

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, WESTERN  
ZONE BENCH, PUNE  
APPEAL NO. 167 (WZ) OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**VIJAY RAVALNATH GAONKAR & ANR.**

**...APPELLANT(S)**

**VERSUS**

**RAJARAM BANDEKAR (SIRIGAO) MINES PVT. LTD. & ORS.**

**..RESPONDENT(S)**

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Dated: 05.01. 2026

Place:

Filed by:  
**Respondent No. 2**

Through  
**(Counsel for Respondent No. 2)**

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE  
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REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (RESPONDENT NO. 2)

I, Suresh Kumar Adapa, currently working as Scientist "E" in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Bengaluru, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:-

1. It is most respectfully submitted that I am in my official capacity of in the Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change i.e. Respondent No. 2 in the above-mentioned matter, am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have read and understood the contents of the present Affidavit. The contents thereof are true and no part of it is false, and no material has been concealed therefrom.



  
**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office  
Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala  
Bengaluru - 560034

3. That without prejudice to the above and as an alternative submission, the deponent craves liberty to raise further required contentions during the course of the proceedings if sought by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
4. That, it is most respectfully submitted that, in the instant matter, the appellant has challenged the Environmental Clearance (EC) dated 09.09.2024, granted to Respondent No.1, Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Pvt. Ltd., by the Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The clearance pertains to the mining of iron ore (open-cast mining) with a capacity of 0.5 MTPA, in a mining lease area of 95.6712 hectares, located at Block No. III, Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block, at Sirigao and Mayem Villages of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District, Goa.
5. That, it is most respectfully submitted that, the appellants have prayed for the Environmental Clearance (EC) letter dated 09.09.2024 to be quashed and set aside.
6. It is respectfully submitted that Ministry has already filed its affidavit in this Appeal matter to Hon'ble Tribunal on 21.04.2025. However, the Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated 03.09.2025 has, *inter alia*, directed as follows:

*"We would also like Respondent No. 2 – MoEF&CC to clarify whether the project in question is a greenfield project and what constitutes the definition of a greenfield mining project."*

*A. Juvarkar (Cue)*



**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
 Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
 Integrated Regional Office  
 Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala  
 Bengaluru - 560034

7. It is submitted that as per Section 2 of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, all developmental projects, listed in the Schedule to the Notification require prior Environmental Clearance for establishment of new projects or for expansion of existing projects. The Section 2 (i) & (ii) provides as under:-

*2 (i): All new projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification;*

*2 (ii): Expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification .....*

However, the term Greenfield and Brownfield projects are not defined in EIA Notification, 2006.

8. It is respectfully submitted that the Ministry has, in this regard, released a Press Information Bureau (PIB) note titled as "Implementation of Green Field Projects" on 19.12.2011. The relevant extract of the PIB note is as follows:

*"The EIA Notification, 2006 provides that all developments projects, listed in the Schedule-I in the Notification require prior environmental clearance for establishment of new (Greenfield) project or for expansion (Brownfield) of existing projects."*

Further, Ministry has issued Office Memorandum dated 25.07.2025 and Circular dated 06.5.2022 wherein, the expression 'Greenfield' and 'Brownfield' has been used.



*A. Juresh (Am)*  
**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
 Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
 Integrated Regional Office  
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In other words, any new project applying for fresh EC is considered as “Greenfield” project and any expansion/modernization project is considered as “Brownfield” project.

A copy of PIB Note dated 19.12.2011, Ministry’s OM dated 25.07.2025 and Circular dated 06.05.2022 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-R2/1 (colly)**.

9. It is respectfully submitted that, Ministry has issued an Office Memorandum (OM) dated 31.03.2011 regarding consideration of projects for grant of Environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 which involve forest land. In the said OM under **para III Greenfield Projects**, following has been stated:

“ .....

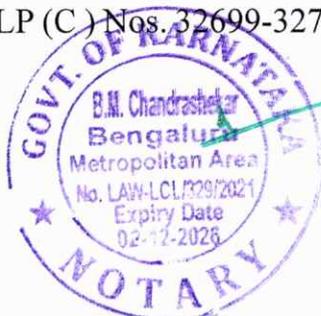
.....

.....

*(iii) All cases of grant /renewal of EC for any abandoned mine or sick project under revival etc. would be considered as green field project for appraisal under EIA Notification, 2006 and the procedure mentioned above will be followed.”*

Copy of Ministry's OM dated 31.03.2011 is annexed as Annexure-**R2/2**.

10. It is respectfully submitted that Hon’ble Supreme Court in the judgement dated 07.02.2018 in Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 32138 of 2015 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. & Ors. and the interlocutory matters SLP (C) Nos. 32699-32727 OF 2015, Writ Petition (C) No. 711 Of 2015



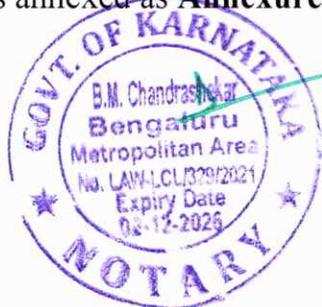
*A. Suresh Kumar*  
**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
 Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
 Integrated Regional Office  
 Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala  
 Bengaluru - 560034

and Writ Petition (C) No. 720 Of 2015 has inter-alia vide para 149 (6) directed the following: -

*“149 (6) The mining lease holders who have been granted the second renewal in violation of the decision and directions of this Court in Goa Foundation are given time to manage their affairs and may continue their mining operations till 15th March, 2018. However, they are directed to stop all mining operations with effect from 16th March, 2018 until fresh mining leases (not fresh renewals or other renewals) are granted and fresh environmental clearances are granted.”*

11. In compliance of the aforesaid order dated 07.02.2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Ministry cancelled the ECs granted to 88 mine leases in the State of Goa vide letter dated 23.04.2018, including the mine allotted to M/s Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Pvt. Ltd (respondent in the present application). Copy of Ministry's letter dated 23.04.2018 is annexed as **Annexure-R2/3**.

12. It is respectfully submitted that, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa vide letter dated 13.01.2023 issued Letter of Intent (LoI) with reference to e-auction dated 16.12.2022 for grant of a mining lease for Block III- Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block for Iron Ore mineral in Sirigao village, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District on 95.6712 hectare area in favour of M/s Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd. Subsequently, Project Proponent (M/s Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd. applied for Environmental Clearance and SEIAA Goa granted the EC on 09.09.2024. Copy of LoI dated 13.01.2023 is annexed as **Annexure-R2/4**.



*A. Suresh Kumar*  
**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
 Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
 Integrated Regional Office  
 Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala  
 Bengaluru - 560034

13. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the Section 2 (i) of EIA Notification, 2006, Ministry's Office Memorandum/circular as mentioned in the above paras 8 & 9, PIB Note dated 19.12.2011 and Ministry's letter dated 23.04.2018 cancelling the ECs of said mining leases in compliance of the Hon'ble SC order, this instant project has been treated as fresh EC project.

14. That in view of the aforementioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s)/directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.

*A. Suresh Kumar*  
05/01/26

**DEPONENT**

**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office  
Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala  
Bengaluru - 560034

**VERIFICATION:**

Verified at Bengaluru on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026 that the contents of this affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are true and correct, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.

