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

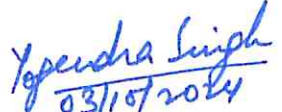
F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/374

New Delhi, 3rd October, 2024

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 6th meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 12th August 2024 - reg.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 6th meeting of Governing Body of NMET held on 12th August 2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines at New Delhi for your kind perusal.

Action taken report on relevant paras may kindly be forwarded to this office.


(Yogendra Singh Bhamboo)
Director (Technical)
Ministry of Mines

To,

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Coal and Mines, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi.
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy, New Delhi.
4. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi.
5. PS to Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
6. PS to Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Assam, Guwahati.
7. PS to Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
8. PS to Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar
9. PS to Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
10. PS to Minister In-Charge, Mines & Geology, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Copy to,

1. The Director General, Geological Survey of India 27, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata.
2. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MECL, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan,

Seminary Hills, Nagpur.

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

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. PPS to Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PS to JS & FA, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. PS to Joint Secretary (VKB), Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Director (Technical), Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

**Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)**

**Minutes of the 6th meeting of Governing Body (GB) of National Mineral Exploration
Trust (NMET) held on
12th August, 2024 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), 15, Janpath, New
Delhi**

The 6th meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was convened on August 12, 2024 in New Delhi under chairmanship of Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines. The list of participants is at **Annexure-1**.

Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines & Convener, GB, NMET welcomed the dignitaries and other delegates and apprised the house about the achievements of NMET in the previous financial year. He informed that since the last Governing Body meeting, 9 new private exploration agencies have been notified by Ministry of Mines of which 03 were in the last 50 days. He further informed that NMET achieved record expenditure of Rs. ₹296.27 in FY 2023-24 which has nearly double the expenditure incurred in previous financial year. The Governing body was informed that NMET has diversified its activities by funding projects of start-ups and MSME under the S&T PRISM scheme of Ministry of Mines. Eleven Start-ups doing Research & Development work have been funded by NMET till date. Secretary, Mines remarked that a new scheme has been introduced for Exploration License holders wherein 50% of direct cost for mineral exploration activities with ceiling of ₹ 20 Crores will be reimbursed by NMET.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines & Member Secretary, EC, NMET presented the agenda of GB meeting:

6.1: Approval of minutes of 5th GB meeting held on 28th June, 2023

The minutes of 5th GB meeting was circulated to all GB members on 8th August 2023 and no comments were received.

Decision of Governing Body:

The Governing Body approved the minutes of 5th GB meeting held on 28th June, 2023.

6.2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on minutes of 5th GB meeting held on 28th June, 2023

The Action Taken Report (**Annexure II**) on minutes of 5th GB meeting held on 28th June, 2023 was presented.

The Governing body was informed that an NMET funded project for exploration of gemstones (sapphire) in Neelam Khan area, Kishtwar District, UT of J&K has been completed and the block is ready for auction of composite license.

Secretary, Mines informed the house that the Government of UT of J&K has requested the Ministry to auction a limestone block in the UT. He stated that if the UT Administration desires so, both limestone and sapphire blocks can be auctioned by Ministry at the same time.

Additional Secretary, Mines pointed out that the pending analysis of geochemical samples in Gujarat has been completed by NMET funding to CGM, Gujarat and MECL. Shri. Asit Saha, Director General, Geological Survey of India stated that 56 reports are

being written on the basis of analytical results of GGCMP samples. These would be submitted by March 2025.

Decision of GB:

GB accepted the Action Taken Report on minutes of 5th GB meeting held on 28th June, 2024.

Action: GSI

6.3: Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) directly through National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

GB was informed that pursuant to amendments in the MMDR Act in 2023, the Central Government has become responsible for auction of minerals listed in Part D of first schedule, provision of exploration licence for newly created Seventh Schedule as well as allowing the exploration licence holders to participate in further auction of mining leases.

A revised scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) in Mineral Exploration directly through National Mineral Exploration Trust was approved by Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Chairman, Governing Body of NMET for exploration of minerals as specified in the Part 'D' of First Schedule and VII-Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 on 12.12.2023 (Annexure-III).

The scheme allowed NPEAs to participate in auction of blocks explored by them which and speed up the process of sanction of projects.

However, post launch of the scheme, the sanction of exploration projects by NMET to NPEAs did not pick up pace. It was also observed that there was considerable delay in release of fund to NPEAs when the projects were being routed through State Governments. This had severely affected the timely completion of exploration projects by NPEAs.

In light of these difficulties faced by NPEAs, Hon'ble Minister of Mines approved the Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) directly by NMET for the exploration of all major minerals, other than minerals mentioned in Part-B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act 1957 on 26.06.2024 (Annexure-IV).

In view of above, the following were submitted for ratification of Governing Body, NMET:

- i. Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) directly through National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for exploration of minerals as specified in Part 'D' of First Schedule and Schedule-VII of MMDR Act, 1957.
- ii. Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) directly by NMET for exploration of all major minerals, other than minerals mentioned in Part-B of First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957.

Decision of GB:

GB ratified the proposal.

6.4. Incentives to State Governments for Auction of Exploration Licence.

The Governing Body was informed that scheme for incentives to State Governments for auction of mineral blocks was approved by GB at its 4th meeting held on 13th April, 2022. The same scheme has been extended for auction of Exploration Licences by the State Governments. Approval from Hon'ble Minister of Mines/ Chairman, Governing Body NMET was received on 12.02.2024. Thereafter, letter was issued to the State Governments on 13th February, 2024 therein mentioning the following incentives from NMET:

- i. A sum of ₹20 lakh will be released to each State where exploration licences are available for auction.
- ii. ₹20 lakh incentive for each successful auction of exploration licence by the State Government.
- iii. 50% of the amount paid to Transaction Advisor, subject to a maximum of ₹5 lakh for exploration license which was put up for auction but could not be successfully auctioned (Annexure-V).

The above scheme was submitted for ratification of GB.

Decision of GB:

GB ratified the proposal.

6.5. Funding for Start-ups, MSMEs and Individual Innovators under S&T PRISM Scheme of Ministry of Mines through JNARDDC

GB was informed that Ministry of Mines is promoting Research and Innovation in Startups and MSMEs under “Promotion of Research and Innovation in Startups and MSMEs in Mining, Mineral Processing, Metallurgy and Recycling Sector (S&T-PRISM)”.

The proposal for funding these projects from NMET was approved by Hon’ble Minister of Mines on December 22, 2023. The house was informed that so far NMET has funded 11 projects amounting to ₹12.46 Crore under the scheme.

Secretary, Mines stated that for the first time in the history of Ministry of Mines, Startups have been funded for research and development programmes through NMET. He also informed that a Startup in Assam has taken up mineral exploration using Artificial Intelligence. He requested the State Government of Assam to encourage more Startups for submission of good proposals to NMET for mineral exploration.

The proposal was submitted for ratification of GB.

Decision of GB:

GB ratified the proposal.

6.6. Procurement of equipment through NMET fund for capacity augmentation in MECL.

GB was informed that MECL, a PSU of Ministry of Mines had requested the Ministry for providing grant from NMET fund for procurement of advanced instruments that are not available with GSI/State DGM/ DMGs /any other agency involved in mineral exploration in the country. The detail of equipments for which proposal was submitted by MECL is as under:

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

The proposal was reviewed in the 33rd EC meeting of NMET held on 19th February 2024 in which the proposal was approved. Further, it was decided that the procured instruments shall be national property. These equipments may be utilized by GSI/State DGM/DMGs and other institute and private exploration agencies. All charges associated with use of the

instruments for analysis by Government Departments, public and private sector/ agencies will require approval from NMET.

CMD, MECL informed that procurement of the instruments is under process and would be completed shortly.

Decision of GB:

GB ratified the proposal.

Action : MECL

6.7. Status of Events organized/funded by NMET

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines/ Member Secretary, EC informed the Governing Body that during F.Y. 2023-24, NMET had organized and funded three events to maximize outreach to exploration agencies (both public and private) including the State Governments. These events include the Mining Pavilion during 42nd India International Trade Fair from 14th-27th November, 2023, Launch of NGDR Portal and Road show on Critical Minerals on 19th December, 2023 and the second Mining Ministers Conference at Bhopal on 23rd January, 2024 with a total expenditure of ₹ 4.43 Crore .

Additional Secretary, MoM also informed that the Mining Pavilion of MoM was awarded the Silver Medal for the most popular pavilion in the 42nd IITF.

6.8. Modifications made in the Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMET

The Governing Body was informed that during F.Y. 2023-24, the Executive Committee of NMET approved the following changes in the SoC of NMET:

S. No.	Existing SoC Para	Modified SoC Para
1	Drill Core Preservation One complete borehole plus mineralised cores of all the BHs of the Block/ Prospect to be preserved in GI Core boxes and subsequently transported to the notified Core Repository. (It includes cost of GI Core boxes, transportation charges, loading and unloading charges and manpower engaged in execution of the work). (As far as possible exploratory drilling guidelines for NMET funded projects will be followed, however, the decision of TCC, NMET will be final)	Drill Core Preservation One complete borehole plus mineralised cores of all the BHs of the Block/Prospect to be preserved in GI/ Plastic Core boxes and subsequently transported to the notified Core Repository. (It includes cost of GI/ Plastic Core boxes , transportation charges, loading and unloading charges and manpower engaged in execution of the work). The implementing agencies will ensure quality and durability of GI/Plastic Core boxes. (As far as possible exploratory drilling guidelines for NMET funded projects will be followed, however, the decision of TCC, NMET will be final)
2	Para 4.2.25 Cost of Ash Analysis ₹335/- per sample	Para 4.2.25 Cost of Ash Analysis ₹13664/- per sample
3	Exploration Incentive (EI): An Exploration Incentive (EI) of 10% of the approved cost of the project for G4	Exploration Incentive (EI): An Exploration Incentive (EI) of 25% of the approved cost of the project for G4 items

	items in Greenfield areas for gold, base metals, other precious minerals, strategic/ critical minerals and fertilizer minerals (Ref. Table-2) will be paid if the block is upgraded from G4 to G3 Stage subject to approval of Executive Committee, NMET. The Exploration Incentive (EI) will be paid on the cost of G4 work completed by the implementing agencies. Such incentive will not be applicable for other category of mineral commodities.	in Greenfield areas for gold, base metals, other precious minerals, strategic/ critical minerals and fertilizer minerals (Ref. Table-2) will be paid if the block is successfully auctioned or upgraded from G4 to G3 Stage subject to approval of Executive Committee, NMET. The Exploration Incentive (EI) will be paid on the cost of G4 work completed by the implementing agencies. Such incentive will not be applicable for other category of mineral commodities.
4	Applicability of SoC in Remote and Inaccessible Terrain Existing in North Eastern States and Hilly Terrain of Himalaya Region	Rates shall be 3.35 times of the normal SoC rates for carrying out field component of the exploration work in North Eastern States and hilly terrain of Himalaya region.
5	Applicability of SoC in the Most Affected Districts by Left Wing Extremism (LWE)	1.25 times of the normal SoC rates for carrying out field component of the exploration work in the “Most Affected LWE Districts” shall be provided to the exploration agencies.

