

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

F.No.23/560/2025-NMET/ 888

New Delhi, 24th February, 2025

Subject: Approval of mineral exploration project and release of 1st Advance from Grant-in-Aid (General) for the project "Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam".

Agency: - MECL

On the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 39th meeting held on 24th January, 2025 has approved mineral exploration project to be executed by MECL. The details of the block are given below:-

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (Including GST).
1	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam District:	REE and Associated Minerals	G-3	12 Months (up to 23.02.2026)	₹ 8,82,00,949/-

2. The mineral exploration project will be funded by NMET as per the cost recommended by the TCC and approved by the EC. The Implementing Agency shall complete the same as per the approved cost estimates and time schedule, enclosed in **Annexure**, as summarized below: -

•	Field Mobilization	1 st month (up to 23.03.2025).
•	Exploration (Sampling, Survey, Pitting/Trenching & Drilling, Camp winding)	2 nd to 11 th month (up to 23.01.2026).
•	Laboratory Studies	7 th month to 14 th month (up to 23.04.2026)
•	Report Writing with Peer Review and submission to NMET	13 th month to 15 th month (up to 23.05.2026)

3. The Implementing Agency shall submit progress on monthly basis to NMET Secretariat. The TCC, NMET shall review the progress of project and provide update to the Executive Committee.

4. Sanction is also hereby conveyed for release of the 1st instalment of 40% of the estimated project cost i.e. **₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only)** as an advance in terms of conditions stipulated in this office letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/176 dated 16th December 2021 and letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/217 dated 19th January 2022 regarding "Release of funds to State Government / NEAs for mineral exploration".

5. The expenditure will be debited to '2853' Non-Ferrous Mining and Metallurgical Industries (Major Head) 02-Regulation and Development of Mines (Sub-Major head) 102-Mineral Exploration (Minor Head) 05-National Mineral Exploration Trust Fund Activities (Sub-Head) 00- National Mineral Exploration Trust Fund Activities (Detailed-Head) 05.00. 31-Grant-in-aid (General) under Demand No. 69, Ministry of Mines during the financial year 2024-25.

6. Certified that the pattern of assistance, under which the Grants-in-Aid (General) has been sanctioned, has the prior approval of Ministry of Finance.

7. MECL is a registered agency on EAT module of PFMS. In terms of **Rule 230, 235, 236 and 238 of GFR**, MECL should maintain subsidiary accounts of the Government Grants and furnish the same to the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry. The account shall be open to inspection by the Sanctioning Authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and internal audit by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry of Mines, whenever the Organization is called upon to do so.

8. The exploration agency has to furnish the utilization certificate in respect of amount disbursed as Grant-in-aid for the project on utilization of disbursed amount or after completion of one year from the date of disbursement of advance, whichever is earlier. The next installment of advance will be released after submission of utilization certificate and progress report in respect of the 1st installment.

9. **The uploading of Geological Report (GR) on NGDR portal is sole responsibility of the exploration agency. The final payment will be made only after receiving the confirmation of the same. The screenshot/acknowledgement of successful uploading of GR is to be submitted to NMET with the final bill.**

10. Shri Arun Kumar Chail, Section Officer in the Ministry will be the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for this purpose. It is requested that the payment of **₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only)** may kindly be made to the Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur – 440006 through RTGS in State Bank of India, Industrial Finance Branch, Nagpur (IFSC Code – SBIN0000432, Account No. 10374783387)

11. This has concurrence of JS & FA, Mines vide Note# 14 dated 20.02.2025 (E file No. 3077532).

Yours faithfully,



(Geetika Sharma)

Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

To

**The Pay & Accounts Officer,
Pay & Accounts Office,
Ministry of Mines, New Delhi**

Copy for information and further necessary action:

1. The Chairman & Managing Director, Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd. (MECL), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur – 440006.
2. I.F. Division, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Executive Committee (EC) Meeting file (F.No.6/2/2015-NMET)
4. The Chairman, TCC, NMET.
5. Grant-in aid Sanction order file.

Annexure 3A								
Estimate cost for Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam Total Area - 4.80 sq km; Boreholes: 30 Nos, Average Depth: 30 m , 1080m drilling Completion Time -15 Months, Review after 8 Month								
S.N	Item of Work	Unit	Rates as per NMET SoC 2020-21			Estimated Cost of the Proposal		Remarks
			SoC-Item -Sl No.	Rates as per SoC	Rates as per SoC North Eastern States and Hilly Terrain of Himalaya (3.35 times than the normal SoC rate)	Qty.	Total Amount (Rs)	
A	GEOLOGICAL WORK							
a	Charges for Geologist at HQ for data processing	day	1.3	9,000	-	60	5,40,000	
b	Charges for Geologist at field for detail mapping at 1:4000 scale, Surface sampling, Pitting and Scout Drilling	day	1.2	11,000	36,850	180	66,33,000	Hilly Tearrain with Forest area
c	Labour Charges for Geologist at Field	day	5.7	526	1,762.10	360	6,34,356	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher

d	Charges for Sampler for BRS and BII Core Samples	one sampler per day	1.5.2	5,100	17,085.00	124	21,18,540	
e	Labour Charges for Sampling Work; Base rate - Rs. 526/ per day	day	5.7	526	1,762.10	496	8,74,002	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher
	Sub-Total A						1,07,99,898	
B	Topographical Surveying							
a	Charges for Surveyor for Topographical Survey by total Station	Day	1.6.1a	8,300	27,805	60	16,68,300	
b	Labour Charges (4 labour for one Surveyor)	Day	5.7	526	1,762.10	240	4,22,904	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher
c	Demarcation of Lease boundary and BH Fixation by DGPS	Per point of observation	1.6.2	19,200	64,320	36	23,15,520	6 Corner Points and 30 Nos of Boreholes
	Sub-Total B						44,06,724	
C	DRILLING							
1	Core Drilling up to depth of 300m - Hard Rock	m	2.2.1.4a	11,500	38,525	1,080	4,16,07,000	
2	Land / Crop Compensation (in case the BII falls in agricultural Land)	per BH	5.6	20,000	67,000	30	20,10,000	




3	Construction of concrete Pillar (12"x12"x30")	per borehole	2.2.7a	2,000	6,700	30	2,01,000	
4	Transportation of Drill Rig & Truck associated per drill	Km	2.2.8	36	NA	3,800	1,36,800	Approx 3800 km to & fro from Nagpur/ Rig
5	Monthly Accommodation Charges for drilling Camp (up to 2 Rigs)	month	2.2.9	50,000	1,67,500	5	8,37,500	
6	Drilling Camp Setting Cost	Nos	2.2.9a	2,50,000	8,37,500	1	8,37,500	
7	Drilling Camp Winding up Cost	Nos	2.2.9b	2,50,000	8,37,500	1	8,37,500	
8	Road Making (Hilly Terrain)	Km	2.2.10b	32,200	1,07,870	5	5,39,350	
9	Drill Core Preservation	Per m	5.3	1,590	5,326.50	375	19,97,438	
	Sub-Total C						4,90,04,088	
D	Sub Total A to C						6,42,10,709	
E	LABORATORY STUDIES							
1	Chemical Analysis							
	Primary Samples Surface + BH Core Samples							
i)	Primary samples							

	REE associated Trace Elements (34 Element) by ICPMS	Nos	4.1.14	7,731	880	68,03,280	Surface samples-50 BRS Bh Core Samples : 830 nos
ii)	External check samples (10%)						
	REE associated Trace Elements (34 Element) by ICPMS	Nos	4.1.14	7,731	88	6,80,328	
iii)	Ni and Cr by AAS method	Nos	4.1.7a	2,506	10	25,060	
iv)	PGE by ICP-MS Ni-S fire assay technique	Nos	4.1.5d	11,800	10	1,18,000	
2	<u>Physical & Petrological Studies</u>						
i)	Preparation of thin section	Nos	4.3.1	2,353	15	35,295	
ii)	Complete petrographic study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	15	63,480	
iii)	Preparation of polish section	Nos	4.3.2	1,549	15	23,235	
iv)	Complete mineralogical study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	15	63,480	
v)	Digital Photographs	Nos	4.3.7	280	20	5,600	
vi)	EPMA Study	Hour	4.4.1	8,540	15	1,28,100	
vii)	XRD Study	Nos	4.5.1	4,000	15	60,000	
	Sub-Total -E					80,05,858	
F	Total D+E					7,22,16,567	

I	Geological Report Preparation	5 Hard copies with a soft copy	5.2	For the projects having cost exceeding Rs 300 Lakh, A minimum of Rs 9 Lakh or 3% of the work whichever more and Rs 10000/- per each additional copy				20,00,000	EA has to submit the final Geological Report in Hard Copies (5 Nos) and the soft copy to NMET.
J	Peer review Charges		As per EC decision					30,000	
K	Preparation of Exploration Proposal (5 Hard copies with a soft copy)	5 Hard copies with a soft copy	5.1	2% of the Cost or Rs. 5.00 Lakhs whichever is lower				5,00,000	EA has to submit the Hard Copies and the soft copy of the final proposal along with Maps and Plan as suggested by the TCC-NMET in its meeting while clearing the proposal.
L	Total Estimated Cost without GST							7,47,46,567	
M	Provision for GST (18% of L)	%						1,34,54,382	GST will be reimburse as per actual and as per notified prescribed rate
N	Total Estimated Cost with GST							8,82,00,949	




or Say Rs. , In Lakhs:									
Note:									882.01
\$	Trenching/Pitting dimensions are tentative may vary depending upon the geology and field conditions								
	2nd level of work shall be carried out after review of 1st level work i.e. Geological mapping, geochemical sampling and analysis								
<i>Note - If any part of the project is outsourced, the amount will be reimbursed as per the Paragraph 3 of NMET SoC and Item no. 6 of NMET SoC. In case of execution of the project by NEA on its own, a Certificate regarding non outsourcing of any component/project is required.</i>									
Drilling and connected sampling is subjected to review of the project by TCC2									




Annexure 3B														
Time Schedule/Action Plan for Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Review					
1	Camp Setting													
2	Geological Mapping													
3	Topographic Survey/DGPS survey /BH Fixation													
4	Core Dilling													
5	Camp Winding													
6	Laboratory Studies													
7	Geologist Party days, HQ													
8	Geological Report Writing													
9	Peer Review													



7



Note # 1

Subject: Approval of mineral exploration project and release of 1st Advance from Grant-in-Aid (General) for the project "Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam".