**REGISTER NOTARY**  
SI No... 34 ..... Page 03  
Book No... 62 ..... Date 05/01/2026

*A. Suresh Kumar*  
05/01/26

**DEPONENT**

**Suresh Kumar Adapa**  
Scientist "E" / Additional Director (S)  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office  
Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala  
Bengaluru - 560034



**SWORN TO BEFORE ME**

*B.M.*  
**B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR**  
Advocate & Notary Public  
# 47, B.D.A. Complex, Koramangala  
BANGALORE - 560 034



F. No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]  
 Government of India  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 (Impact Assessment Division)

\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
 Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
 New Delhi-110003

Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

**CIRCULAR**

**Subject: Mechanism for handling ToR applications for issuing Standard Terms of Reference(ToRs) or referring to EAC/ SEAC through PARIVESH portal - reg.**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide S.O.996(E) dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015 amended the EIA Notification 2006 to *inter-alia* state that the Standard ToR developed by the Ministry and displayed on the website shall be the deemed approved ToR for the projects or activities listed in the Schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006, provided that the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) or State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) may finalise amendment, if found necessary for a project within thirty days of the acceptance of application. The Standard ToRs were developed to enable the Project Proponent to commence preparation of an Environment Impact Assessment Report after successful online submission and registration of the application.

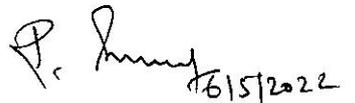
2. Subsequently, in order to expedite the process of granting Standard ToR in respect of expansion proposals and projects located within notified Industrial Estates, where there is no examination of alternative sites involved, the Ministry vide S.O. 751(E) dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 amended the EIA Notification 2006, to introduce the concept of issuance of an online Standard ToR after acceptance of the proposal by the Regulatory Authority, automatically through the web portal developed by the Ministry to the Project Proponent. Further the provisions of the Notification were amended to state that sector specific Standard ToR developed by the Ministry from time to time shall be displayed on its website. The above-said notification also provided that all new projects or activities other than those specified shall be referred to the EAC or SEAC by the Regulatory Authority, as the case may be, within 30 days from the date of application, for recommending the specific ToR in addition to the Standard ToR, deemed necessary.

3. Based on the experience gained in the past while implementing the above mentioned provisions of the EIA Notification 2006, the Standard ToRs, have been further updated to ensure environmental protection and have been placed on PARIVESH portal. Further, guidelines have also been developed in the form of a matrix for the projects where the online system generated ToR can be issued taking into account the environmental sensitivity involved in the project (Copy enclosed as Annexure).

4. Based on the above matrix, the mechanism for issuing online system generated Standard ToR as well as reference to EAC/SEAC has been enabled on the PARIVESH Portal, on the acceptance of the complete application online. The concerned Member Secretary of EAC/SEAC shall refer the project to the concerned EAC/SEAC for prescribing additional ToR within fifteen days, if deemed necessary, depending on environmental sensitivity involved in siting the project at proposed location or any other issues involved in the project.

5. In this regard, it is hereby directed that the Member Secretaries of the concerned EAC/SEAC shall scrutinize the applications as per the provisions mentioned above within seven days from the date of application for issuing online system generated Standard ToR and shall refer the application for grant of ToR to EAC/SEAC only as an exception depending upon the environmental sensitivity involved or as aforementioned guidelines mandate .

6. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Sundar Ramanathan)  
Scientist E

To,

1. The Chairman all the Expert Appraisal Committees
2. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. All the Officers of IA Division
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS(EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to AS(TK)
5. PPS to JS(SKB)
6. Website, MoEF&CC
7. Guard File

<b>Annexure to OM No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]</b>			
<b>Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR</b>			
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Project/Activity</b>	<b>Green Field</b>	<b>Brown Field</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mining, extraction of natural resources and power generation (for a specified production capacity)</b>		
1(a)	(i) Mining of minerals	No (Greenfield project requires examination in EAC only when river diversion within mine area, CPA/SPA, WL sanctuary, inappropriate siting criteria exists)	Yes
			No (Depending on the application, brown field project can be considered for standard TOR, if no area of project increases)
	(ii) Slurry pipelines (coal, lignite and other ores) passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs, ecologically sensitive areas.	Yes	Yes
1(b)	Off-shore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production	Yes	Yes
1(c)	(i) River Valley projects	No	No
	(ii) Irrigation projects	No	No
1(d)	Thermal Power Plants	No	No
1(e)	Nuclear power projects and processing of nuclear fuel	Yes	Yes
<b>2</b>	<b>Primary Processing</b>		
2(a)	Coal washeries	No	Yes
2 (b)	Mineral beneficiation	Yes	Yes

<b>Annexure to OM No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]</b>			
<b>Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR</b>			
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Project/Activity</b>	<b>Green Field</b>	<b>Brown Field</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials Production</b>		
3(a)	Metallurgical industries (ferrous & nonferrous)	Yes	Yes
3(b)	Cement plants	Yes	Yes
<b>4</b>	<b>Materials Processing</b>		
4(a)	Petroleum refining industry	Yes	Yes
4(b)	(i)Coke oven plants	Yes	Yes
	(ii) Coal tar processing units	Yes	Yes
4(c)	Asbestos milling and asbestos based products	Yes	Yes
4(d)	Chlor-alkali industry	Yes	Yes
4(e)	Soda ash Industry	Yes	Yes
4(f)	Skin/hide processing including tanning industry <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes
<b>5</b>	<b>Manufacturing/Fabrication</b>		
5(a)	Chemical fertilizers	Yes	Yes
5(b)	Pesticides industry and pesticide specific intermediates (excluding formulations)	Yes	Yes
5(c)	Petro-chemical complexes (industries based on processing of petroleum fractions & natural gas and/or reforming to aromatics)	Yes	Yes
5(d)	Manmade fibres manufacturing	Yes	Yes
5(e)	Petroleum products and petrochemical based processing such as production of carbon black and electrode grade graphite (processes other than cracking & reformation and not covered under the complexes) <sup>2</sup> .	Yes	Yes

<b>Annexure to OM No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]</b>			
<b>Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR</b>			
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Project/Activity</b>	<b>Green Field</b>	<b>Brown Field</b>
5(f)	Synthetic organic chemicals industry (dyes & dye intermediates; bulk drugs and intermediates excluding drug formulations; synthetic rubbers; basic organic chemicals, other synthetic organic chemicals and chemical intermediates)	Yes	Yes
5(g)	Distilleries	Yes	Yes
5(h)	Integrated paint industry	Yes	Yes
5(i)	Pulp & paper industry	Yes	Yes
5(j)	Sugar Industry	Yes	Yes
<b>6</b>	<b>Service Sectors</b>		
6(a)	Oil & gas transportation pipe line (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks /sanctuaries/coral reefs /ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal	Yes	Yes
<b>7</b>	<b>Physical Infrastructure including Environmental Services</b>		
7(a)	Air ports	Yes	Yes
7(b)	All ship breaking yards including ship breaking units	Yes	Yes
7(c)	Industrial estates/ parks/ complexes/ areas, export processing Zones (EPZs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Biotech Parks, Leather Complexes.	Yes	Yes
7(d)	Common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs)	Yes	Yes

<b>Annexure to OM No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]</b>			
<b>Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR</b>			
<b>S. No</b>	<b>Project/Activity</b>	<b>Green Field</b>	<b>Brown Field</b>
7(da)	Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities	Yes	Yes
7(e)	Ports, harbours, break waters, dredging	No	No
7(f)	Highways	No	Yes (Brownfield projects shall be placed before EAC for prescribing specific ToRs (in case of expansion projects) if the alignment crossing national parks/sanctuaries/CRZ/ecologically sensitive areas/violation etc)
7(h)	Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)	Yes	Yes
7(i)	Common Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (CMSWMF)	Yes	Yes
<b>8</b>	<b>Building or Construction projects or Area Development projects and Townships as well as for industrial sheds, educational institutions, hospitals and hostels for educational institutions</b>		
8(a)	Building and Construction projects	NA	NA
8(b)	Townships and Area Development Projects	Yes	Yes

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**F. No. IA-Z-11013/19/2025-IA-II(M) [E-258114]**  
 Government of India  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 (Impact Assessment Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
 Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
 New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Standard Terms of Reference (ToRs) for standalone Underground Coal Mining projects (green field and brown field) – regarding.**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) accords Environment Clearance (EC) to the Under Ground (UG) Coal Mining projects in accordance with the provisions contained under item 1(a) (i) to the schedule of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.

