration of detailed geophysical, geological and geochemical data, if not done earlier. (should be given in soft copy in shape file)<br>ii) Synthesis of all available data and report writing |

***** *Exploration shall be carried out following the norms of The Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and amendments thereafter.*

## 6. Estimated Expenditure details

| (To be filled by the agency) |
| --- |
| |

**Annexure 3**

**Format for submitting Annual Work Plan**

(To be submitted at the onset of every field season)

**Block Name……..…**

**Block Area……**

**Field Season Year……..**

| **Stage of Exploration: G4** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sl. No.** | **Geological Parameters** | **Quantum of Work** |
| **A. Geological Mapping & Sampling** | | |
| 1 | Large Scale Mapping (1:12,500 scale) (LSM) | (in sq.km) |
| 2 | Bed Rock Sampling (BRS) | (in nos.) |
| 3 | Pitting/ Trenching (PT) | (in nos.) |
| 4 | Stream Sediment samples (SSS) | (in nos.) |
| 5 | Soil Samples (SS) | (in nos.) |
| **B. Geophysical Survey** | | |
| 6 | Type of geophysical survey (including aero geophysical survey) to be executed during each year | (in L km) |
| **C. Exploratory Drilling** | | |
| 7 | Core drilling (specifying the number of boreholes and borehole distance while drilling proposal formulation) | (in meters) |
| **D. Chemical and Petrological Analysis/ Mineral Beneficiation** | | |
| 8 | BRS+PTS+SSS+SS (the type of analytical method to be implemented based on commodity) | (in nos.) |
| 9 | Petrological Samples (PS) | (in nos.) |
| 10 | Petrochemical Samples (PCS) | (in nos.) |
| 11 | Ore Microscopy (OM) | (in nos.) |
| 12 | EPMA/ SEM/ LAICPMS Studies | (in nos.) |
| 13 | Any other analysis | |

| **E. Research collaboration/consultancy/advisory** | |
|---|---|
| Tentative research collaborations, consultancies, or advisories may be indicated at the onset of each field season. Additional consultancy or collaboration opportunities may be added during the execution of the field project, subject to approval by the TCC NMEDT. | |
| **F. Justification for taking up the project** | |
| Details should be furnished with surface/ subsurface (pits/old work) geological, geochemical, geophysical data. In case of exploration proposed near the active mine area, sufficient justification should be given by collecting surface samples in suitable location which represent the mineralization from the area proposed for current exploration work along with the analytical data. | |
| **G. Justification for Borehole Plans** | |
| Details should be furnished with surface/ subsurface (pits/old work) geological, geochemical, geophysical data providing proper justification for placing of the boreholes. Due justification may also be given for the depth of drilling along with the levels of drilling required | |

**Format for submitting Annual Work Plan**

**(to be submitted at the onset of every field season)**

**Block Name……..…**

**Block Area……**

**Field Season Year……..**

| **Stage of Exploration: G3/G2** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sl. No.** | **Geological Parameters** | **Quantum of Work** |
| **A. Geological Mapping & Sampling** | | |
| 1 | Detailed Mapping (1:2000/1:1000/1:500) (DM) | (in sq.km) |
| 2 | Bed Rock Sampling (BRS) | (in nos.) |
| 3 | Pitting/ Trenching (PT) | (in nos.) |
| **B. Geophysical Survey** | | |
| 4 | Type of geophysical survey (including aero geophysical survey) to be executed during each year | (in L km) |
| **C. Exploratory Drilling** | | |
| 5 | Core drilling (specifying the number of boreholes and borehole distance while drilling proposal formulation) | (in meters) |
| **D. Chemical and Petrological Analysis/ Mineral Beneficiation** | | |
| 6 | BRS+PTS (the type of analytical method to be implemented based on commodity) | (in nos.) |
| 7 | Petrological Samples (PS) | (in nos.) |
| 8 | Petrochemical Samples (PCS) | (in nos.) |
| 9 | Ore Microscopy (OM) | (in nos.) |
| 10 | EPMA/ SEM/ LAICPMS Studies | (in nos.) |
| 11 | Mineral Beneficiation | (in nos) |
| 12 | Any other Study/ analysis | |
| **E. Research collaboration/consultancy/advisory** | | |
| Tentative research collaborations, consultancies, or advisories may be indicated at the onset of each field season. Additional consultancy or collaboration opportunities may be added during the execution of the field project, subject to approval by the TCC NMEDT. | | |

| **F. Justification for taking up the project** |
| --- |
| Details should be furnished with surface/ subsurface (pits/old work) geological, geochemical, geophysical data. In case of exploration proposed near the active mine area, sufficient justification should be given by collecting surface samples in suitable location which represent the mineralization from the area proposed for current exploration work along with the analytical data. |
| **G. Justification for Borehole Plans** |
| Details should be furnished with surface/ subsurface (pits/old work) geological, geochemical, geophysical data providing proper justification for placing of the boreholes. Due justification may also be given for the depth of drilling along with the levels of drilling required |

**Annexure-B**

## UNDERTAKING BY EXPLORATION LICENCE (EL) HOLDER

I/We, **_____**, authorized signatory of **_____ (Name of the Exploration Licence Holder/Company)**, holder of the **Exploration Licence for _____ Block in the State of _____**, do hereby undertake that we have applied for reimbursement of exploration expenses under the **Guidelines for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licence administered by the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), Ministry of Mines, Government of India**.

I/We unconditionally hereby undertake that in the event the exploration carried out under the above-mentioned Exploration Licence leads to the **execution/signing of a Mining Lease and commencement of production and dispatch of minerals**, or within 1 month of receipt of lumpsum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium, as the case may be, we the exploration license holder including out legal assigners/heirs shall **repay the amount reimbursed/released by NMEDT under the Guidelines**.

I/We also undertake that in the event of insolvency, or incapacity of the Executant before the full repayment of amount received by as partial reimbursement, the Executant hereby declares that this Undertaking shall remain valid and legally enforceable against his/her **legal heirs, survivors, successors-in-interest, and administrators**.

I/We further undertake that the **entire amount reimbursed by NMEDT shall be repaid within a period of six (6) years from the date of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, in six (6) equal annual instalments** or within 1 month of receipt of lumpsum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines and the directions issued by NMEDT/Ministry of Mines from time to time.

I/We hereby agrees to indemnify and keep the NMEDT indemnified against any losses, costs, charges, or legal expenses incurred by the NMEDT due to any default in payment or breach of any terms contained in this Deed.

I/We also acknowledge that in the event of failure to repay the reimbursed amount within the stipulated period, such amount shall be **treated as dues payable by the Exploration Licence holder and shall be recoverable in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed thereunder**, including initiation of appropriate recovery proceedings by the competent authority.

I/We hereby also agrees for the submission of Bank Guarantee/Insurance surety bond of equal amount, in order to receive the reimbursement of expenditure under the guidelines, in favour of National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) payable to Pay & Accounts Office, Ministry of Mines at New Delhi.

This undertaking is being submitted to **NMEDT along with the claim for reimbursement of exploration expenses** under the above-mentioned guidelines.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the I/We has/have signed this Deed on the day and year first above written.

**EXECUTANT** *(Signature)* Name: _____

Aadhar No: _____

**WITNESS 1:** *(Signature)* Name: _____

Address: _____

**WITNESS 2:** *(Signature)* Name: _____

Address: _____

**Seal of the Company**

Date: _____

Place: _____