GB was also informed that the SoC in inaccessible areas of Jammu & Kashmir is already 3.35 times of the normal SoC rates.

6.9. Status of engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs)

The Governing Body was informed that the scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) in mineral exploration was notified vide OM 6/3/2015-NMET/28 dated 10th May, 2022.

Subsequently, in partial modification of OM dated 10.05.2022, the Scheme for engagement of NPEAS directly by NMET for exploration of minerals as specified in Part ‘D’ of First Schedule and Schedule- VII of the MMDR Act, 1957 was notified vide OM dated 12.12.2023. In view of issues being faced by NPEAs in the states, the Scheme for engagement of NPEAs directly by NMET for exploration of all major minerals, other than minerals mentioned in Part-B of the First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957 was notified on 27.06.2024, in suppression of OM dated 12.12.2023 with approval of Hon’ble Ministry of Mines.

GB was informed that Ministry of Mines has notified 23 private exploration agencies as NPEAs (Notified Private Exploration Agencies) and NMET has so far approved 35 projects of 08 NPEAs worth ₹42.31 crores to the NPEAs.

6.10. Incentives to State Governments in respect of Auction of mineral blocks during FY 2023-24.

The Governing Body was informed that NMET provides incentives to State governments for successful auction of mineral blocks and reimbursement of 50% of of transactional advisor fee for annulled blocks which may be used by the States for reimbursement of transaction advisor fee, preparation of project proposals for NMET, purchase

of equipment, exploration related machinery, capacity building training programs, exposure visits etc.

It was informed that during FY 2023-24, 11 State Governments have been sanctioned ₹25.66 crore as incentive. Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh were sanctioned the highest amounts among all the states.

6.11. Overview of NMET activities during FY 2023-24.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Member Secretary, EC presented the detail of fund accrual, expenditure incurred, cost of projects approved as under:

A. NMET Fund and Expenditure details-

S. No.	Financial Year	Amount Collected (₹ in Crore)	No. of projects approved	Sanctioned amount (₹ in Crore)	Fund Released (₹ in Crore)
1	2015-16	134.41	--	--	--
2	2016-17	509.39	57	247.89	--
3	2017-18	556.64	25	154.88	79.95
4	2018-19	246.94	44	125.89	88.40
5	2019-20	664.85	20	55.76	68.31
6	2020-21	620.85	14	165.86	83.13
7	2021-22	885.60	32	653.26	124.71
8	2022-23	934.72	98	356.75	159.87
9	2023-24	950.97	89	502.49	296.27
10	2024-25	179.71	14	178.50	125.36
	Total	5684.08	393	2441.09	1026.12

**as on 15th July 2024*

GB was informed till date NMET has collected ₹5684.08 crore and has sanctioned ₹2441.09 crore for 393 approved projects. Furthermore, in FY 2023-24 NMET incurred expenditure of ₹296.27 crore, which is the highest in a financial year since its inception. During FY 2024-25, expenditure of ₹125.26 crore has been incurred till date against the target of ₹400 crore.

GB was further apprised that NMET has sanctioned ₹1240.26 crore for baseline surveys, ₹887.87 for mineral exploration projects, ₹228.19 crore to States for procurement of machinery and ₹1.2 crore under S&T PRISM during FY 2023-24.

Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines apprised the house that NMET has notified 23 NPEAs till date and since the 5th GB meeting, 09 new NPEAs have been notified. Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Member Secretary, EC also informed that 13 NMET funded blocks have already been auctioned while 26 blocks are under auction in 7 states.

Sh. G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines suggested that private agencies and university students should be trained in each State to come up with better results. He suggested to open a unit in GSI office in every State for brain storming sessions to provide encouragement for mineral exploration.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Atomic Energy expressed concern over the slow progress in Lithium exploration in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, urging for its acceleration. He emphasized the necessity of fast-tracking the exploration efforts and ensuring that all required assistance is rendered to the implementing agencies for faster outcomes. Hon'ble Minister also expressed his concern about delays associated with Sapphire Park in Kishtwar and advised to hand hold the private agencies for accelerated performance in mineral sector.

Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, Secretary MoM assured Dr. Jitendra Singh that the Lithium exploration activities would be expedited with visible results expected within the forthcoming months. He advised DG, GSI to deploy officers from GSI to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Action:GSI

6.12. Financial assistance for procurement of machinery/ equipment/ chemical analysis instruments aimed at enhancing mineral exploration activities.

The Governing Body was informed that Hon'ble Minister of Mines/ Chairperson, Governing Body had approved the Scheme to facilitate strengthening of technical infrastructure of State DGMs, aimed at enhancing exploration activities in the country vide O.M. 06/09/2015-NMET/71 dated 8th June, 2022. It was also informed that so far NMET has approved 30 projects of 22 State DGMs/DMGs amounting to ₹68.98 Crore and an amount of ₹36.60 Crore has been disbursed up to 31st March, 2024 to State Governments under the Scheme.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines requested the Hon'ble Ministers and officers from State Governments to submit NMET more projects for infrastructure strengthening in their States. In reference to the already sanctioned projects, the State Governments were requested to submit the Utilization Certificate for the installments given as advance, so that the remaining amount may be disbursed.

Action: State DGMS/ DMGs/CGM

6.13. Annual Budget for 2024-25.

The detail of budget estimates and actual expenditure details from FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24 were presented to the Governing Body for information and the budget estimate for FY 2024-25 was presented for approval.

The breakup of Budget Estimate for FY 2024-25 is as under:

S. No.	Budget Head	Budget Estimates (₹ in Cr.)
1	Training Expenses	0.10
2	Domestic Travel Expenses	0.20
3	Foreign Travel Expenses	0.10
4	Office Expenses	2.20
5	Rent Rates and Taxes for Land & Building	1.00
6	Professional Services	200.00
7	Grant-in-aid General	196.40
Total		400

Decision of GB:

GB approved the annual budget as above.

6.14. Salient decisions of Executive Committee meetings held between 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.

GB was informed that in FY 2023-24, 05 meetings of Executive Committee were conducted under chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Mines and total 89 projects were approved with an estimated cost of ₹ 502.49 Cr.

The important decisions taken in the EC meetings are as under:

- i. Honorarium for peer reviewing the geological reports of NMET was increased to ₹ 30,000/-. EC also approved the revised list of External Peer Reviewers to review the Geological Reports of NMET.
- ii. Exploration Incentive (EI) was increased from 10% to 25% of the approved project cost to Implementing Agencies for finding of Critical and Deep-seated minerals in the 31st EC meeting on 12th September 2024.

6.15. Creation of State Mineral Exploration Trust (SMET).

The Governing Body was informed that a few States have set-up a State Level Mineral Exploration Trust to fund exploration of minor minerals on the lines of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). Government of Rajasthan has setup Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET), Andhra Pradesh has setup Mineral Exploration Research and Innovation Trust (MERIT) and Telangana has setup State Mineral Exploration Trust (SMET).

In order to give further impetus to exploration of minor minerals in the country and encourage all State Governments to set-up similar State Mineral Exploration Trust (SMET), it was proposed that NMET may provide a matching grant to the State Government to the extent of 10% of annual collection by the State Government in the current and next two financial years.

Shri Kollu Ravindra, Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Andhra Pradesh & Member, GB stated that in 1996 a Trust was set up by the State Government for advancement of mining technology. The trust was later rechristened as MERIT (Mineral Exploration Research & Innovation Trust) to provide thrust to exploration, research and innovation activities in mining sector. In the past decade MERIT has been instrumental in supporting various mineral exploration projects undertaken by the Department of Mines and Geology. He also informed that NMET has funded 12 mineral exploration projects in the State including funding to MERIT for 7 projects.

Dr. Dhaval Patel, Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Gujarat apprised the GB that the State had initiated the process of setting up SMET. However, the major hindrance in the process is the non-availability of provision in the statute. He mentioned that unlike NMET, which is set up under Section 9C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, there is no provision for setting up SMET.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Member Secretary remarked that Ministry of Mines would issue a clarification regarding the applicability of rules for the formation of SMET.

Decision of GB:

GB approved the proposal to provide a matching grant to State Governments to the extent of 10% of annual collection by the State Government in the current and next two financial years through NMET.

6.16. Partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Exploration Licences which are granted through auction for exploration of certain minerals.

The Governing Body was informed that in the year 2023, Ministry of Mines has made amendments in the MMDR Act, 1957 and made a new provision for grant of Exploration Licence (EL) for minerals specified in the Seventh Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957, to encourage participation of private sector in mineral exploration to boost exploration in country.

A committee was constituted to fix the norms and recommend the manner of disbursement of funds for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses to Exploration Licence holders which are granted through auction from NMET funds.

Based on recommendations of the committee, a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses from NMET for the holders of Exploration Licences for exploration of Critical, Strategic and Deep-seated concealed minerals was approved by Hon'ble Minister of Mines on 25.06.2024. The Scheme (Annexure-VI) was placed before the Governing Body for ratification.

Decision of GB:

GB ratified the proposal.

6.17. Revised Scheme for Partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Composite Licences which are granted through auction for exploration of certain minerals.

The Governing Body was informed that NMET had introduced a scheme vide OM F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/295 dated 23rd March, 2022 for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Composite Licences which are granted through auction for exploration of certain minerals to encourage private section participation in exploration with focus on deep seated minerals, critical and strategic minerals.

Even after two years, no proposals have been received from CL holders.

GB was also informed that a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Mines & Member Secretary, Executive Committee (EC), NMET on 29th November, 2022 through video conference with the CL holders wherein CL holders expressed their dissatisfaction on the ceiling of reimbursement of exploration expenses and requested to enhance the same.

Thereafter, a committee was constituted to examine the Scheme.

As per recommendations of the committee, the scale of reimbursement for Exploration Expenses to the holders of Composite Licence is as below:

- i. Exploration expenses incurred by CL holder towards geological mapping, sampling and geochemical analysis will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMET with a maximum ceiling of ₹1.50 Crore.
- ii. Exploration expenses incurred by CL holder towards geophysical investigations will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of ₹1.00 Crore.
- iii. Exploration expenses incurred by CL holder towards exploratory drilling will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of ₹4.50 Crore.

- iv. Exploration expenses incurred by CL 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 ₹ 0.50 Crore.
- v. The exploration expenses incurred by CL 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 ₹ 0.50 Crore, subject to limit of Rs.20 Lakhs per year.
- vi. The expenses incurred for any other activities as part of the exploration will not be considered for reimbursement. However, it will be the responsibility of CL holders to complete the exploration activities as per the best-in-class industry standards.

Based on recommendations of the committee, a revised Scheme of partial reimbursement of the expenses from NMET for the holders of Composite Licences which are granted through auction, for exploration of minerals as specified in Part 'D' of First Schedule and Schedule VII of MMDR Act, 1957 has been prepared. Under the revised Scheme, provision for reimbursement of exploration expenses for research collaboration/ consultancy/ advisory and logistics is proposed. The revised Scheme is placed at Annexure-VII.

Decision of GB:

GB approved the Scheme.

6.18: Sharing of Exploration Data by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Department of Atomic Energy.

The Governing Body was informed that Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Department of Atomic Energy conduct exploration activities for Hydrocarbons and atomic minerals respectively. Considering the need for exchange of data amongst ministries involved in the mineral and mining sector. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has setup National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) for hosting geological data collected by various agencies in the country. NGDR data is available to all agencies and interested companies for planning further exploration projects. The data available with State Governments may also be shared for NGDR Portal.

(i) Data sharing between GSI & DGH

Governing Body was also informed that Secretary, Mines held a meeting with Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) on possible areas of collaboration and data sharing between GSI and DGH on 01.12.2023 at the Ministry of Mines, New Delhi. As a follow-up, officers had visited the DGH and discussed the suitability of data sets of offshore domains in mineral exploration and collected selected data for further integration and evaluation. Towards capacity building, GSI officers will be trained by DGH through ONGC, Kolkata for processing, modelling and interpretation of seismic data.

Shri Praveen M. Khanooja, Addl. Secretary, MoP & NG informed that an MoU has been signed between GSI & DGH and well log data, reports, seismic data from Mumbai offshore, CBM data of Madhya Pradesh, etc has already been shared with GSI. He informed that deliberations on sharing of commercial data is under process and ensured that further data will be shared with GSI after thorough examination.

(ii) Data sharing between GSI & AMD

GB has informed that AMD has carried out high-resolution airborne (both fixed-wing and helicopter) electromagnetic, magnetic and spectrometric surveys in various parts of the country to target uranium deposits. GSI has requested AMD to share these aero geophysical data to avoid duplication of surveys in areas covered by AMD.

Shri Dheeraj Pande, Director, AMD informed that TDEM data for Bijawar block has been provided to GSI and shortly data pertaining to Kaladgi Basin, Karnataka and Chotanagpur Granite Complex (in Bihar, Jharkhand & Uttar Pradesh) will be shared with GSI. The GB was informed that AMD will share all the requisite data with GSI after masking the critical data with regard to Uranium.

Shri. V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, Mines and Member Secretary, GB informed that as per **National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP)** all data, including of scientific and technical relevance, are to be made accessible for public. He requested AMD to speed up the masking process and share the requisite data with GSI at the earliest.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Atomic Energy assured that AMD is ready to provide the Geospatial data to GSI. He informed that DST is in the process of establishing National Geospatial Data Repository for hosting all scientific data on one portal. He expressed the need for data exchange with private entities.

Sh. G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines directed to organize a two day workshop for all departments/agencies, including private agencies engaged in mineral exploration regarding technological upgradation, challenges and best practices in the field at GSI/AMD office.

Action: GSI/DGH/AMD

6.19: Annual Reports of NMET for FY 2023-24.

The Governing Body was informed that the Annual Report of NMET for F.Y. 2023-24 has been prepared. The report contains details of activities of NMET carried out during F.Y. 2023-24, list of projects sanctioned - State-wise, commodity-wise, category wise and budget utilization during the year.

The Annual Report for F.Y. 2023-24 was released by the GB members.

Remarks by Hon'ble Members:

Sh. Kollu Ravindra, Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Andhra Pradesh informed that Andhra Pradesh Govt. is endowed with diverse mineral resources, especially critical minerals. Global tenders have been invited by the State Government to identify critical minerals in the State. He requested Secretary, Mines to provide required support from GSI, IBM & NMET in formulation of global tenders. He expressed his keenness for Andhra Pradesh to participate in the exploration of sea bed for survey of minerals such as polymetallic nodules, etc. He requested Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines to make provision in the off shore mining rules for protection of the interests of coastal States and for the establishment of metallurgical refinement facilities for minerals mined along coasts.

Shri Jogen Mohan, Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Mineral Department, Assam expressed his gratitude to NMET for funding the project for exploration of Iron, Sillimanite and Limestone in 2022. He informed that 03 projects have already been completed and 4 new proposals have been recently approved by NMET. Assam is an oil producing state and study of oil deposits

will also help in locating critical minerals. He expressed his hope for continued cooperation with NMET.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines informed GB that detailed workshop was organized in Assam in the month of April, 2024.

Shri Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education, Chhattisgarh stated that there are 28 different types of minerals in the State including limestone, dolomite, iron ore, bauxite, tin, diamond, gold, lithium, etc. Apart from these minerals, there is occurrence of petroleum in Mahendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) district. Hon'ble Minister mentioned the discovery of kimberlite pipe that may be exploited for diamond in the Sonbhadra area of Korea district, Deobhog area, possibility of gold in IB River, etc. He informed that Government of India has awarded 1.55 crore for auction of 36 blocks in the State. Further, he requested to modify the SoC rate to 3.35 times of the normal SoC rates from the present rate of 1.25 times in LWE affected areas considering the disturbance in these areas. He thanked the GoI for auctioning the first Lithium mines of India in Chhattisgarh. He also emphasized on the use of high technology and greater involvement of Start-ups for better exploration of minerals.

Shri Balwant Sinh Rajput, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Micro, Small, and Medium Industries, Cottage, Khadi and Rural Industries, Gujarat informed that the State of Gujarat is endowed with a variety of minerals viz., limestone, bauxite, granite, vanadium, PGE as well as minor minerals like sand, china clay, bentonite, silica clay, etc. The State has formulated exploration projects for 8 minerals for the next five years. Soon Gujarat will have specialized laboratory which will benefit all the agencies. He also informed that Gujarat submitted 5 new proposals to NMET for approval. He suggested that the estimated expenditure of NMET for next 10 years may be enhanced.

Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Mines, stated that NMET, in association with other agencies such as GSI, MECL, NALCO has re-defined mineral exploration in the country by introducing several Schemes along with Schemes for encouraging the Notified Private Exploration Agencies to carryout mineral exploration, funding the State Government through incentives, purchase of modern instruments/ laboratory equipment, etc. NMET has notified 23 NPEAs and has approved 35 projects of 8 NPEAs for ₹42.31 crores. The Trust has collected ₹5831 crores from the State Government as 2% royalty and has spent ₹1030 crore in various projects upto 31st July 2024. He stated that Critical Mineral Mission has been launched to increase the production of Critical Minerals in the country and encourage recycling of these minerals. He urged all the Central, State and private agencies to work in collaboration with NMET to boost the exploration activities in the country. He requested all stakeholders to organize seminars, workshops and brain storming sessions in each of the State by bringing together all exploration agencies and research organizations on a single platform so that there is sharing of innovative ideas in this field. To motivate young minds and promote knowledge sharing in the field of mineral exploration, joint workshops may be organized with universities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Atomic Energy expressed his appreciation for achievement of record expenditure of ₹300 crores by NMET and reflected upon the budget announcement of 2024, about the launch of Critical Mineral Mission. He urged the need to encourage the startups for their contribution in mineral exploration. Hon'ble Minister expressed his concern over the slow pace of Lithium and Sapphire exploration in J&K . However, he appreciated the Geospatial data generated by GSI and urged for making its full utilization.

In response Secretary, Mines informed that the Sapphire block is ready for auction, however, if the UT Government desires the sapphire block can be auctioned by the Union Government. Recently, the UT Government has requested for a particular limestone block to be auctioned by the Union Government. Therefore, both the limestone and sapphire blocks can be auctioned together. Secretary, Mines assured that within six month's time, a better exploration report would be submitted by GSI.

Action: Govt. of UT of J& K

Concluding Remarks by Hon'ble Minister, Mines and Chairman GB

Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines & Chairperson, GB, remarked that India is a mineral rich country but proper utilization of the mineral potential is required. He stated that a strong mining sector is the requisite for an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. He appealed the State Governments to work together in the spirit of cooperative federalism to make India self reliant. Hon'ble Minister advised NMET to organize workshops to make awareness among the States, universities and other departments for exploration propagate.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines & Chairperson, GB, thanked all the dignitaries, guests and officers for their presence and encouraged all to work together. He also emphasized that in the next GB meeting, detailed discussion needs to be done.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Shri Vivek Kumar Bajpai, Joint Secretary, Mines.