2. The Ministry is now in receipt of representation from stakeholders to bring out policy initiatives to promote UG Coal Mining projects. The matter has been examined and in this regard, Ministry has formulated standard ToRs to be followed while conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for standalone Under Ground (UG) Coal Mining projects (green field and brown field) in consultation with the sectoral EAC.

3. Accordingly, it is hereby directed that for preparation of EIA/EMP report, standard ToRs enclosed as Annexure to this OM shall be prescribed for the proposals involving standalone Under Ground Coal Mining (green field and brown field).

4. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

**Encl: as above.**

  
 (Sundar Ramanathan)  
 Scientist 'F'

To

1. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
2. The Chairman /Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs /SEACs
3. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs
4. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) of all ROs of MoEF&CC
5. All the Officers of I.A. Division

**Copy for information to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to the Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to the AS (NPG)/AS(VVY)/AS(AG)
5. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Gol
6. Website of MoEF&CC/ Guard file

ANNEXURESTANDARD TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR UG COAL MINING[GREEN FIELD & BROWN FIELD]

- i. An EIA-EMP Report shall be prepared for .....MTPA peak rated capacity in a mining lease (ML) area of .....ha based on the generic structure specified in Appendix-III of the EIA Notification, 2006.
- ii. The cover page of the EIA report shall consist of project title with location, applicable schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006, ToR letter No. with date, study period along with EIA consultant & laboratory details with reference of QCI/NABET/NABL accreditation certificate.

**Introduction about the project:**

- i. Details regarding project capacity (peak rated capacity in MTPA) and mining lease area (ha), details regarding project proponent and project location (including coalfield / coal block & geographical location), significance/need of the project and coal linkage.
- ii. Details of mine plan and mine closure plan approval from Competent Authority should be furnished for green field and expansion projects. Reference of the Vesting Order should also be provided.
- iii. Details of the chronology of past EC regarding the project and its implementation status (in case of expansion proposals) shall be provided

**Project Details and Description**

- i. Details w.r.t location of the project - Coordinates w.r.t the mining lease boundary (including kml in polygon format) to be provided and submitted as location plan. A toposheet depicting the core zone (mine infrastructural area) and buffer zone (10 kms radius from periphery of the core zone) on 1:25,000 scale. (including all eco-sensitive areas and environmentally sensitive places)
- ii. Details of sensitive environmental receptors (habitation / school / river or water body / forest / areas of archaeological significance, etc.) within 10 kms from the periphery of the core zone shall be provided. Details w.r.t need for diversion of water body / road / railway / transmission lines to be indicated.
- iii. Details of mineral reserves, geological status of the mining lease area and the seams to be worked, ultimate working depth, gassiness of seams to be worked and progressive stage-wise working scheme until the end of mine life should be provided on the basis of the approved peak rated capacity and calendar plans of production from the approved Mining Plan. Geological maps and section should be included.
- iv. Details of mining methods, technology, equipment to be used, etc., rationale for selection of specified technology and equipment proposed to be used vis-à-vis the potential impacts on air quality, noise & vibration on account of mineral transportation, coal handling & storage/stockyard, etc. should be provided. Details w.r.t manpower engaged in the project shall also be included.
- v. Submission of sample test analysis of characteristics of coal: This should include details on grade of coal and other characteristics such as ash content, sulphur and heavy metals including levels of Hg, As, Pb and Cr.
- vi. Details w.r.t utilities required for the project including power, fuel, water supply, including source of the utilities.

- vii. Details w.r.t infrastructural facilities planned as a part of the project including incline, ventilation shafts, CHP, ETP, Stockyard, township/colony, magazine, etc.
- viii. Project proponent should clearly show the transport route & details of transportation route (*viz.* Type of road, width of road, Pavement Condition Index, V/C of road etc.) of the mineral and protection and mitigative measures to be adopted while transporting the mineral. The coal or lignite evacuation facility should be through conveyor or railway or any environmentally friendly transport other than road transport from mine sites to the railway siding for projects with PRC more than 2 MTPA, as per new Guidelines for preparation of Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan from MoC dated 31.01.2025. Also, preference to be given to eliminate road transport by adopting environment friendly transport of coal evacuation and opt for mechanized loading for projects with peak rated capacity even upto 2 MTPA.
- ix. A detailed site plan of the mine showing the proposed break-up of the land for mining operations such as the mine entries / incline, UG seams and panels, green belt, safety zone, buildings, infrastructure, CHP, ETP, Stockyard, township/colony (within and adjacent to the ML), undisturbed area-if any, and landscape features such as existing roads, drains/natural water bodies to be left undisturbed along with any natural drainage adjoining the lease /project areas, and modification thereof in terms of construction of embankments/bunds, proposed diversion/re-channeling of the water courses, etc., approach roads, *etc.* should be indicated.
- x. Project proponent shall submit the drone video & geo-tagged photographs of mine lease area to be mined, including infrastructural area and proposed transportation route.
- xi. It must be endeavored to locate the mine inclines and ventilation shafts at least 100 m from habitations. In case such 100 m buffer is not possible, justification for the same shall be provided. Project proponent should ensure that no forestland is diverted to the extent feasible for setting up of the mine infrastructure facilities.
- xii. Original land use (agricultural land/ forestland (*if applicable*) /grazing land/wasteland /water bodies) of the area should be provided as per the tables given below. Impacts of project, if any on the land use, in particular, agricultural land/forestland/grazing land/water bodies falling within the mining lease area, acquired for mining operations should be analyzed. Extent of area under surface rights and mining rights should be specified. A map depicting the same shall also be submitted.

#### Pre-Mining Land use

Sl. No.	ML/Project Land-use	Area under Surface Rights only (ha)	Area under Mining Rights (ha)	Area under Both / All Rights (ha)
1.	Agricultural Land			
2.	Forest Land			
3.	Grazing Land			
4.	Settlements			
5.	Water bodies			
5.	Others(specify)			
	TOTAL			

#### Break-up of Area under Surface Rights only

Sl. No.	Details	Area (ha) under Surface Rights only
---------	---------	-------------------------------------

1.	Buildings	
2.	Infrastructure	
3.	Roads	
4.	Water bodies	
4.	Others(specify)	
	TOTAL	

### Land Use during Mining Phase

Sl. No.	Details	Area under Surface Rights only (ha)			Area under Mining Rights [beneath surface] (ha)			Area under Both /All Rights (ha)		
		Forest Land	Non-forest land	Total	Forest Land	Non-forest land	Total	Forest Land	Non-forest land	Total
1	UG Extraction / Working area (beneath surface)									
2	Industrial Infrastructure (Mine entry / incline, stockyard / siding / magazine, etc.)									
3	Other infrastructure (office buildings, utilities, treatment plants, colony etc.)									
4	Roads									
5	Greenbelt									
6	Water body									
7	Undisturbed/vacant area / safety zone									
	<b>TOTAL</b>									

In case of expansion proposals, the above table must be provided for

- (1) Present land use as per existing EC and
- (2) Proposed land use in terms of expansion proposal

Lan

### Land Use Status - Post Mining Phase

Sl. No.	Details	Plantation	Water Body	Public Infrastructure	Un-disturbed areas	Subsided Area	Total
1	UG Extraction / Working area (beneath surface)						
2	Industrial Infrastructure (Mine entry / incline,						

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	stockyard / siding / magazine, etc.)						
3	Other infrastructure (office buildings, utilities, treatment plants, colony etc.)						
4	Roads						
5	Greenbelt						
6	Water body						
7	Undisturbed / vacant area / safety zone						
	<b>TOTAL</b>						

In case of expansion proposals, the above table must be provided for

- (1) Post mining land use as per existing EC and
- (2) Proposed post mining land use in terms of expansion proposal

- xiii. A list of major industries within study area (10 km radius from the periphery of the core zone) with name, products manufactured and distance from core zone and the location of the industries shall be depicted in the study area map.

#### Baseline Data Generation

- i. A study area map of the core zone (mine infrastructure area) and 10 kms area (1:50,000 scale), from the periphery of core zone, clearly delineating the major topographical features such as the land use, surface drainage pattern including rivers/streams/nallahs/canals, locations of human habitations, major constructions including railways, roads, pipelines, major industries/mines and other polluting sources shall be prepared.
- ii. In case of ecologically sensitive areas such as ESZ/ESA/National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/Tiger Reserve/Elephant Reserve/Tiger Corridor/ Elephant Corridor are found to be within 10 kms from the boundary of the mining lease, the nearest distance from such sites should be duly certified by Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) and the same shall be included in the EIA/EMP report.
- iii. The environmental baseline data collection shall be of three months' period and can be for any season except monsoon season, as per the below table:

Attributes	Sampling, Frequency and Remarks
<b>A. Air Environment</b>	

<p><b>Micro-Meteorological</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind speed (Hourly)</li> <li>• Wind direction</li> <li>• Dry bulb temperature</li> <li>• Wet bulb temperature</li> <li>• Relative humidity</li> <li>• Rainfall</li> <li>• Solar radiation</li> <li>• Cloud cover</li> </ul>	<p>Minimum 1 site in the core zone Hourly continuous data shall be recorded The sampling shall be as per:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IS 5182 Part 1-20</li> <li>• Site specific primary data is essential</li> <li>• Secondary data from IMD, CPCB guidelines to be considered.</li> </ul> <p>Project proponent has to plot the wind rose diagram using the typical meteorological year (TMY) data for the period considered for the study.</p>
<p><b>Pollutants</b> Core Zone: 4 parameters as per Coal Mines, GSR 742 (E) dated 25.09.2000 Buffer zone: 12 parameters as per NAAQS, 2009</p>	<p>Collection of one season (90 days) AAQ data (except in monsoon season) To be monitored at 10 locations (2 locations within the core zone and 8 locations in the buffer zone) Monitoring stations in the core zone as well as buffer zone should be based on pre-dominant wind direction, habitations and terrain features. The direction and distance of monitoring stations with respect to project location should be clearly specified with geo-coordinates. The monitoring stations should cover upwind, downwind, cross wind directions, human settlements and sensitive areas. Sampling and report preparation should be as per:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Ambient Air Quality Standards, CPCB Notification and Standards for Coal Mines, GSR 742 (E) dated 25.09.2000.</li> <li>• Sampling as per CPCB guidelines</li> <li>• Min., max., average and 98% values for each of the AAQ parameters from data of all AAQ stations should be provided as an annexure to the EIA Report.</li> <li>• Summary of the air quality along with predicted values of air pollutants should be provided in the EIA Report.</li> <li>• NABL accredited laboratory</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Noise</b></p>	
<p>Noise levels</p>	<p>To be monitored at 6 locations (2 locations within the core zone and 4 locations in the buffer zone) Noise levels at outer limits of the core zone during daytime and night time and noise levels within 1 to 3 kms from the core zone &amp; coal transportation route especially at habitation should be monitored. The monitoring locations for sampling shall be selected as per the sources and magnitude of noise pollution. Sampling and report preparation as per:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per CPCB norms and Standards for Coal Mines, GSR 742 ( E ) dtd 25.09.2000.</li> <li>NABL accredited laboratory</li> <li>Summary of the noise level should be provided in the EIA Report.</li> </ul>
<b>C. Water</b>	
<b>For Surface Water</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arsenic</li> <li>BOD</li> <li>Cadmium</li> <li>Chlorides</li> <li>Copper</li> <li>Dissolved Oxygen</li> <li>Fluoride</li> <li>Hexavalent Chromium,</li> <li>Iron</li> <li>Lead</li> <li>Nitrate</li> <li>pH value</li> <li>Phenolic compounds</li> <li>Selenium</li> <li>Sulphate</li> <li>Total Dissolved Solids</li> <li>Total Suspended Solids</li> <li>Zinc</li> </ul> <p>Any other relevant parameters</p>	<p>Upstream and downstream sampling of all the relevant surface water bodies (minimum 6 locations) in the core and buffer zone shall be carried out. Samples for water quality should be collected and analysed as per:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated best use water quality criteria, CPCB</li> <li>NABL accredited laboratory</li> <li>Standard methodology for collection of surface water (BIS standards)</li> </ul>
<b>For Ground Water</b> Relevant parameters as per BIS: 10500 (latest edition)	<p>Ground water monitoring data should be collected at minimum of 6 locations (from existing wells /tube wells) from the core and buffer zone shall be included. Samples for water quality should be collected and analysed as per:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NABL accredited laboratory</li> <li>Standard methodology for collection of ground water (BIS standards)</li> <li>Summary of surface and ground water quality should be provided in the EIA Report.</li> </ul>
<b>D. Soil Environment</b>	
<b>Soil</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texture</li> <li>pH</li> <li>Electrical conductivity</li> <li>Cation exchange capacity</li> </ul>	<p>Sampling shall be done at various type of soils (agriculture/forest/barren etc.) within the core and buffer zone (across minimum 5 locations). Samples for soil should be collected and analysed as per:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NABL accredited laboratory</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sodium Absorption Ratio (SAR)</li> <li>• Water holding capacity</li> <li>• Permeability</li> <li>• Available NPK</li> <li>• Available Organic Carbon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard methodology for collection of soil samples</li> <li>• ICAR standards for available NPK to be followed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>E. Land Use</b></p>	<p>Land use based on Digital Survey of entire study area (including core and buffer zone) using Satellite Remote Sensing survey (1:50000)</p>
<p><b>F. Biological Environment</b></p>	
<p><b>Flora</b> (both aquatic* and terrestrial)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation-species list, economic importance, forest produce, medicinal value</li> <li>• Importance value index (IVI) of trees</li> <li>• Diversity indices</li> <li>• Rare and endangered species</li> </ul> <p>*Aquatic assessment requirement in case of proximity of ML area to river / perennial nallah.</p>	<p>Detailed description of flora and fauna (terrestrial and aquatic) existing in the core and buffer zone shall be given with special reference to rare, endemic and endangered species. Indicator species which indicate ecological and environment degradation should be identified and included to clearly state whether the proposed project would result into any adverse effect on any species. Secondary data to be collected from Government offices, NGOs, published literature.</p>
<p><b>Fauna</b> (both aquatic* and terrestrial)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enumeration of zoo plankton and benthos</li> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Diversity indices</li> <li>• Rare and endangered species</li> <li>• Avi fauna</li> <li>• Details of Sanctuaries / National Park /</li> <li>• Biosphere reserve Migratory routes/CRZ/ Marine Parks</li> </ul> <p>*Aquatic assessment requirement in case of proximity of ML area to river / perennial nallah.</p>	
<p><b>G. Socio-Economic</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographic structure, traditional skills, sources of livelihood</li> <li>• Socio-economic profile of the people with in 2, 5 and 10 km from the core zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures for occupational health and safety of the manpower in the mine should be given.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human settlement, health status, sources of livelihood</li> <li>• Data relating to historically, culturally and ecologically important places in core as well as buffer areas</li> <li>• Information on notified tribal settlements, if any</li> <li>• Infrastructure resource base</li> <li>• Health status: Morbidity pattern</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic survey shall be based on proportionate, stratified and random sampling method.</li> <li>• Primary data collection through questionnaire</li> <li>• Secondary data from census records, statistical hard books, topo sheets, health records and relevant official records available with Govt. Agencies</li> </ul>
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- iv. Map (1:50,000 scale) of the study area (core and buffer zone) showing the location of various sampling stations superimposed with location of habitats, other industries/mines, polluting sources, should be provided.
- v. A contour map showing the area drainage of the core zone and surrounding 10 kms radius should be depicted such as to clearly indicate the water courses and the location where they ultimately join with major rivers / streams.
- vi. The data generated should be validated through secondary data sources / published literature (example - routine environmental monitoring or CAAQMS, CEQMS data (if available) for mines/projects in vicinity).
- vii. Summary of the baseline environmental data and inference w.r.t cause of deviations in concentrations of environmental parameters.

### Impact assessment and mitigation measures

#### Air

- i. In case of expansion proposals, Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment study of all the existing and proposed projects in the 10 kms radius of the core zone area shall be conducted and the same shall be included in the EIA/EMP report. Details of industrial units present in 10 kms radius of the core zone shall be earmarked in map and submitted.
- ii. The impact of construction (particularly if constructed in forest land) and associated mitigation measures must also be provided.
- iii. In case of proximity of mining infrastructure to habitation/water bodies, adequate safety measures should be provided as per the Coal Mining Regulations, 2017 and DGMS circulars issued from time to time and environmental protection measures like wind barriers, Vertical Greenery System (VGS), avenue/buffer plantation, etc.
- iv. Impacts of mineral handling & transportation within the mining area and outside the lease/project along with flow-chart indicating the specific areas generating fugitive emissions should be provided, especially w.r.t impact on habitation in case of transportation through village roads. Impacts of generation of effluents from workshop, sewage, etc. & management plan for maintenance of machinery/equipment should be given. Details of various facilities such as rest areas and canteen for workers and effluents/pollution load emanating from these activities should also be provided.
- v. Air quality modelling should be carried out for prediction of impact of the project on air quality of the area. It should *inter alia* take into account the emissions from DG sets if any, impact of movement of vehicles for transportation of coal. The details of the

model used and input parameters for modeling should be provided. The air quality contours may be shown on a location map clearly indicating the location of the site, location of sensitive receptors, if any, and habitations. The wind roses showing predominant wind direction may also be indicated on the map.

- vi. The number and efficiency of mobile/static water sprinkling system along the main mineral transportation road inside the mine, approach roads to the mine/stockyard/siding should be provided and details w.r.t frequency of their use/operation to ensure efficient mitigation in terms of air quality should be provided.
- vii. Impacts of CHP, if any on air and water quality should be given. A flow chart showing water balance along with the details of zero discharge should be provided.
- viii. Project proponent shall explore feasibility for transitioning towards adoption of EVs and eco-friendly mode of transport.

### **Noise**

- i. Measures for noise control in the work zone and surrounding areas should be provided. All the DG sets should have proper acoustic measures to reduce noise pollution.

### **Water**

- i. Impact of mining and water abstraction from the mine on the hydrogeology and groundwater regime (both dynamic and static resources) within the core zone and 10 kms buffer zone including long-term monitoring measures should be provided. Details of rainwater harvesting and measures for recharge of groundwater in the buffer zone should be reflected. Necessary mitigation measures w.r.t quality of mine water, treatment, utilization and discharge of mine water must be provided.
- ii. Treatment facility should be based on mine water characteristics and domestic waste water characteristics.

### **Hydrogeology**

- i. Impact of proposed project/activity on hydrological regime of the area shall be assessed and report be submitted. Hydrological studies as per GEC 2015 guidelines to be prepared and submitted.
- ii. Detailed water balance should be provided (breakup of water requirement as per different activities in the mining operations, including for sand stowing). Source of water for use in mine, sanction of the Competent Authority in the State Govt. and impacts vis-à-vis the competing users should be provided.
- iii. In case of need for river/nallah diversion, impact assessment and proper mitigation plan is required; diversion plan approved by competent authority is to be submitted.

### **Land**

- i. Conceptual Final Mine Closure Plan and post mining land use and restoration of land/habitat to the pre-mining status to the extent possible should be provided and submitted with detailed cost provisions.
- ii. The details regarding Progressive Mine Development and Conceptual Final Mine Closure Plan should also be provided and shown in plans/drawings.
- iii. The project proponent shall prepare comprehensive plantation plan including number of saplings to be planted, location of plantation, target for survival rate and budget all along the periphery of mine infrastructure. Plantation plan should be prepared in such

a way that 80% of the plantation to be carried out in first 5 years and for the remaining years the proposal for gap filling should be provided. The seedling of height not less than 2 meters to be selected and accordingly cost of plantation needs to be decided. The plantation plan should cover areas other than core zone.

- iv. Project proponent is advised to submit an action plan towards implementation of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign which was launched on 5th June 2024 on the occasion of the World Environment Day to increase the forest cover across the Country. This plantation drive is other than green belt development. The action in this regard shall be submitted concerned RO in six monthly report.

### Flora & Fauna

- i. If the study area (core and buffer zone) has endangered flora and fauna, or if the area is occasionally visited or used as a habitat by Schedule-I species, or if the project falls within 10 kms of an ecologically sensitive area, or used as a migratory corridor then a Comprehensive Conservation Plan along with the appropriate budgetary provision should be prepared and submitted with EIA-EMP Report; and comments/observation from the CWLW of the State Govt. should also be obtained and furnished.

### Waste Management

- i. Quantification of solid and hazardous wastes, including corresponding impacts and management plan to be provided.
- ii. Project proponent shall submit the action plan to adhere to the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 and to adhere Ministry's OM dated 18/07/2022.

### Additional studies

- i. Risk assessment and management as per the Coal Mining Regulations, 2017 and other applicable statutes must be summarized in the EIA/EMP report. Measures for addressing occupational health and safety risks of the personnel and manpower engaged in the mine should be submitted in line with work zone regulations. The risk assessment studies must be undertaken by qualified institutes engaged in mine planning projects and the detailed report may be attached as annexure to the EIA/EMP report. These studies may be aligned with DGMS norms.
- ii. Study on subsidence including modelling for prediction, mitigation/prevention of subsidence, continuous monitoring measures, and safety issues should be carried out from reputed institutes equipped for the same. The subsidence study should *interalia* include seismic characteristics of the location of the project site. Summary of the same along with the mitigation measures should be included in the EIA/EMP report and detailed report should be attached as Annexure.
- iii. Traffic assessment study to be done considering transportation of coal from the coal stockyard either upto siding or upto nearest public transport route/highway. Adequacy of existing roads, impact due to additional traffic and proposed management / mitigation measures to be provided.
- iv. In case of diversion of power line / transmission lines / railway line / roads – the impact assessment of such diversions and corresponding mitigation proposed in line with the permissions/NoC obtained from the competent Authority shall be provided.
- v. Assessment of carbon emission intensity of the project should be summarized in the EIA/EMP report including measures to reduce the same in line with GoI NDC

commitments / SDGs should be provided. The detailed report may be attached as an annexure to the EIA/EMP report.

- vi. Details w.r.t R&R plan should be summarized in the EIA/EMP report. Detailed project specific R&R Plan with data on the existing socio- economic status of the population (including tribals, SC/ST, BPL families) found in the study area and broad plan for resettlement of the displaced population, site for the resettlement colony, alternate livelihood concerns/employment for the displaced people, civic and housing amenities being offered, etc. and costs along with the schedule of the implementation of the R&R Plan should be given as annexure to the EIA/EMP report.
- vii. In case the project is located either in Critically Polluted Area or in Severely Polluted Area, the proponent must submit additional action plan to address environmental safeguards as per OM dated 31st October, 2019 (Ref. F. No. 22-23/2018-IA.III (Pt)).
- viii. Signed copy of complete Public Hearing Proceedings (forwarding letter to MoEFCC by SPCB, notice issued in newspaper for PH, PH MoM, Attendance sheet, PH photographs, written representations received during public hearing and written communication submitted, notarized copy of English translation of PH proceeding including written representation and response submitted) to be enclosed as Annexures to the EIA/EMP report.
- ix. Action plan duly addressing the issues raised during the Public Hearing and Consultation with physical and financial outlay as per Ministry's OM dated 30.09.2020 shall be included as per the table given below:

Proposed Activities under Public Hearing	Place of Implementation (Physical targets)	Year wise financial outlay in, Rs. Lakhs					
		Year - 1	Year - 2	Year - 3	Year - 4	Year - 5	Total

### Environmental Management Plan

- i. Summary containing mitigation measures to be adopted for each environment component during development and operation phase of UG coal mining shall be submitted.
- ii. Details of the Environment Management Cell
- iii. Performance monitoring of pollution control devices and Effluent Treatment Plant shall be furnished.
- iv. Cost of Environmental Management Plan (capital and recurring) should be included in the project cost and for progressive and final mine closure plan.
- v. Corporate Environment Policy:
  - a. The Company must have a well laid down Environment Policy approved by the Board of Directors.
  - b. The Environment Policy must prescribe for standard operating process/procedures to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental or forest norms/conditions.
  - c. The hierarchical system or Administrative Order of the company to deal with environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the environmental clearance conditions must be furnished.
  - d. To have proper checks and balances, the company should have a well laid down system of reporting of non-compliances/violations of environmental norms to

the Board of Directors of the company and/or shareholders or stakeholders at large.

- vi. In built mechanism of self-monitoring of compliance of environmental regulations should be indicated.

### Environmental Monitoring Plan

- i. Details w.r.t environmental monitoring plan in terms of air (including fugitive emissions), noise, water, soil to ensure effectiveness of mitigation measures deployed shall be provided
- ii. Total capital cost and recurring cost/annum for environmental pollution control measures shall be included.

### Project Benefits

- i. Details regarding benefits of the project w.r.t improvements in physical and social infrastructure, employment potential and other tangible benefits to be provided.

### Legal and statutory approvals and details w.r.t litigations

- i. Status of any litigations/ court cases filed/pending on the project should be provided in below format

S. No.	Name of the Court/Tribunal	Name of the specific Court/Bench	Case Category	Status of court case	Orders/Directions of the court, if any, and its relevance with the proposed project

- ii. Copy of clearances/approvals such as Forestry Clearance, Mining Plan / Mine Closure Plan approval, NOC from CGWA, NOC from Flood and Irrigation Dept. (if req.), NBWL, NTCA, etc. wherever applicable.
- iii. Details on the Forestry Clearance (*if forest land is involved*) should be given as per the format given:

Total ML /Project Area (ha)	Total Forest Land (ha)	Status w.r.t FC received		Status w.r.t balance Forest Land	
		Date of FC	Extent Of Forest Land	Balance area For which FC is yet to be obtained	Status of appl. For diversion of forest land

- iv. In case of expansion proposals, Certified Compliance Report (CCR) from RO, MoEF&CC is required to be submitted.
- v. Necessary coordination shall be made with concerned SPCB (who is responsible for Compliance of OM dated 14.01.2025) regarding streamlining the implementation of

GSR 702 and GSR 703 dated 12.11.2024 through which projects requiring prior EC were exempted from requirement of CTE.

- vi. In case of diversion of water body / road / railway lines / transmission line, approval for the same from competent authority must be submitted.

#### **Summary and conclusion**

- i. An executive summary of the report covering key findings of EIA/EMP study are to be provided.

#### **Details regarding consultant and laboratories engaged**

- i. It should be ensured that only NABET-accredited consultants shall be engaged for the preparation of EIA/EMP Reports. PP shall ensure that the accreditation of the consultant is valid during the collection of baseline data, preparation of EIA/EMP report and the appraisal process. The PP and consultant should submit an undertaking the information and data provided in the EIA Report and submitted to the Ministry are factually correct and the PP and consultant are fully accountable for the same.
- ii. Project proponent shall submit the EIA/EMP report after the plagiarism check using authenticated plagiarism software.

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**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

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19-December-2011 16:35 IST

**Implementation of Green Field Projects**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 provides that all developmental projects, listed in the Schedule-1 to the Notification require prior environmental clearance for establishment of new (Greenfield) projects or for expansion (Brownfield) of existing projects. For those projects involving forestland, prior approval for diversion of forestland is required; vide provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

A total of 3138 projects in the sectors of Thermal Power, Hydropower including Irrigation, Mining, Industry and Building & Construction has been granted environmental clearance during the past three years and the current year. This includes 141 projects of the above sectors from the State of Karnataka. A total of 2034 projects have been approved for diversion of forestland covering the sectors of Thermal and Hydropower including Irrigation, Mining and Road infrastructure. This includes 22 cases from the State of Karnataka.

The steps taken by the Government for expedition of the process leading to grant of environmental and forestry clearance to Greenfield and Brownfield projects include the following:

- i. Regular meetings of the Expert Appraisal Committee constituted for the appraisal of projects covering the various sectors for environmental clearance and of the Forest Advisory Committee for forestry clearance.
- ii. Regular updation of status of projects for environmental clearance on the Ministry's website for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- iii. Sector specific Manuals have been prepared and uploaded on the Ministry website to facilitate better preparation of EIA-EMP Reports by the project proponents.
- iv. A number of Circulars on the EIA Notification 2006 and the process for obtaining environmental clearance have also been uploaded on the MOEF website to facilitate the project proponents in preparation of EIA-EMP reports with all relevant information.

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests (independent charge) Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan gave this information in a written reply to a question by Shri Dhruva Narayana in Lok Sabha today.

KP

No. J-11015/200/2008-IA.II(M)  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment & Forests**

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Dated the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011

**Office Memorandum**

**Sub: Consideration of projects for grant of environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 which involve forestland – Procedure to be followed – Regarding.**

**Ref: Office Memorandum no. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009 regarding Procedure for consideration of proposals for grant of environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006, which involve forestland and or wildlife habitat.**

The issue regarding consideration of proposals especially mining project for grant of environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006, which also involve diversion of forestland has been under consideration for quite some time and circulars / guidelines have been issued in the past in this regard from time to time. In this regard, reference is also invited to para 8 (v) of the EIA Notification, 2006 reads as follows:

“Clearances from other regulatory bodies or authorities shall not be required prior to receipt of applications for prior environmental clearance of projects or activities, or screening, or scoping, or appraisal, or decision by the regulatory authority concerned, unless any of these is sequentially dependent on such clearance either due to a requirement of law, or for necessary technical reasons.”

According to the above provision, the environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 is independent of other clearances and submission of clearances under other relevant Acts and Rules as may be applicable to a project is not a pre-requisite for obtaining environmental clearance except in specific cases where it is sequentially dependent on such clearance either due to requirement of law or for necessary technical reason. This aspect was earlier discussed and deliberated and the office memorandum dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009 referred to above was an outcome of the same.

However, in view of the complexity of the issues involved, the matter has been considered further in the Ministry and in supersession of the earlier instructions, it has now been decided to adopt the following procedure for consideration of such projects.

**I. Projects in Pipeline:**

**(A) Projects received for TORs and yet to be considered by EAC:**

In case of the proposals which have been received for prescribing TORs and involve forestland, in part or in full, and are yet to be considered by the EAC, during consideration of such proposals, clarifications will be obtained from the project proponent regarding feasibility of undertaking the project only in non forestland. In case, the project proponent confirms to undertake the project in non forest area only, the proponent may be advised to submit the revised proposal by deleting the forestland involved in the project. In case, it is not possible to undertake the project without involving diversion of forestland, the project proponent will be asked to first apply for stage-I forestry clearance for the forestland involved in the project and thereafter submit the proposal for obtaining terms of reference as per the procedure prescribed under EIA Notification, 2006.

**(B) Projects for which TORs have already been prescribed but the proposal for environmental clearance is yet to be submitted:**

In case of the proposals, which involve forestland, in part or in full, and for which TORs have already been prescribed, the project proponents are advised to ensure that the requisite stage-I forestry clearance has been granted and its copy is submitted along with their application / proposal for environment clearance. Alternatively, the proponent should delete from their land requirement, the forestland involved in the project and the proposal so amended without any forestland may be submitted for appraisal by the EAC.

In case of projects where forest diversion (Stage I Clearance) has been approved for part of the total forestland involved in the project, the proposal will be considered only for the land for which forest diversion has been approved and the non forestland, if any. For the purpose, the onus of demonstrating that the project activities will be limited to that much area only would lie with the project proponent and necessary supporting documents will be submitted in this regard.

**(C) Projects submitted for environmental clearance based on the TORs prescribed by EAC:**

The proposals already submitted for environmental clearance will be appraised by the EAC on their merit and in case of involvement of forestland, the proponent will be asked either to delete the forestland and submit the revised proposal or approach the EAC after the stage-I forestry clearance for

the forestland involved in the project has been granted, till which time the proposal will stand delisted.

In case of projects for which diversion of forestland has been granted for part of the forestland, the proposal will be appraised taking into account that much of land only (land for which FC granted + Non forestland) for the project activities and the proponent should demonstrate the viability of the project with requisite supporting documents.

**(D) Projects already considered by EAC and recommended for grant of environmental clearance:**

In accordance with the recommendations of EAC, such projects will be processed on file for obtaining approval of the MEF for grant of environment clearance. After MEF has approved, a communication will be sent to the project proponent informing that the Competent Authority has approved the project; however, the formal environmental clearance will be issued only after the stage-I forestry clearance for the forestland involved in the project has been obtained and submitted. For the purpose, a maximum time limit of one year will be provided to the proponent during which time the proposal will be kept in abeyance. In case, the formal forestry clearance is not submitted within this time frame, the proposal will stand rejected and the process for obtaining environmental clearance will have to be initiated, de-novo, as per the procedure prescribed under EIA Notification, 2006.

**II. Expansion Projects:**

- (i) Mining Projects involving enhancement of production by increasing the depth and or number of shifts, without any increase in lease area and having already obtained the forestry clearance for the forestland involved in the mine lease, shall be considered on merit and decision taken.
- (ii) The Expansion projects involving horizontal spread with additional land requirement will be dealt with as green field projects, if additional forestland is to be diverted.

**III. Greenfield Projects:**

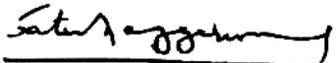
- (i) If any green field project does not envisage any diversion of forest land, it would be considered as per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006.
- (iii) In case of any green field project, which involves diversion of forest land, the project proponents are advised to re-examine the requirement of forestland and submit the proposal without forestland for consideration of the EAC. Otherwise, the proponent should submit the proposal for TORs under the EIA Notification, 2006 only after

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applying the stage-I forestry clearance for the forestland involved in the project.

- (iii) All cases of grant / renewal of EC for any abandoned mine or sick project under revival etc. would be considered as a green field project for appraisal under EIA Notification, 2006 and the procedure mentioned above will be followed.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Dr. S.K. Aggarwal)  
Director

To

1. All the Officers of IA Division
2. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs

**Copy to:-**

1. PS to MEF
2. PPS to Secretary (E&F)
3. PPS to SS(JMM)
4. Advisor (NB)
5. Website, MoEF
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Annexure-R2/3

By Speed Post

**F.No. L-11011/211/2017-IA.II(M)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**  
**Impact Assessment Division**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vayu Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018

To

The Principal Secretary,  
Environment,  
Government of Goa,  
Secretariat, Panaji,  
Goa-403001

Sub: Cancellation of the ECs granted to 88 mine leases in the State of Goa in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 07.02.2018-reg.

Sir,

Hon'ble Supreme Court in their Judgment dated 07.02.2018 in Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 32138 of 2015 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. & Ors and the interlocutory matters SLP(C) Nos. 32699-32727 of 2015, Writ Petition(C) No. 711 of 2015 and Writ Petition (C) No. 720 of 2015 has inter-alia cancelled the 88 mine leases and directed the mine lease holders to stop all mining operations in the State of Goa with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, until fresh mining leases (not fresh renewals or other renewals) are granted and fresh environmental clearances are granted, and that the Ministry of Environment and Forest should also take all necessary steps to grant fresh environmental clearances to those who are successful in obtaining fresh mining leases.

2. The matter was examined in the Ministry and it has been decided that the ECs of the 88 mine lease holders covered in the above mentioned judgment should be cancelled. Accordingly, the ECs for all these mines, earlier issued by the Ministry and irrespective of their validity as on date, are hereby cancelled with immediate effect.