On the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 39th meeting (Pg.no.164/c.sr.14) held on 24th January, 2025 approved mineral exploration project "Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam" to be executed by MECL at an estimated cost of ₹ 8,82,00,949/- (including GST) (Pg.145/c).

2. As per the office letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/176 dated 16th December 2021 (Pg.no.135/c) regarding "Release of funds to State Government/NEAs for mineral exploration" the 1st instalment of 40% of the approved project cost i.e. ₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only) is to be released.

3. The budget status under the head Grant-in-aid (General) for 2024-25 for making payment of first advance ₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only) in favour of MECL is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Budget allotted for 2024-25	Sanctioned till date	Expenditure in process for IFD sanction	Amount in instant proposal	Balance budget after the instant proposal	Available budget (%)
196.40	127.00	2.87	3.53	63.00	32.08%

The above-mentioned advance amount of ₹ 3.53 crore was not paid earlier to MECL in respect of "Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam."

4. In view of above, file may be forwarded, through Joint Secretary (Mines), to JS&FA for financial concurrence of ₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL.

5. DFA/ 3042492 sanction order is also placed for approval please.

10/02/2025 06:10 pm


Jayant Gupta
ASSISTANT COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Note # 2

11/02/2025 04:35 pm

Ravi Dutt
COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Note # 3

11/02/2025 04:55 pm


Jayant Gupta
ASSISTANT COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Note # 4

16/02/2025 10:19 am

GEETIKA SHARMA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Note # 5

May please concur.

17/02/2025 11:58 am

VIVEK KUMAR BAJPAI
JOINT SECRETARY

Note # 6

18/02/2025 01:52 pm

NIRUPAMA KOTRU
JS(FA)

Note # 7

18/02/2025 05:53 pm

आलोक कुमार | Alok Kumar
उप - सचिव | DEPUTY SECRETARY

Note # 8

19/02/2025 10:18 am

Thaneshwar Kumar
UNDER SECRETARY

Note # 9

19/02/2025 11:03 am

ASHOK KUMAR MEENA
SECTION OFFICERNote # 10

Integrated Finance Division

Ref: Note #1

NMET Section has sent a proposal with approval of J.S seeking concurrence of IFD forf ₹3,52,80,380/- (**₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only**) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL in connection with Project **""Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam"**.

2. They have informed that on the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 39th meeting (Pg.no.164/c.sr.14) held on 24th January, 2025 approved mineral exploration project "Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam" to be executed by MECL at an estimated cost of **₹ 8,82,00,949/- (including GST) (Pg.145/c)**. The expenditure will be met from Object Head " Grant-in-Aid General of NMET for FY 2024-25.

3. Since EC has approved the proposal and 1st installment has been proposed to be released as per guidelines of NMET, IFD may consider to concur the proposal of NMET Section for **₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only)** for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL in connection with Project **""Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam"**.

Category: FC

Submitted for kind consideration/concurrence please.

19/02/2025 12:02 pm

**Chaubay
CONSULTANT**

Note # 11

19/02/2025 01:14 pm

**ASHOK KUMAR MEENA
SECTION OFFICER**

Note # 12

Refer Note# 1 & 10 above.

The proposal submitted by NMET Section[with the approval of JS(VKB)] seeking financial concurrence for ₹3,52,80,380/- (₹ Three crore fifty two lakh eighty thousand three hundred eighty only) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL in connection with Project "Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for REE and Associated Minerals in Umprikhola Block, Kamrup District, Assam" from NMET's Object Head "Grant-in-aid (General)" for the financial year 2024-25, is submitted for kind consideration & concurrence(FC) of JS&FA(Mines) please.

19/02/2025 07:20 pm

**Thaneshwar Kumar
UNDER SECRETARY**

 Digitally Signed

Note # 13

20/02/2025 10:17 am

आलोक कुमार | **Alok Kumar**
उप - सचिव | **DEPUTY SECRETARY**

 Digitally Signed

Note # 14**20/02/2025 01:06 pm****NIRUPAMA KOTRU
JS(FA)**

Note # 15**20/02/2025 03:26 pm****आलोक कुमार|Alok Kumar
उप - सचिव|DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Note # 16**20/02/2025 05:04 pm****GEETIKA SHARMA
DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Note # 17**21/02/2025 01:41 pm****Jayant Gupta
ASSISTANT COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER**