

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

F. No. 6/3/2015-NMET/ 398

New Delhi, 10th July, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Standard Operating Procedure for Partial Reimbursement of exploration expenses to holders of Composite Licenses granted through auction-reg.

Ministry of Mines has notified the Guidelines for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of composite licenses granted through auction for exploration of certain minerals, vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/295 dated 23rd March 2022 and modified guidelines vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/464 dated 24th October, 2024.

In continuation to above OMs, a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses to holders of Composite Licenses granted through auction has been formulated. The SoP has been approved by Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines.

The SoP for partial reimbursement of the exploration expenditure incurred by composite licence holders is enclosed herewith.

Digitally signed by
Geetika Sharma
Date: 10-07-2026 19:16:29

(Geetika Sharma)
Director

To

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

Haryana

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

Copy to

1. The ADG, PSS GSI, CHQ, 27 JLN Road, Kolkata-700016.
2. The General Manager (Exploration), Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur
3. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited Kanke Rd, CMPDI Complex, Gondwana Place, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834008
4. The Dy. Director General, PSS, GSI, CHQ, 27 JLN Road, Kolkata700016
5. APC Drilling & Construction Private Limited, Room No.153/C7, Third floor, R.Gopal Complex Salem Road Namakkal, Tamil Nadu.
6. Bhushilp Mines and Minerals Pvt Ltd, Gajanan Sanmitra Co. Op, Plot No. 186, Trisaran Nagar, Shastri Layout, Khamla, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440022.
7. BMRC Geomining Solutions Pvt Ltd, C-20 Sector, C1 LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow Pin - 226012, Uttar Pradesh.
8. Critical Mineral Trackers, 406, Concourse Bldg., Greenland's Main Road, OPP Lal Bungalow, Hyderabad CMT Geo Solution Center, E5, 3rd Floor, Technology Research Park, IIT, Kandi Hyderabad 500016, Telangana.
9. Deepsar Mineral Explorer, 6 Ka 16, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur

10. Earthenviro Lab Private Limited, Shop no-36, BDA PH-II CSPUR, Sailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar.
11. Engeotech Consultant, 1338, Vijay Nagar Kachnar City Road Jabalpur-482002, Madhya Pradesh.
12. Enkay Enviro Services Pvt. Ltd., 92, Heera Nagar-A, Near Shalimar Bagh, Ajmer Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan – 302021.
13. Envirogreen Consultants (India) Private Limited, 1B, Macchla, Magra, Near, Patel Circle, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313002.
14. Gemcokati Exploration Private Limited, Plot No 34, Bapat Nagar, Chandrapur, Maharashtra – 442401.
15. GEMS Project Pvt Ltd, 1236/2, Lajpat Nagar, Pundag Ranchi, Jharkhand-834004.
16. Geo Exploration and Mining Solution, 17, Advaita Ashram Rd, Arthanari Nagar, Fairlands, Salem, Tamil Nadu 636004.
17. Geo Marine Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Door No. 15-17-909/9, 5th Cross Shivbagh, Kadri, Behind Silverwood apartment, Leslie, Haven Compound, Mangalore - 575005 Karnataka.
18. GeoExpOre Pvt Ltd, No. 45 S 2nd A Main, 2nd Cross, Chandralayout, Bengaluru – 560040.
19. Geotechnical Mining Solutions, 1/213B Natesan Complex Tamil Nadu, Dharmapuri – 636705.
20. Geovale Services Pvt Ltd, GN 38/5, 3rd Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091, India West Bengal.
21. GMMCO Technology Services Ltd, 9A, Vaishnavi Cymbol, Financial District, Hyderabad, Nanakramguda, Telangana -500032.
22. Hindmetal Exploration Services Private Limited, Yashad Bhawan, Opp Swaroop Sagar, Udaipur, Rajasthan.
23. Indian Mine Planners & Consultants, GE-61 Rajdanga Main Road, Behind Vivanta Hotel, West Bengal, Kolkata – 700107.
24. Kartikay Exploration & Mining Services Pvt. Ltd, 101 & 102, Bhaskar Building Near MLA Hostel, Civil Lines, Nagpur, Maharashtra – 440001.
25. Kundan Concentrates Private Limited, 3, Scindia House, 2nd Floor, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.
26. Maheshwari Mining Private Limited (MMPL Private Limited), 21, CLM Lane, Raniganj, Dist: Burdwan, West Bengal.
27. Mining Associates Private Limited, Plot no. 110, Main Dhemo, Beside Railway Siding, P.O. - Sitarampur, Asansol Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal -713359.
28. Mining Tech Consultancy Services Limited, A 121, Paryavaran Complex, IGNOU Road, -110030, IGNOU Road, New Delhi, Delhi 110030.
29. My World Consultancy Services Private Limited, My World Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd, Plot No: 766, Telengapentha, Cuttack, Odisha-754001.
30. Natural Resources Division-Tata Steel Limited, Natural Resources Division, Room No 349, 3rd Floor, Commercial Centre, General Office, Tata Steel Ltd, Bistupur, Jamshedpur – 831001.
31. Ocean Drilling and Exploration Private Limited, 24 A, Shanti Nagar, Near Diamond Residency, Jhotwara-302012, Rajasthan.
32. PRB Infraprojects Private Limited, S-3, 2nd Floor, Beside Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Medical Square, Nagpur-440024.

33. Ramgad Minerals and Mining Limited, Baldota Enclave, AbherajBaldota Road, Hosapete 583203.
34. S and S Geological Consultants, H. No.-6-2-37/A, Second Floor, Midas Touch Commercial Complex, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad -500004, Telangana.
35. Shijay Projects India Private Limited, A-23,24,25, Ground Floor, Logix Technova, Noida Sector 132, Uttar Pradesh.
36. Siddharth Geo. Consultant, 621/3, First Floor, Ramkund, Samta Colony, Behind Life Worth Hospital Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
37. Steiger Geoscience and Engineering Private Limited, Steiger Geoscience and Engineering Private Limited 3rd Floor, 2-2-24/A/46, D.D. Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad 500 013, Telangana .
38. Synergy Geotech Private Limited, 51, Wardha Rd, Panchdip Nagar, Narendra Nagar, Somalwada, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440025.
39. Unised Research Consultants Private Limited, 152 Sector-B, New Vistar Yojana, Jarouli Phase-II, Barra Kanpur, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 208027.
40. United Exploration India Pvt. Ltd., Tower 2A, 5th Floor, Action Area II, Ecospace Business Park, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata, West Bengal-700156.
41. Vardan Environet Llp, Plot No. 82A, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon-122051, Haryana.
42. Vibrant Techno Lab Private Limited, Steiger Geoscience and Engineering Private Limited 3rd Floor, 2-2-24/A/46, D.D. Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad 500 013, Telangana Above SBI DD colony branch Phone: 9799397960.
43. Infrastructure Logistics Private Limited, 205, 2ndFloor, Kamat Metropolis-I, Behind Caculo Mall, St Inez Panaji North Goa 403001.
44. Novomine India Private Limited, 4th Floor, Building No-65, Opp-The Children's Hospital, Pohkseh, Shillong, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya-793006.
45. FCI Aravali, Gypsum and Minerals Ltd, B Rd, Bhadwasiya, Paota, Jodhpur, Rajasthan 342001
46. OMC Ltd., Gopabandhu Marg, Unit 4, Keshari Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751001
47. The General Manager (ME), Mineral Exploration Department, KIOCL Limited, Bangalore - 560034. 24.Mls PRB Infra, S-3, 2nd Floor, Ratan Heights, Medical Chowk, Chandan Nagar, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440009
48. Hindustan Copper Ltd., 2th Floor, North Tower, Core 2, Scope Minar, Dist Centre, Laxmi Nagar, Swasthya Vihar, Delhi, 110092
49. Telangana Mineral Development Corporation (TGMDC), #6-2-915, HMWSSB Premises, Rear block, 3rd Floor, Khairtabad, Hyderabad, Telangana

Copy for kind information to

1. P.S. to Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines
2. OSD to Hon'ble Minister of State of Mines
3. PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Mines
4. Technical Secretary to Director General, GSI
5. PPS to Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Mines
6. Technical Secretary to Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines

7. PPS to JS & FA, Ministry of Mines
8. PPS to JS (FMN), Ministry of Mines
9. Chairmen and members, TCC-I and TCC-II, NMEDT
10. Members of Executive Committee, NMEDT
11. Members of Project Sanctioning Committee, NMEDT
12. PPS to JS (NCMM), Ministry of Mines
13. PS to Director General, NMEDT

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust [NMEDT]
New Delhi
Standard Operating Procedure for Partial Reimbursement of exploration
expenses in Composite License

The “guidelines” for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Composite License was issued vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/464 dated 24.10.2024 (Annexure A). This Standard Operating Procedure is being issued for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by the Composite License (CL) holders:

1. The eligibility criteria and conditions for partial reimbursement are as set in the OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/464 dated 24.10.2024. Hereinafter referred to as “Guidelines” (Annexure A). Following the amendments to the MMDR Act in 2025, all references to “NMET” in “Guidelines” shall be deemed to refer to the “NMEDT”.
2. The scheme is optional for holders of Composite Licences granted by 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 exploration expenses within a period of 6 months from the grant of the CL.
3. Acceptance or rejection of a proposal under this “Guidelines” or any dispute regarding reimbursement under the “Guidelines” shall not have any bearing on discharging the obligation of the CL holders as per the terms and conditions of the Composite License prescribed by the State Government at the time of the auction of the concession.
4. In case the exploration leads to the signing of the mining lease and production of minerals, then the holder of such mining lease shall pay back the amount released by NMEDT within four years, in four equal annual instalments, of the commencement of production and dispatch of minerals.
5. The CL holders applying under the “Guidelines” shall submit their project proposal to the NMEDT through the DGM/DMG of the concerned State Government. The proposal shall contain – (i) general information (in the format specified in Annexure-3 of “Guidelines”), (ii) detailed proposal along with estimated expenditure details (in the format specified in Annexure-4 of “Guidelines”), (iii) annual work plan (in the format specified in Annexure-5 of “Guidelines”), and (iv) a copy of the Composite Licence.
6. After receiving the project proposal from the CL holder, the TCC of NMEDT will evaluate it on technical and cost parameters and send its recommendations to the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of NMEDT.
7. Based on the recommendation of TCC, the PSC will again evaluate the proposal before approval. In case of approval, a sanction order will be issued by NMEDT. The reimbursement of various components of expenditure will be as per the approved Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMEDT. The component of

expenditure(s) which is not available in the approved SoC shall be reimbursed to the maximum extent as provided in the "guidelines" issued vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/464 dated 24.10.2024 (Annexure A).

8. The reimbursement towards exploration costs will be considered only for the prospecting stage of the Composite License. The expenses incurred for any other activities as part of the exploration will not be considered for reimbursement.
9. The Composite Licence (CL) holder shall submit to NMEDT an Annual Work Plan detailing the proposed exploration activities, timelines, and estimated expenditure for the year.
10. The NMEDT 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 NMEDT during the inspection visit.
11. NMEDT will monitor the progress of the project work on its own/ by officers of the Central Government/ by any other entity engaged/ decided by NMEDT/ Ministry of Mines. The cost towards the logistics arrangements (TA/DA, hotel stay, etc.) for the inspection visit of the experts shall be borne by the NMEDT.
12. The CL holder shall make the exploration expenses for carrying out the exploration activities through a dedicated bank account and maintain duly audited books of accounts.
13. 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/ insurance surety bond (ISB)) of equal value of the advance to NMEDT. 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 a reimbursement basis against the bills submitted by the CL holder. The BG/ISB should remain valid for a period of 60 days beyond the date of completion of the project and acceptance of the geological report by NMEDT. The Bank guarantee will be released within 30 days after the settlement of mobilization advance.
14. The CL holder shall share geological and geophysical data/ results of the detailed exploration campaign along with a geological report with the Directorate of Geology and Mines of the respective State, Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) for National Mineral Inventory (NMI) and Geological Survey of India (GSI) for uploading the same in the NGDR for future reference or any other mechanism as specified by NMEDT from time to time.
15. Upon completion of prospecting operations, the CL holder shall submit the Geological Report (GR) to NMEDT within two months from the date of completion, and shall also submit an interim/progress report at the end of every six months.
16. 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.

17. The reimbursement shall be made in a maximum of six instalments. The amount reimbursed in each instalment will not be more than 50% of the expenditure incurred. The reimbursement shall be made on submission of half-yearly expenditure bills duly certified by a chartered accountant.
18. Since the reimbursed amount is repayable to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) within four years of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, reimbursement shall be released only upon submission of a Bank Guarantee (BG) issued by a scheduled commercial bank or an Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) of an amount equal to the reimbursement claimed. The Bank Guarantee (BG) or Insurance surety bond (ISB) must be drawn in favour of the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT), payable to the Pay & Accounts Office, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi.
19. The Composite Licence (CL) holder shall repay the reimbursed amount to the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) within four years of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals.
20. The bank guarantee or insurance surety bond shall remain valid for 5 years initially. If the validity of ISB/BG expires prior to full repayment to NMEDT, it is to be renewed at least 6 months prior to expiry, for the period till the amount is repaid to NMEDT. Failure to renew the bank guarantee or insurance surety bond in due time frame will lead to NMEDT encashing the Bank Guarantee/Insurance Surety Bond, without any notice.
21. The beneficiary holder of the CL shall submit an undertaking to repay the sanctioned amount to NMEDT. In case the holder of the composite licence (CL) fails to repay the amount reimbursed by NMEDT, the same will be recovered by NMEDT by encashing the Bank Guarantee/insurance bond, without any notice. A standard format of undertaking is attached as Annexure B.