Annexure-I

List of participants of 6th GB meeting held on 12th August, 2024 at New Delhi

S.No.	Name of Participant	Designation
1.	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Chairperson, <i>ex officio</i>
2.	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Hon'ble Minister of State for Atomic Energy & Member, <i>ex officio</i>
3.	Sh. Satish Chandra Dubey	Hon'ble Minister of State for Mines, Member, <i>ex officio</i>
4.	Shri Jogen Mohan	Hon'ble Minister of Mines And Mineral Department, Assam & Member, <i>ex officio</i>
5.	Shri Kollu Ravindra	Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Andhra Pradesh & Member, <i>ex officio</i>
6.	Shri Shyam Bihari Jaiswal	Hon'ble Minister of Public Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education, Chhattisgarh & Member, <i>ex officio</i>

7.	Shri Balvantsinh Rajput	Hon'ble Minister Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Cottage, Khadi and Rural Industries, Gujarat & Member <i>ex officio</i>
8.	Shri V. L. Kantha Rao	Secretary, Ministry of Mines & Convenor, <i>ex officio</i>
9.	Shri Sanjay Lohiya	Additional Secretary Ministry of Mines & CG, IBM Member Secretary, EC NMET
10.	Shri Praveen M. Khanooja	Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (IA & AS) Nominated member, <i>ex officio</i>
11.	Sh. Dheeraj Pande	Director, AMD, Hyderabad, Special Invitee
12.	Sh. Kaustav Nag	ADG (Exploration), DGH, Special Invitee
13.	Shri Vivek Kumar Bajpai	Joint Secretary, Mines
14.	Sh. Sanjay K. Lale	Chief Technical Officer to DG, DGH, Special Invitee
15.	Shri Asit Saha,	Director General, Geological Survey of India
16.	Shri Indra Dev Narayan	CMD, MECL
17.	Dr. Dhaval Patel	Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Gujarat
18.	Shri Sunil Kumar Jain	Special Secretary, DGM, Chhattisgarh
19.	Shri N. Anand	Director, DGM, Assam
20.	Sh. Pradipsinh Rathod	PS to Hon'ble Minister Government of Gujarat
21.	Sh. P. Raja Babu	OSD to Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Andhra Pradesh
22.	Shri D Srinivas Rao	Joint Director, DGM, Andhra Pradesh
23.	Shri Bakki Kartikeyan	PS to Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal & Mines
24.	Dr. S. Ravi	Chairman, TCC-NMET & DDG, GSI
25.	Shri Debkumar Bhattacharya	Dy. Director General, RSAS, Bangalore
26.	Smt. Geetika Sharma	Deputy Secretary, Mines & HoD, NMET
27.	Shri Yogendra Singh Bhamboo	Director (Technical), Ministry of Mines
28.	Shri P. Ravindran	GM, MECL

Annexure-II

Action Taken Report (ATR) on minutes of minutes of 5th GB meeting held on 28th June, 2024

Para	Decision/Comments of 5 th GB meeting	Action taken/To be taken
Para 5.12	<p>EC had approved 01 project of Gemstone titled “Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for Gemstones in and around Neelam Khan Area (5.00 Sq. Km) Districts- Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir” with estimated cost of 4.26 Cr. ₹ Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy & Member sought more information on the project which was submitted.</p> <p>(Action: MECL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As desired by Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy, CMD, MECL provided a comprehensive overview of the project. <p>Project was completed in May, 2024 and report was handed over to State Government to consider it for auctioning under composite license</p>
	<p>Remarks by Hon'ble Members:</p> <p>Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Gujarat, requested to sanction the project of GGCM Sample Analysis and financial assistance for procurement of instruments from NMET funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Executive Committee of NMET in its 31st meeting held on 12th September, 2023 approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹22.67 Crore.The project was completed in March, 2024.

Annexure-III

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

F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/ 380


New Delhi, 12th December, 2023

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies in Mineral Exploration of Critical and Strategic Minerals - reg.

In partial modification to the OM F.No.6/3/2015-NMET/28 dt. 10th May, 2022 the Competent Authority has approved the modified scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) by Central Government in exploration of minerals notified under Part D of the First Schedule and Seventh Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957. The details of scheme are attached for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above


(Vivek Kumar Sharma)
Director, NMET

To

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology & Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Minerals, Government of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar.
5. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (Industry & Mines), Government of Gujarat.
9. The Commissioner Secretary (Industries & Commerce), Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
10. The Secretary (Industries, Mines & Geology), Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Secretary, (Industries & Commerce) Government of Karnataka.
12. The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala.

13. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries & Mines), Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Commissioner and Secretary, Mining & Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Commissioner & Secretary, Geology & Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Principal Secretary (Steel & Mines), Government of Odisha.
18. The Principal Secretary, Mines & Geology, Government of Punjab.
19. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Principal Secretary (Industries & Mines), Government of Telangana.
22. The Secretary (Mines & Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce & Enterprises), Government of West Bengal.
25. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
26. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim.

Copy to:

1. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Assam.
3. Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Bihar.
4. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Chhattisgarh.
5. The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
6. Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Gujarat.
7. The Director, Department of Industries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
9. The Director (Mines), Directorate of Mines, Government of Jharkhand.
10. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka.
11. The Director, Directorate of Mining & Geology, Government of Kerala.
12. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.
13. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra.
14. The Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
15. The Director, Directorate of Mines, Government of Odisha.

16. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan.
17. The Commissioner of Geology & Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
18. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.
19. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
20. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
21. The Director, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
22. The Director, Natural Resources Division-Tata Steel Limited, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand -831001.
23. The Managing Director, Indian Mine Planners E.M, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700107.
24. The Director, United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd. New Town, West Bengal 700156.
25. The CEO & Director, Gemcokati Exploration Pvt Ltd, E 77 MIDC Chandrapur, Maharashtra – 442401.
26. The Managing Director, Geotechnical Mining Solutions, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu- 636705.
27. The Director, Geoexpore Private Limited, No 12-28/2 SY No.28/2 Kothanur Arya Grande Hamsa Bangalore, Karnataka – 560078.
28. The Chairman, V.M. Salgaocar and Brother Private Limited, FI Gomes Rd, Vasco da Gama, Gao 403802.
29. The CEO & Director (Consulting), Geology & Hydro Services, Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd., 3rd Floor, Anaya Chambers, GN 38/5, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700091.
30. The Managing Director, Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd., FR 07 Shilpangan, Plot No- LB 1, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700091
31. The Director, Geo Marine Solution Pvt. Ltd., Sankaigudda, Bejai, Manglore- 575004.
32. The Director, Geo Exploration and Mining Solutions, No: 17, Advaita Ashram Rd, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu 636004.
33. The Chairman, Ecomen Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226024.
34. The Director, Infrastructure Logistics Private Limited, St Inez, Panaji North Goa GA 403001.
35. The Managing Director, Novomine India Private Limited, Meghalaya Pohkseh, Shillong – 793006.
36. The Managing Manager, Engeotech Consultant, 1338, Kachnar City Rd, Vijay Nagar, Jabalpur, Raksha, Madhya Pradesh 482002.
37. The Chairman, Kartikay Exploration & Mining Services Pvt. Ltd., Crorepati Lane, Civil Line Nagpur, Maharashtra 440001.

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001
2. PPS to AS, Ministry of Mines, Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001
3. Director (Technical), Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies in Mineral Exploration directly through National Mineral Exploration Trust

1. Background

1.1 Central Government has made several policy reforms to boost the mineral production in the country and make the country self-reliant in mineral sector. Recent amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) in 2023 has empowered Central Government to exclusively auction Composite Licence and Mining Lease for critical and strategic minerals listed in the Part D of the first Schedule of the Act. Further, a new provision for grant of exploration license has been made for mineral specified in the Seventh Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 to encourage participation of private sector in exploration of these minerals considering their importance in national economy and need of use of the latest technology in exploration in these minerals.

1.2 In view of the amendments, it will be appropriate that the exploration of these minerals as specified in the Part D of the First Schedule and in the Seventh Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 through National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) funds is handled by Central Government. The projects proposals submitted by Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) in this category of minerals may directly be handled by NMET for approval and sanction.

2. Objective

2.1 The objective of the Scheme is to boost the exploration activities in the country by engaging NPEA in mineral exploration of critical and strategic minerals as listed in the Part D of the First Schedule and Seventh Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 by the Central Government and to ease out the process of reimbursement/ funding of the operations by NPEA through NMET.

3. Procedure for Engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies by Central Government and their Funding

3.1 General Conditions

- (i) The present scheme is applicable for exploration of minerals as mentioned in Part-D of the First Schedule (**Annexure 1**) and Seventh Schedule (**Annexure 2**) of the MMDR Act 1957.

(ii) Exploration operations shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions regarding such operations in the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules) 2015, the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR), the Guidelines for notification of accredited private exploration agencies issued by Ministry of Mines on 12th August, 2021 and any other applicable law for the time being in force.

(iii) NPEA shall undertake exploration in respect of the category of minerals and mineral deposits under which it has been notified.

(iv) Approval for exploration to NPEA or their funding from NMET shall not confer any right on the NPEA for grant of any mineral concession in the area explored. The mineral concession (composite licence, mining lease, etc.) in such explored area shall be granted in accordance with the provision of the MMDR Act and rules made thereunder. A NPEA may participate in auction of mineral concession over the block or a part thereof which has been explored by such NPEA subject to provision of the MMDR Act and rules made thereunder.

(v) In case of exploration projects of minerals as mentioned in Part-D of First Schedule and Seventh Schedule of the MMDR amendment Act 2023, already sanctioned by NMET in the name of State Government to be executed by NPEA also, the NPEA will be eligible to participate in auction of these blocks.

(vi) The details of any related party to the NPEA, participating in the auction for mining lease has to be declared beforehand to the Central Government/ State Government.

3.2 Mode of Engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) and Funding by NMET for Exploration of Critical and Strategic Minerals

The engagement of NPEA by Central Government and the funding of exploration projects will be done as per the following details:

- i. NPEA may select the area for exploration based on available geoscience data and submit a proposal in respect of the same to NMET. The geoscience data may be accessed from Geological Survey of India's baseline geoscience database available free of cost in the NGDR/Bhukosh portal of Geological Survey of India (GSI), database of other government or private agencies, etc.

- ii. NPEA may submit an application outlining the details of the area, mineral commodities, etc., it proposes for undertaking exploration to NMET in the format specified in Schedule to this Scheme.
- iii. Upon receipt of such application from NPEA, NMET shall send the proposal to Geological Survey of India (GSI) and State Government (DGM/DMG) for their comments for submitting report on the feasibility for undertaking the item for the identified commodity within one month of the receipt of the application from NMET.
- iv. Upon receipt of comments from GSI and State Government (DGM/DMG), NMET shall grant the in-principle approval to NPEA or reject the proposal within 15 days of the receipt of comments from GSI and State Government.
- v. Upon grant of in-principle approval, the NPEA shall prepare and submit the detailed exploration proposal to NMET for evaluation for reconnaissance or prospecting surveys in the format prescribed (**Annexure 3**).
- vi. The proposals submitted to NMET shall be evaluated and approved as per the prescribed procedure of NMET and the concerned NPEA will be responsible for defending the proposal before the Technical and Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET. Further, on recommendation of TCC the projects will be reviewed by Executive Committee (EC) of NMET for approval and sanction.
- vii. On approval of EC, NMET shall issue the sanction order to NPEA and funds will be released by NMET to NPEA as per norms.
- viii. As per Rule 172 (1) Para (ii) of GFR 2017, in case the NPEA wishes to avail mobilization advance (up to 30% of the approved project cost), the NPEA has to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG, including e-bank guarantee) of equal value of advance to NMET. Advance paid will be adjusted in the first bill submitted by the NPEA and a Utilization Certificate of the same has to be submitted along with the bills. Further payment will be made on reimbursement basis against the bills submitted by NPEA. The BG should remain valid for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of project and acceptance of geological report by NMET. The Bank Guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilization advance.
- ix. The Deputy Director General, GSI will be the Nodal Officer from the respective State Unit Office of GSI who will examine/monitor the work executed by the NPEA in the State and verify the bills claimed by NPEA for such purpose. The NPEA will submit bill to NMET after verification/certification of the Nodal Officer.
- x. The NPEA undertaking exploration shall submit the yearly geological report(s) and final geological report(s) of the exploration projects to NMET, State Government and Regional Controller or the authorized officer of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) in accordance with rule 9 of MCDR, 2017. In case of projects with a timeline of more than one year, an interim report will be submitted by NPEA.
- xi. The raw data generated by NPEA during the prospecting operation shall be submitted to State Government, Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Regional Controller or the authorized officer of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). Core logs generated by NPEA have to be submitted to the nearest Regional Core Library of GSI as per the SOP of GSI for this purpose in respect of the block.
- xii. The Central Government shall technically evaluate the geological report and decide about the potential mineral blocks which can further be taken up for auction. The Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, shall put the block for auction as per the procedure prescribed in the Mineral (Auction) Rules 2015 for grant of composite licence or mining lease, as the case may be. The Central Government shall mention the name of NPEA who has prepared the Geological Report in the tender document.

MMDR amendment Act 2023
"PART D of the First Schedule"
Critical and Strategic Minerals

1. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals.
2. Cadmium bearing minerals.
3. Cobalt bearing minerals.
4. Gallium bearing minerals.
5. Glauconite.
6. Graphite.
7. Indium bearing minerals.
8. Lithium bearing minerals.
9. Molybdenum bearing minerals.
10. Nickel bearing minerals.
11. Niobium bearing minerals.
12. Phosphate (without uranium).
13. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals.
14. Potash.
15. Minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium.
16. Rhenium bearing minerals.
17. Selenium bearing minerals.
18. Tantalum bearing minerals.
19. Tellurium bearing minerals.
20. Tin bearing minerals.
21. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene).
22. Tungsten bearing minerals.
23. Vanadium bearing minerals.
24. Zirconium bearing minerals and ores including zircon.

MMDR amendment Act 2023

"The Seventh Schedule"

Minerals

1. Apatite
2. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals
3. Cadmium bearing minerals
4. Cobalt bearing minerals
5. Copper bearing minerals
6. Diamond
7. Gold
8. Graphite
9. Indium bearing minerals
10. Lead bearing minerals
11. Lithium bearing minerals
12. Molybdenum bearing minerals
13. Niobium bearing minerals
14. Nickel bearing minerals
15. Potash
16. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals
17. Minerals of 'rare earths' group
18. Rhenium bearing minerals
19. Rock Phosphate
20. Selenium
21. Silver
22. Tantalum bearing minerals
23. Tellurium bearing minerals
24. Tin bearing minerals
25. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene)
26. Tungsten bearing minerals
27. Vanadium bearing minerals
28. Zinc bearing minerals
29. Zirconium bearing minerals and ores including zircon

FORMAT FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL FOR UNDERTAKING EXPLORATION

To,
The Director & HoD,
National Mineral Exploration Trust,
Ministry of Mines
New Delhi - 110001

Madam/Sir,

I/we am/are submitting the following details for granting 'in-principle' approval by NMET for proposal on reconnaissance or prospecting surveys under the scheme of Engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies in Exploration of Critical and Strategic Minerals issued by Ministry of Mines vide order No. ____dt____.

1. Name and Address of the Applicant

(a)	Name:	
(b)	Postal address:	
(c)	Telephone Number (Office):	
(d)	Fax number (Office):	
(e)	Mobile No:	
(f)	Telephone Number (Residence):	
(g)	E-mail address:	

2. Details of Accreditation as Private Exploration Agency and Notification under the proviso to Section 4(1) of the MMRD Act

(a)	Date of accreditation granted by QCI-NABET:	
(b)	Date of expiry of accreditation:	
(c)	Date of Notification under the proviso to Section 4(1) of the MMRD Act:	
(d)	Date of expiry of Notification:	
(e)	Category of the exploration Agency (Category A or B) under Notification:	

3. Location Details of the Area Proposed

(a)	State	
(b)	District (s)	
(c)	Nearby Village (s)	
(d)	Survey of India (SOI) Toposheet (s) No.	
(e)	Area in sq. km.	
(f)	Boundary coordinates of the proposed block (in Decimal degree)	

4. Mineral Potential of the Area

(a)	Name of Mineral(s) identified/ expected in the area/ block	
(b)	Basis on which mineral potential in the area has been identified	
(c)	List of documents and references relied upon in support of item (b) above	

5. Documents to be enclosed with the application

- (i) Location of the proposed block demarcated on Survey of India (SOI) Toposheet No.
- (ii) Documents mentioned in item 4(c) above.

Place:

Date:

Signature of Applicant

Annexure-3

Through email only

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

F.No. 4/4/2021-NMET/ 475

New Delhi, 13th February, 2024

To,


As per List

Subject: Incentive to State Government in respect of auction of Exploration Licences -reg.

MMDR (Amendment) Act 2023 has introduced provision of grant of exploration licence through auction. The State Governments will auction the exploration licenses.

2. The Competent Authority has approved that scheme for the incentives given to State Governments in respect of auction of mineral blocks vide letter no. F.No. 4/4/2021-NMET/179 dated 29.12.2021 shall also be extended for auction of Exploration Licences by the State Governments.

This is for kind information.


(Vivek Kumar Sharma)
Director & HoD, NMET
Ministry of Mines
13.02.24

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.
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20. The Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Tamil Nadu.
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26. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim.
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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.
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Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, ShastriBhawan, New Delhi-110001.
2. PPS to AS(SL), Ministry of Mines, ShastriBhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Annexure IV

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

F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/ 176

New Delhi, 27th June, 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies in Mineral Exploration directly through NMET - reg.

In supersession to the OM F.No.6/3/2015-NMET/380 dt. 12th December, 2023 the Competent Authority has approved the revised scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) in mineral exploration directly through NMET. The details of scheme are attached for information and necessary action.

However, the projects sanctioned under the scheme released vide OM F.No. 6/3/2015-NMET/28 dt. 10.05.2022 will be executed as per the sanction orders already issued.

Encl: As above


(Geetika Sharma)
Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

To

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology & Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Minerals, Government of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar.
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17. The Commissioner of Geology & Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
18. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.

19. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
20. The Director, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
21. Shri Pudi Srinivasa Rao, Natural Resources Division - Tata Steel Limited, Room No. 349, 3rd Floor, Commercial Centre, General office, Bistupur, Jamshedpur East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831001 (pudi.srinivas@tatasteel.com).
22. Shri Arijit Dey, United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., Tower 2A, 5th Floor, Action Area II, Ecospace Business Park, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata, West Bengal-700156 (admin@unitedexploration.co.in).
23. Dr. Nirode Behari Chanda, Indian Mine Planners & Consultants, GE-61 Rajdanga Main Road, Behind Vivanta Hotel, West Bengal, Kolkata - 700107 (nbc@impcon.in).
24. Shri Jijo George, Gemcokati Exploration Private Limited, Plot No 34, Bapat Nagar, Maharastra Chandrapur - 442401 (jijo@gemcokati.com).
25. Dr. S. Karuppannan, Geotechnical Mining Solutions, 1/213B Natesan Complex Tamil Nadu, Dharmapuri - 636705 (info.gtmsdpi@gmail.com).
26. Mr. Channamallikarjun B. Patil, Geoexpore Private Limited, No 12-28/2, SY No. 28/2, Karnataka, Bangalore - 560077 (cm@geoexpore.com).
27. Mr. Leo Christy A, V.M. Salgaocar & Brother Pvt. Ltd, Salgaocar House, Off F. L. Gomes Road, Vasco Da Gama, South Goa-403802 (leochristy@vmsbgoa.com).
28. Mr. Loknath Rath, Geovale Services Private Limited, GN 38/5, 3rd Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091, India West Bengal (loknath.rath@geovale.com).
29. Mr. Sanjeev Ganeriwala, Maheshwari Mining Private Limited, 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal (anu.thakur@maheshwaree.com).
30. Mr. P. Praveen Kumar, Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd. MP VIII/357B, First Floor, Shreesha Complex, Udyawar village, Manjeshwar, Kasargod, Kerala, India- 671323 (praveen@geomarinesolutions.in)
31. Dr. Ifthikhar Ahmed, Geo Exploration and Mining Solution, 17, Advaita Ashram Rd, Arthanari Nagar, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu 636004 (ifthiahmed@gmail.com).
32. Mr. Murali Manas B., Ecomen Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., B-1/8, 2nd Floor, opposite Mahalaxmi sweet, Sector H, Sector-A, Aliganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226024 (murali.manas@ecomen.in)
33. Ms. Soumi Chakraborty, Novomine India Private Limited, 4th Floor, Building No-65 , Opp-The Children's Hospital, Pohkseh, Shillong, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya-793006, India (novomineceo@gmail.com).
34. Mr. Abhijit Pednekar, Infrastructure Logistics Private Limited, 205, 2nd Floor, Kamat Metropolis-I, Behind Caculo Mall, St Inez Panaji North Goa 403001 (abhijit.pednekar@fomento.co).
35. Mr. Nitin Kohad, Kartikay Exploration & Mining Services Pvt. Ltd., 199A/18, Chitnavis Marg, Crorepati Gali, Civil Lines, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440001 (nitin.kohad@kartikay.co.in).
36. Mr. Indraneel Dawande, Engeotech Consultant, 1338, Kachnar City Rd, Vijay Nagar, Jabalpur, Raksha, Madhya Pradesh 482002 (engeotech@rediffmail.com).
37. Mr. Om Prakash Somani, Ramgad Mineral and Mining limited, Baldota Enclave, Abheraj Baldota Road, Hosapete 583203 (omprakash.s@rmml.in).

38. Mr. B. Raghushe, PRB Infraprojects Limited, Ratan Heights, S-3, 2nd Floor, Beside Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Medical Square, Nagpur-440024 (prbinfraprojects@gmail.com).
39. Ms. Shivani Gupta, Kundan Concentrates Private Limited, 3, Scindia House, 2nd Floor, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 (shivani.gupta@kundangreenenergy.com).
40. Mr. Deepak Kumar, Gems Project Private Limited, Dugdugiyatoli, Argora, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834002 (md@gemsgroup.in).
41. Mr. Deependra Singh, Mis FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Institutional Area Sector B Vivek Vihar Yojna, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Jodhpur -342005. (fagmill@rediffmail.com)

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001
2. PPS to AS, Ministry of Mines, Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

**Scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies in Mineral Exploration
directly through National Mineral Exploration Trust**

1. Background

- 1.1** Central Government has made several policy reforms to boost the mineral production in the country and make the country self-reliant in mineral sector. The amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) in 2021 have empowered the Central Government to notify private sector entities to undertake prospecting operations.
- 1.2** After the amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) in 2023, empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction Composite Licence and Mining Lease for critical and strategic minerals listed in the Part D of the first Schedule of the Act, a scheme for engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) in mineral exploration directly through NMET was notified vide O.M. F.No.6/3/2015-NMET/380 dt. 12th December, 2023. As a result, since notification of this scheme, there has been a significant improvement in sanction of exploration projects by NMET to NPAs for critical, strategic minerals and deep-seated minerals. However, sanction of exploration projects by NMET to NPEAs for other minerals has not picked up. It has also been observed that there is a considerable delay in sanction of projects as well as release of funds to the NPEAs when these projects are routed through the State Governments.
- 1.3** In view of the above, it will be appropriate that the exploration of all major minerals other than minerals mentioned in Part B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 is funded directly by National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). The project proposals submitted by Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) for all major minerals other than minerals mentioned in the Part B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 may directly be handled by NMET for approval and sanction.

1. Objective

- 1.1** The objective of the Scheme is to boost the exploration activities in the country by engaging NPEAs in mineral exploration of all major minerals other than minerals mentioned in the Part B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 by the Central Government and to ease out the process of reimbursement/ funding of the operations by NPEA through NMET.

2. Procedure for Engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies by Central Government and their Funding

2.1 General Conditions

- (i) The present scheme is applicable for exploration of all major minerals other than minerals mentioned in Part-B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act 1957.
- (ii) Exploration operations shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions regarding such operations in the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents Rules) 2015, the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR), the Guidelines for notification of accredited private exploration agencies issued by Ministry of Mines on 12th August, 2021 and any other applicable law for the time being in force.
- (iii) NPEA shall undertake exploration in respect of the category of minerals and mineral deposits under which it has been notified.
- (iv) Approval for exploration to NPEA or their funding from NMET shall not confer any right on the NPEA for grant of any mineral concession in the area explored. The mineral concession (composite licence, mining lease, etc.) in such explored area shall be granted in accordance with the provision of the MMDR Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. A NPEA may participate in auction of mineral concession over the block or a part thereof which has been explored by such NPEA subject to provision of the MMDR Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder.
- (v) In case of exploration projects of minerals as mentioned in Part-D of First Schedule and Seventh Schedule of the MMDR amendment Act 2023, already sanctioned by NMET in the name of State Government to be executed by NPEA also, the NPEA will be eligible to participate in auction of these blocks.
- (vi) The details of any related party to the NPEA, participating in the auction for mining lease has to be declared beforehand to the Central Government/ State Government.

2.2 Mode of Engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEA) and Funding by NMET for Exploration of all major minerals (other than minerals mentioned in the Part B of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957)

The engagement of NPEA by Central Government and the funding of exploration projects will be done as per the following details:

- i. NPEA may select the area for exploration based on available geoscience data and submit a proposal in respect of the same to NMET. The geoscience data may be accessed from Geological Survey of India's baseline geoscience database available free of cost in the NGDR/Bhukosh portal of Geological Survey of India (GSI), database of other government or private agencies, etc.
- ii. NPEA may submit an application outlining the details of the area, mineral commodities, etc., it proposes for undertaking exploration to NMET in the format specified in Schedule to this Scheme (*Annexure 1*).
- iii. Upon receipt of such application from NPEA, NMET shall send the proposal to Geological Survey of India (GSI), State Government (DGM/DMG), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and Atomic Mineral Department (AMD, specifically for REE & RM) for their comments for submitting report on the feasibility for undertaking the item for the identified commodity within one month of the receipt of the application from NMET.
- iv. Upon receipt of comments from GSI, MECL, AMD and State Government (DGM/DMG), Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC), NMET shall grant the in- principle approval to NPEA or reject the proposal.
- v. Upon grant of in-principal approval, the NPEA shall prepare and submit the detailed exploration proposal to NMET within three months from the date of receipt of in-principle approval for evaluation for reconnaissance or prospecting surveys in the format prescribed.
- vi. The proposals submitted to NMET shall be evaluated and approved as per the prescribed procedure of NMET and the concerned NPEA will be responsible for defending the proposal before the TCC of NMET. Further, on recommendation of TCC the projects will be reviewed by Executive Committee (EC) of NMET for approval and sanction.
- vii. On approval of EC, NMET shall issue the sanction order to NPEA and funds will be released by NMET to NPEA as per the norms.

- viii. As per Rule 172 (1) Para (ii) of GFR 2017, in case the NPEA wishes to avail mobilization advance (up to 30% of the approved project cost), the NPEA has to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG, including e-bank guarantee) of equal value of advance to NMET. Advance paid will be adjusted in the first bill submitted by the NPEA and a Utilization Certificate of the same has to be submitted along with the bills. Further payment will be made on reimbursement basis against the bills submitted by NPEA. The BG should remain valid for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of project and acceptance of geological report by NMET. The Bank Guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilization advance.
- ix. The Deputy Director General, GSI will be the Nodal Officer from the respective State Unit Office of GSI who will examine/monitor the work executed by the NPEA in the State and verify the bills claimed by NPEA for such purpose. The NPEA will submit bill to NMET after verification/certification of the Nodal Officer.
- x. The NPEA undertaking exploration shall submit the yearly geological report(s) and final geological report(s) of the exploration projects to NMET, State Government and Regional Controller or the authorized officer of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) in accordance with rule 9 of MCDR, 2017. In case of projects with a timeline of more than one year, an interim report will be submitted by NPEA.
- xi. The raw data generated by NPEA during the prospecting operation shall be submitted to State Government, Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Regional Controller or the authorized officer of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). Core logs generated by NPEA have to be submitted to the nearest Regional Core Library of GSI as per the SOP of GSI for this purpose in respect of the block.
- xii. The Central Government shall technically evaluate the geological report and decide about the potential mineral blocks which can further be taken up for auction. The Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, shall put the block for auction as per the procedure prescribed in the Mineral (Auction) Rules 2015 for grant of composite licence or mining lease, as the case may be. The Central Government shall mention the name of NPEA who has prepared the Geological Report in the tender document.

FORMAT FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL FOR UNDERTAKING EXPLORATION

To,
The Director & HoD,
National Mineral Exploration Trust, Ministry
of Mines
New Delhi - 110001

Madam/Sir,

I/we am/are submitting the following details for granting 'in-principle' approval by NMET on the proposal of reconnaissance or prospecting surveys to NMET under the "Scheme for Engagement of Notified Private Exploration Agencies in Mineral Exploration directly through National Mineral Exploration Trust issued by Ministry of Mines vide OM No.____dt____.

1. Name and Address of the Applicant

(a)	Name of NPEA:	
(b)	Name of Authorized Signatory	
(c)	Postal address:	
(d)	Telephone Number (Office):	
(e)	Fax number (Office):	
(f)	Mobile No:	
(g)	Telephone Number (Residence):	
(h)	E-mail address:	

2. Details of Accreditation as Private Exploration Agency and Notification under the proviso to Section 4(1) of the MMRD Act

(a)	Date of accreditation granted by QCI-NABET:	
(b)	Date of expiry of accreditation:	
(c)	Date of Notification under the proviso to Section 4(1) of the MMRD Act:	
(d)	Date of expiry of Notification:	
(e)	Category of the exploration Agency (Category A or B) under Notification:	

3. Location Details of the Area Proposed

(a)	State	
(b)	District (s)/ Taluka(s)/ Block(s)	
(c)	Nearby Village (s)	
(d)	Survey of India (SOI) Toposheet (s) No.	
(e)	Area in sq. km.	
(f)	Boundary coordinates of the proposed block (in Decimal degree)	

4. Mineral Potential of the Area

(a)	Name of Mineral(s) identified/ expected in the area/ block	
(b)	Title of the Project with name of the block	
(c)	Stage of Exploration	
(d)	Basis on which mineral potential in the area has been identified	

5. Documents to be enclosed with the application

- (i) Location of the proposed block demarcated on Survey of India (SOI) Toposheet No.
- (ii) Documents mentioned in item 4(d) above.
- (iii) Other necessary documents

Place:**Date:****Signature of Applicant**

Annexure-V

Through email only

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

F.No. 4/4/2021-NMET/ 475

New Delhi, 13th February, 2024

To,


As per List

Subject: Incentive to State Government in respect of auction of Exploration Licences -reg.

MMDR (Amendment) Act 2023 has introduced provision of grant of exploration licence through auction. The State Governments will auction the exploration licenses.

2. The Competent Authority has approved that scheme for the incentives given to State Governments in respect of auction of mineral blocks vide letter no. F.No. 4/4/2021-NMET/179 dated 29.12.2021 shall also be extended for auction of Exploration Licences by the State Governments.

This is for kind information.


(Vivek Kumar Sharma)
Director & HoD, NMET
Ministry of Mines

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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 for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, ShastriBhawan, New Delhi-110001.
2. PPS to AS(SL), Ministry of Mines, ShastriBhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Annexure VI

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

F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/ 154

New Delhi, 24th June, 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for holders of Exploration Licence - reg.

In pursuance of provision of National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 to encourage private sector participation in exploration and to facilitate, encourage and incentivize private sector participation in all spheres of mineral exploration, with focus on deep seated minerals, critical and strategic minerals, a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses from National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for holders of Exploration Licence granted through auction is approved by the Competent Authority.

The details of the scheme including objective, eligibility criteria, conditions, procedure for submission of proposal, scale for reimbursement of exploration expenses etc. are attached as Annexure.

It is requested that the scheme may be circulated among the holders of Exploration Licence granted through auction for submission of their proposals to NMET.

Encl: As above


(Geetika Sharma)
Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

To

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology & Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Minerals, Government of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar.
5. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (Industry & Mines), Government of Gujarat.

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

Copy to:

1. The Director General, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata – 700016
2. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
3. Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Assam.
4. Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Bihar.
5. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa.
7. Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Gujarat.
8. The Director, Department of Industries, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
10. The Director (Mines), Directorate of Mines, Government of Jharkhand.

11. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka.
12. The Director, Directorate of Mining & Geology, Government of Kerala.
13. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Director, Directorate of Mines, Government of Odisha.
17. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan.
18. The Commissioner of Geology & Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
19. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.
20. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
21. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
22. The Director, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
23. Shri Pudi Srinivasa Rao, Natural Resources Division - Tata Steel Limited, Room No. 349, 3rd Floor, Commercial Centre, General office, Bistupur, Jamshedpur East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831001 (pudi.srinivas@tatasteel.com).
24. Shri Arijit Dey, United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., Tower 2A, 5th Floor, Action Area II, Ecospace Business Park, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata, West Bengal-700156 (admin@unitedexploration.co.in).
25. Dr. Nirode Behari Chanda, Indian Mine Planners & Consultants, GE-61 Rajdanga Main Road, Behind Vivanta Hotel, West Bengal, Kolkata - 700107 (nbc@impcon.in).
26. Shri Jijo George, Gemcokati Exploration Private Limited, Plot No 34, Bapat Nagar, Maharastra Chandrapur - 442401 (jijo@gemcokati.com).
27. Dr. S. Karuppannan, Geotechnical Mining Solutions, 1/213B Natesan Complex Tamil Nadu, Dharmapuri - 636705 (info.gtmsdpi@gmail.com).
28. Mr. Channamallikarjun B. Patil, Geoexpore Private Limited, No 12-28/2, SY No. 28/2, Karnataka, Bangalore - 560077 (cm@geoexpore.com).
29. Mr. Leo Christy A, V.M. Salgaocar & Brother Pvt. Ltd, Salgaocar House, Off F. L. Gomes Road, Vasco Da Gama, South Goa-403802 (leochristy@vmsbgoa.com).
30. Mr. Loknath Rath, Geovale Services Private Limited, GN 38/5, 3rd Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091, India West Bengal (loknath.rath@geovale.com).
31. Mr. Sanjeev Ganeriwala, Maheshwari Mining Private Limited, 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal (anu.thakur@maheshwaree.com).
32. Mr. P. Praveen Kumar, Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd. MP VIII/357B, First Floor, Shreesha Complex, Udyawar village, Manjeshwar, Kasargod, Kerala, India- 671323 (praveen@geomarinesolutions.in)
33. Dr. Ifthikhar Ahmed, Geo Exploration and Mining Solution, 17, Advaita Ashram Rd, Arthanari Nagar, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu 636004 (ifthiahmed@gmail.com).

34. Mr. Murali Manas B., Ecomen Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., B-1/8, 2nd Floor, opposite Mahalaxmi sweet, Sector H, Sector-A, Aliganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226024 (murali.manas@ecomen.in)
35. Ms. Soumi Chakraborty, Novomine India Private Limited, 4th Floor, Building No-65 , Opp-The Children's Hospital, Pohkseh, Shillong, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya-793006, India (novomineceo@gmail.com).
36. Mr. Abhijit Pednekar, Infrastructure Logistics Private Limited, 205, 2nd Floor, Kamat Metropolis-I, Behind Caculo Mall, St Inez Panaji North Goa 403001 (abhijit.pednekar@fomento.co).
37. Mr. Nitin Kohad, Kartikay Exploration & Mining Services Pvt. Ltd., 199A/18, Chitnavis Marg, Crorepati Gali, Civil Lines, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440001 (nitin.kohad@kartikay.co.in).
38. Mr. Indraneel Dawande, Engeotech Consultant, 1338, Kachnar City Rd, Vijay Nagar, Jabalpur, Raksha, Madhya Pradesh 482002 (engeotech@rediffmail.com).
39. Mr. Om Prakash Somani, Ramgad Mineral and Mining limited, Baldota Enclave, Abheraj Baldota Road, Hosapete 583203 (omprakash.s@rmml.in).
40. Mr. B. Raghushe, PRB Infraprojects Limited, Ratan Heights, S-3, 2nd Floor, Beside Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Medical Square, Nagpur-440024 (prbinfraprojects@gmail.com).
41. Ms. Shivani Gupta, Kundan Concentrates Private Limited, 3, Scindia House, 2nd Floor, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 (shivani.gupta@kundangreenenergy.com).
42. Mr. Deepak Kumar, Gems Project Private Limited, Dugdugiyatoli, Argora, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834002 (md@gemsgroup.in).
43. Mr. Deependra Singh, Mis FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Institutional Area Sector B Vivek Vihar Yojna, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Jodhpur -342005. (fagmill@rediffmail.com)

Copy for information to:

1. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001
2. PPS to AS, Ministry of Mines, Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001
3. PPS to Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur - 440001



**MINISTRY OF MINES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

National Mineral Exploration Trust



**Scheme for Partial Reimbursement
of Exploration Expenses for Holders
of Exploration Licence**

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BACKGROUND

The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 envisages private sector participation in mineral exploration and to facilitate, encourage and incentivize 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 incentive for exploration agencies to mitigate their risk for exploration works.

In furtherance of the objectives in the NMEP, 2016, the Central Government has made several policy reforms to boost mineral exploration and production in the country and make the country self-reliant in 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 private sector in exploration of these minerals considering their importance in national economy and need of use of the latest technology in exploration in these minerals.

During the consultations on the draft amendment of the MMDR Act as well as on the draft rules for implementation of provision of the exploration licence, the Ministry of Mines has received several suggestions from the State Governments, industry and other stakeholders for providing incentive to exploration licence holder 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, a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for exploration licence (EL) holders has been formulated.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the scheme 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 scheme.

CONDITIONS

- I. Scheme is optional for EL holders which are granted EL through auction after the date of issue of the present scheme. If the EL holder wishes to avail the scheme, 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 under this scheme or any dispute regarding reimbursement under the scheme 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 Trust (NMET), the amount released by NMET under this scheme within ten years (in equal annual installments) 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 lumpsum payment from mining lease holders in lieu of share in auction premium, he shall pay back the amount to NMET within one month of receipt of lumpsum payment.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The EL holders applying under the scheme shall submit a project proposal to the NMET. The proposal shall contain -

- I. general information (in the format specified in Annexure-1 to this scheme)
- II. detailed proposal along with estimated expenditure details (in the format specified in Annexure-2 to this scheme)
- III. annual work plan (in the format specified in Annexure-3 to this scheme)
- 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.

EVALUATION, APPROVAL AND REIMBURSEMENT

- I. After receiving the project proposal from the EL holder, TCC, NMET will evaluate the proposal on technical and cost parameters and recommend to Executive Committee (EC). Based on the recommendation of TCC, the EC will evaluate and approve the proposals. After the approval of the EC, necessary sanction order will be issued by the NMET, 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 NMET shall not take more than two months.
- II. The NMET 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 NMET during the inspection visit.

SCALE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPLORATION EXPENSES

- I. The exploration expenses incurred by EL holder towards **geological mapping** and sampling will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹1.50 Crore**.
- II. The exploration expenses incurred by EL holder towards **geophysical investigations** will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹3.00 Crore**.
- III. The exploration expenses incurred by EL holder towards **exploratory drilling** will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹10.00 Crore**.
- IV. The exploration expenses incurred by EL holder towards **chemical and petrological analysis/ mineral beneficiation** will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹2.50 Crore**.
- V. The exploration expenses incurred by 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 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.
- VII. If the EL holder hands over any G2 block(s) for auction for grant of mining lease within **three years** from the execution of EL, and if said block(s) are successfully auctioned, then the total exploration expenses incurred by EL holder will be reimbursed up to 60% of direct costs in each of the items above, with maximum ceiling increased by 20% on each item.

OTHER CONDITIONS

- I. NMET will monitor progress of project work on its own/ by officers of Central Government/ by any other entity engaged/ decided by NMET/ 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 NMET.
- 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 mobilization advance (upto 15% of the approved cost subject to a ceiling of ₹6 Crore or 50% of the expenditure for the first three years, whichever is lower), the EL holder has to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG, including e-bank guarantee) of equal value of advance to NMET. 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 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 project and acceptance of geological report by NMET. The Bank guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilization advance.
- IV. The EL holder shall have to share geological and geophysical data/ results of the detailed exploration campaign along with a geological report with Directorate of Geology and Mines of 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 NMET 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 installment will not be more than 50% of expenditure incurred. Reimbursement will be settled through Public Financial Management System (PFMS), in the dedicated bank account as furnished by the EL holder (**Annexure-1**).
- VII. Ministry of Mines/ NMET reserve the right to modify the scheme as may be necessary from time to time.

ANNEXURE - 1

Details required for partial reimbursement towards exploration expenses for Exploration Licence holder

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 (Offi	
	iv. Mobile No.	
	v. Telephone Number (Residence)	
	vi. Email	
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.	
	Email	
	Bank Account Number	
	Name 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/ oject	
	ii. Block area (sq.	
	iii. ey of India Toposheet Number(s) along with Lat. and Long.	
	iv. District (s	
	v. Stat	
	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 NMET**

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

By

..... Agency

Place:

Date:

(CONTD).

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.
- IV. Scope for proposed exploration.
- V. 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		
B		
C		
D		
E etc		

4. Planned Methodology

<p>(To be filled by the agency)</p>

(CONTD).

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 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 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 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)

(CONTD).

**Proposal for Block,
..... District, State
for G3 or G2 stage of mineral exploration under
NMET**

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

By

Agency
.....

Place:

Date:

(CONTD).

Detailed description on the following filled 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)

(CONTD).

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	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 (Refer another table below)	Borehole geophysical logging Special geophysical traverses for problem solving, if required (Refer another table below)
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 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) 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) 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)

(CONTD).

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 aerogeophysical survey) to be executed during each year	(in Lkm)
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	(in nos.)
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 NMET.		
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.		

(CONTD).

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 Lkm)
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 kgs)
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 NMET.		
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.		



**MINISTRY OF MINES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

National Mineral Exploration Trust

NMET Secretariat

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Scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Composite Licences which are granted through auction for exploration of certain minerals

1. Background

The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 envisages private sector participation in mineral exploration to facilitate, encourage and incentivize 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 incentive for exploration agencies to mitigate their risk for exploration works.

In pursuance of the provisions of NMEP, 2016, to encourage private sector participation in exploration, Ministry of Mines had constituted a committee of experts for suggesting measures to facilitate, encourage and incentivize private sector participation in all spheres of mineral exploration, with focus on deep seated minerals. Based on the recommendations of the committee, a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Composite licence was issued vide order no.6/3/2015-NMET/295 dated 23rd March 2022.

However, based on the feedback from the stakeholders, the Central Government decided to revise the earlier scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for Composite licence (CL) holders.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Mines constituted a committee of experts to re-examine the norms for reimbursement of exploration expenses to Composite licence (CL) holders.

Based on the recommendations of the committee, the scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for Composite licence (CL) holders has been revised.

2. Objective

The objective of the scheme is to provide partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for Composite Licence (CL) holders which are granted through auction for exploration of certain minerals.

3. Eligibility Criteria

The present scheme is applicable for exploration of minerals as mentioned in Part-D of the First Schedule (**Annexure 1**) and Seventh Schedule (**Annexure 2**) of the MMDR Act 1957.

4. Conditions

(i) Scheme is optional for CL holders which are granted through auction after the date of issue of the scheme. If a CL holder wishes to avail the scheme, he shall apply for partial reimbursement of the exploration expenses within a period of 6 months from the grant of CL.

(ii) Acceptance or rejection of a proposal under this scheme or any dispute regarding reimbursement under the scheme shall not have any bearing on discharging the obligation of the CL holders as per the terms and conditions of Composite Licence prescribed by the State Government at the time of auction of the concession.

(iii) In case the exploration leads to signing of the mining lease and production of minerals, then the holder of such mining lease shall pay back the amount released by NMET within four years of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals.

5. Procedure for submission of proposal

The CL holders applying under the scheme shall submit their project proposal to the NMET through DGM/DMG of the concerned State Government.

The proposal shall contain –

- (i) general information (in the format specified in **Annexure-3** to this scheme)
- (ii) detailed proposal along with estimated expenditure details (in the format specified in **Annexure-4** to this scheme)
- (iii) annual work plan (in the format specified in **Annexure-5** to this scheme)
- (iv) a copy of Composite Licence.

6. Evaluation, approval and reimbursement

(i) After receiving the project proposal from the CL holder, TCC, NMET will evaluate the proposal on technical and cost parameters and recommend to EC. Based on the recommendation of TCC, the Executive Committee (EC) will evaluate and approve the proposals. After the approval of the EC, necessary sanction order will be issued by the NMET, for reimbursement of exploration expenses as per the details provided by the CL holder (**Annexure-3**). The entire process from submission of proposal by CL holder to issuing of sanction order by NMET shall not take more than two months.

(ii) The NMET shall monitor the progress of work from time to time. The CL 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 NMET during the inspection visit.

7. Scale for reimbursement of exploration expenses

(i) The exploration expenses incurred by CL holder towards **geological mapping, sampling and geochemical analysis** will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹1.50 Crore**.

(ii) The exploration expenses incurred by CL holder towards **geophysical investigations** will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹1.00 Crore**.

(iii) The exploration expenses incurred by CL holder towards **exploratory drilling** will be reimbursed up to 50% of direct costs as per the SoC of NMET with a maximum ceiling of **₹4.50 Crore**.

(iv) The exploration expenses incurred by CL 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 **₹ 0.50 Crore**.

(v) The exploration expenses incurred by CL 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 **₹ 0.50 Crore**, subject to limit of Rs.20 Lakhs per year.

(vi) The expenses incurred for any other activities as part of the exploration will not be considered for reimbursement. However, it will be the responsibility of CL holders to complete the exploration activities as per the best-in-class industry standards.

8. Other conditions:

(i) NMET will monitor progress of project work on its own/ by officers of Central Government/ by any other entity engaged/ decided by NMET/ 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 NMET.

(ii) The reimbursement towards exploration cost will be considered only for the prospecting stage of the Composite Licence.

(iii) CL holder shall make the exploration expenses for carrying out exploration activities through a dedicated bank account and maintain duly audited books of accounts.

(iv) As per Rule 172 (1) Para (ii) of GFR 2017, in case the CL holder wishes to avail the mobilization advance (up to 15% of the approved cost), the CL holder has to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG, including e-bank guarantee) of equal value of advance to NMET. Advance paid will be adjusted in the first bill submitted by the CL holder and a Utilization certificate of the same has to be submitted along with the bills. Further payment will be made on reimbursement basis against the bills submitted by the CL holder. The BG should remain valid for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of project and acceptance of geological report by NMET. The Bank guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilization advance.

(v) The CL holder shall have to share geological and geophysical data/ results of the detailed exploration campaign along with a geological report with Directorate of Geology and Mines of 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 NMET from time to time.

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

(vii) The reimbursement shall be made in a maximum of six installments. The amount reimbursed in each installment 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. The half yearly bills shall be accompanied by an interim report of the progress of the work carried out during the period. Reimbursement will be settled through Public Finance Management System (PFMS) mode, in the dedicated bank account as furnished by the holder of Composite Licence (**Annexure-3**).

(viii) Ministry of Mines/ NMET reserve the right to modify the scheme as may be necessary from time to time.

MMDR amendment Act 2023
"PART D of the First Schedule"
Critical and Strategic Minerals

1. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals.
2. Cadmium bearing minerals.
3. Cobalt bearing minerals.
4. Gallium bearing minerals.
5. Glauconite.
6. Graphite.
7. Indium bearing minerals.
8. Lithium bearing minerals.
9. Molybdenum bearing minerals.
10. Nickel bearing minerals.
11. Niobium bearing minerals.
12. Phosphate (without uranium).
13. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals.
14. Potash.
15. Minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium.
16. Rhenium bearing minerals.
17. Selenium bearing minerals.
18. Tantalum bearing minerals.
19. Tellurium bearing minerals.
20. Tin bearing minerals.
21. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene).
22. Tungsten bearing minerals.
23. Vanadium bearing minerals.
24. Zirconium bearing minerals and ores including zircon.

MMDR amendment Act 2023
"The First Schedule" *Minerals*

1. Apatite
2. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals
3. Cadmium bearing minerals
4. Cobalt bearing minerals
5. Copper bearing minerals
6. Diamond
7. Gold
8. Graphite
9. Indium bearing minerals
10. Lead bearing minerals
11. Lithium bearing minerals
12. Molybdenum bearing minerals
13. Niobium bearing minerals
14. Nickel bearing minerals
15. Potash
16. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals
17. Mineral of 'rare earth' group
18. Rhenium bearing minerals
19. Rock Phosphate
20. Selenium
21. Silver
22. Tantalum bearing minerals
23. Tellurium bearing minerals
24. Tin bearing minerals
25. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene)
26. Tungsten bearing minerals
27. Vanadium bearing minerals
28. Zinc bearing minerals
29. Zirconium bearing minerals and ores including zircon

**Details required for partial reimbursement towards exploration expenses for Composite
Licence holders which are granted through auction**

S.No.	Particular	
1	Name of Composite 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	
	Name as per bank A/C	
	IFSC Code	
	Branch & Bank Detail	
	ITR Details (for the period of exploration)	
5	Details of Composite Licence	
	i. Block Name/ Project	
	ii. Block area (sq.km)	
	iii. Survey of India Toposheet Number(s) along with Lat. and Long.	
	iv. Village (s)	
	v. Taluka (s)	
	vi. District (s)	
	vii. State	
	Mineral Commodity	

Date:

Signature:
Name:
Designation

Detailed description of the Proposal to be submitted by the CL holder

Proposal _____ **for** _____ **Block,**
_____ **District,** _____ **State for Reconnaissance Survey(G4**
Stage) under NMET

(Basemetals/ Ferrous/ Non-Ferrous/ Industrial/ Strategic & Critical/ Precious metals etc.)

By

_____ **Agency**

Place:

Date:

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

1. Block Summary

Physiography

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

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

Observation and Recommendations of previous work.

2. Previous Work

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.

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		
B		
C		
D		
E etc		

4. Planned Methodology

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 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 ii) Recording of broad geomorphology, drainage, etc.
Geophysical Survey	Aero-geophysical/Regional ground geophysical survey
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 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

Detailed description of the Proposal to be submitted by the CL holder

Proposal _____ **for** _____ **Block,**
_____ **District,** _____ **State for G3 or G2 stage of mineral**
exploration under NMET

(Basemetals/ Ferrous/ Non-Ferrous/ Industrial/ Strategic & Critical/ Precious metals etc.)

By

_____ **Agency**

Place:

Date:

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

1. Block Summary

Physiography

Background Geology (Regional Geology & Geology of the Block)

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

Recommendations of G4 Stage Mineral Exploration Report. Objectives

2. Previous Work

Attach Complete Previous Geological Report (G4 Stage); G4 and G3 stage reports for G2 stage.

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

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

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 required
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 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) 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) 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

**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 Lkm)
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 NMET.		
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 Lkm)
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 kgs)
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 NMET.		
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.