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

1. Verification of the quantum of work carried out by the CL holder: The details of the work carried out by the CL holder during Geological mapping, sampling, Geophysical investigation, exploratory drilling, chemical/petrological analysis, mineral beneficiation studies and logistics, as per the sanction order issued by NMEDT, is to be submitted by the CL holder to the DDG of concerned State Unit of GSI for verification.
2. On submission of the claim by the CL holder, along with supporting documents, the verification process will be based on the quantum of work executed by the CL holder as per the sanction order. The bill verification will be completed by the concerned DDG of GSI within a reasonable period of time. In case of deficiency, clarification will be sought by the concerned DDG of GSI within 5 working days and/or return the claim to the CL holder under intimation to NMEDT and DG, GSI office.
3. While evaluating the project proposal, the Technical-cum-Cost Committee of

NMEDT will also evaluate the project components outside the SoC of NMEDT, such as research collaboration/ consultancy / advisory services; accordingly, payment will be made by NMEDT to the maximum extent as provided in the guidelines issued vide OM No. 6/3/2015-NMET/464 dated 24.10.2024 (Annexure A).

4. NMEDT shall maintain a register in respect of each Composite Licence (CL) holder containing the date of application under the NMEDT "Guidelines", date of issuance of Letter of Intent (LoI), date of grant of Composite Licence (CL), date of execution/signing of the Mining Lease, and the date of commencement of production and mineral dispatch.

5(a). To ensure the recovery of exploration expenses reimbursed by NMEDT to the CL holder, the sanction order to be issued by NMEDT will contain the clause that the CL holder shall pay back the amount released by NMEDT under the "Guidelines" within 04 years (in four equal annual instalments) of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals by the CL holder.

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

6. A copy of the sanction order will be endorsed to Mines-IV Section, the State DGM/DMG/CGM, the concerned State unit of GSI and IBM.

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

8. The Composite Licence (CL) holder shall intimate NMEDT about the execution/signing of the Mining Lease (ML) with the State Government and the date of commencement of production and mineral dispatch from the Mining Lease area.

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

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 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. 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

Annexure-3**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	
	Area/District	
	Pin Code	
	Contact Person	
	Designation	
	Mobile No.	
	E-mail	
	Bank Account Number	
	Names as per bank A/C	
	IFSC Code	
	Branch & Bank Detail	

	ITR Details (For the period of exploration)	
5	Details of 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

Annexure-4

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.
Objectives

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 enquired
Pitting/ Trenching	Pitting/trenching to expose mineralized zone	Refine: Systematic pitting and trenching at regular interval along each borehole profile for surface/ subsurface correlation, resource calculation and also to define the ore body in soil covered area
Scout drilling/ Systematic drilling Only Systematic drilling	Boreholes along the positive profiles delineated by surface sampling/pitting trenching.	Boreholes along the positive profiles delineated by surface sampling/pitting trenching
Grab and Chip Sampling	Systematic sampling of few representative samples	Refine sampling: Systematic Sampling
Petrographic and Mineragraphic studies	Rocks of the deposit (host rock for mineralisation), alterations connected with mineralisation, target mineral phases (ore and gangue metal/mineral), paragenesis, primary secondary zones	Petrographic character of rocks Including grain size, texture, controls of mineralisation etc.
Synthesis of all available Data	i) Integration of regional/ detailed geophysical, geological and geochemical data, if not done earlier. (should be given in soft copy in shape file)	i) Integration of detailed geophysical, geological and geochemical data, if not done

Not required in the quantum of work	ii) Synthesis of all available data and Report Writing	earlier. (should be given in soft copy in shape file) ii) Synthesis of all available data and report writing
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*** 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 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	
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.)
	Petrochemical Samples (PCS)	(in nos.)
	Ore Microscopy (OM)	(in nos.)
	EPMA/ SEM/ LAICPMS Studies	(in nos.)
	Mineral Beneficiation	(in kgs)
	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

UNDERTAKING BY COMPOSITE LICENCE (CL) HOLDER

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

I/We unconditionally hereby undertake that in the event the exploration carried out under the above-mentioned Composite Licence leads to the **execution/signing of a Mining Lease and commencement of production and dispatch of minerals**, we the composite license holder including out legal assigners/heirs shall **repay the amount reimbursed/released by NMEDT under the scheme.**

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

I/We further undertake that the **entire amount reimbursed by NMEDT shall be repaid within a period of four (04) years from the date of commencement of production and dispatch of minerals, in four (04) equal annual instalments**, in accordance with the provisions of the scheme and the directions issued by NMEDT/Ministry of Mines from time to time.

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

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

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

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

This undertaking shall be governed by the laws of India. Any disputes arising out of this undertaking shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts at New Delhi.

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

EXECUTANT (*Signature*) Name: _____

Aadhar No: _____

WITNESS 1: (*Signature*) Name: _____

Address: _____

WITNESS 2: (*Signature*) Name: _____

Address: _____

Seal of the Company

Date: _____

Place: _____