The details are as under:

Sr. No	Lease No.	Name of the Lessee	EC letter number and date of issue
1	40/51	Late Shri.N.S. Narvekar rep. By M/s N.S. Narvekar Minerals	J-11015/101/2005-IA,II(M) dt. 14.5.2007
2	35/52	M/s V.S.Dempo & Co.Pvt. Ltd/Sesa Resources Ltd	J-11015/156/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 & extended by J-11015/156/2005-IA-II(M) dt: 02.01.2008
3	6/61	Shri.Gandhar.N. Agrawal	J-11015/402/2005.IA II (M) 22-12-2006
4	29/52	Shri.Pramod P. Timblo legal heir of late shri Pandurang Timblo	J- 11015/359/2007-IA.III. II (M) Dt: 26/7/2007.
5	34/50	Sociedade Timblo Irmaos Limitada represented by M/s. Panduronga Timblo Industrias.	J-11015/360/2007-IA,II(M) dt. 26.7.2007
6	39/56	M/s.V. M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt. Ltd	J-11015/43/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005
7	01/55	M/s Damodar Mangalji & Co.Ltd.	J-11015/609/2005-IA.II (M) Dated: 17.11.2006
8	02/51	M/s M.S.Talaulikar & Sons Pvt.Ltd.	J-11015/105/2005-IA.II (M) Dated: 25.11.2005 extended by J-11015/105/2005-IA-II(M) dt: 18.10.2007
9	03/54	M/s Sesa Goa Ltd/Sesa Sterlite Ltd	J-11015/28/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 6.7.2007
10	03/57	Kunda Gharse	J-11015/149/2005-IA.II (M) Dated: 30.9.2005 amended by J-11915/149/2005-IA.II(M) dated 06.07.2007
11	04/49	M/S RAJARAM BANDEKAR (SIRIGAO) MINES PVT. LTD.	No. J-11015/40/2006-IA.II (M) Dt: 17.1.2007.
12	05/53	Shri.Manuel Da Costa	J-11015/29/2005-IA.II (M) dated 30.9.2005 extended by J-11015/29/2005-IA.II(M) dated 31.07.2007
13	08/50	Shri Raju R. Poinguinkar LH of Late Ramakanta Rajaram Poinguinkar	J-11015/148/2005-IA (M) dated 30.9.2005
14	08/61	M/s Madachem Bhat Mines Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/475/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 21.1.2008
15	09/49	M/s Sesa Goa Ltd/Sesa Sterlite Ltd	J-11015/28/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 6.7.2007
16	10/49	M/s Sesa Goa Ltd/Sesa Sterlite Ltd	J-11015/28/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 6.7.2007
17	10/51	Shri shabbar Khan LH of Late Haider Kasim Khan	J-11015/365/2005-IA.II (M) dt:15.2.2006
18	110/53	M/s.Cosme Costa & Sons	J-11015/350/2005-IA.II (M) dt:4.9.2006 and J-11015/26/2008-IA.II (M) Dated: 26.3.2009

19	12/52	Late Shri.N.S. Narvekar rep. By M/s N.S. Narvekar Minerals	J-11015/101/2005-IA,II(M) dt. 14.5.2007(2006
20	12/57	CHOWGULE & CO.PVT. LTD	J-11015/65/2006-IA.II (M) dt:1.12.2006
21	126/53	SESA STERLITE Limited	J-11015/27/2005-IA.II (M) dated 6.9.2005 and J-11015/1133/2007-IA.II (M) Dt: 29.12.2008.
22	13/49	M/s. Chowgule & Co. Ltd.	J-11015/32/2005-IA.II (M) dt: 27.12.2005 extended by J-11015/32/2005-IA.II(M) dated 05/11/2007
23	13/55	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/384/2005-IA.II (M) dt:28.3.2006
24	14/52	M/s. Baddrudin Hussainbhai Mavani	J-11015/42/2005-IA.II. (M) dated 30.9.2005 amended by J-11-15/42/2005-IA.II(M) dated 14.08.2007
25	14/53	Sociedade Timblo Irmaos Ltda. (SFI), rept. By Sociedade de Fomento Industries Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/259/2007-IA,II(M) dt. 20.8.2007 ammended by J-11015/259/2007-IA-II(M) dt: 04.03.2016
26	14/58	SOCIEDADE TIMBLO IRMAOS LTDA REPT. TIMBLO PVT. LTD;	J-11015/60/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 5.7.2007
27	143/53	M/s. Sociedade Timblo Irmaos Ltda., (PTI )	J-11015/345/2005-IA.II (M) dt: 18.5.2006
28	16/51	Shri Vijay V. Chowgule, LH of late V.D. Chowgule	J-11015/64/2006-IA.II (M) dt:24.11.2006
29	16/55	M/s V. G. Quenim	J-11015/310/2005-IA.II (M) dt:18.5.2006 extended by J-11015/310/2005-IA-II(M) dt: 27.06.2007
30	18/53	M/s Damodar Mangalji &Co.Ltd.	J-11015/884/2007-IA.II (M) dt: 14.5.2009
31	19/52	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/43/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005
32	19/54	Smt. Kunda R.Gharse	J-11015/149/2005-IA.II (M) dated 30.9.2005 amended by J-11915/149/2005-IA.II(M) dated 06.07.2007
33	19/58	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/385/2005-IA.II (M) dt:28.03.2006
34	22/50	CHOWGULE & CO.PVT. LTD	J-11015/65/2006-IA.II (M) dt:1.12.2006
35	23/53	M/s Emco Pvt Ltd	J-11015/34/2005-IA.II (M) dt:16.2.2006
36	24/57	Shri Ramakanta V.S. Velingkar	J-11015/344/2005-IA.II (M) dt:19.2.2007 Further expansion given vide Lr. No. J-11015/344/2005- IA. II (M), dated 19/02/2008.
37	28/51	M/s Sesa Goa Ltd/Sesa Sterlite Ltd	J-11015/27/2006-IA.II (M) dt:15.9.2006 Further expansion given vide No. J-11015/1239/2-007- IA.II (M) Dt: 24.12.2009.
38	29/54	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/385/2005-IA.II (M) dt: 28.03.2006

39	29/55	Shri A.V.S. Velingkar (Late)	J-11015/162/2005-IA.II (M) dt:26.12.2005 amended J-11015-162/2005-IA.II(M) dated 23.10.2007
40	31/53	M/s. Chowgule & Co. Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/20/2006-IA.II (M) dt:24.11.2006
41	33/53	M/s Damodar Mangalji & Co.Ltd.	J-11015/608/2007-IA.II (M) Dated: 23.10.2007
42	33/57	Kunda R. Gharse	J-11015/149/2005-IA.II (M) dated 30.9.2005 amended by J-11915/149/2005-IA.II(M) dated 06.07.2007
43	38/51	CHOWGULE & CO.PVT. LTD	J-11015/65/2006-IA.II (M) dt:1.12.2006
44	4/55	Marzook & Cadar Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/34/2006-IA,II(M) dt. 30.4.2007
45	40/50	Shri Vijay V. Chowgule, LH of late V.D. Chowgule	J-11015/64/2006-IA.II (M) dt:24.11.2006
46	41/54	Ahiliabai Sardessai	11015/60/2005-IA.II (M) Dt: 11.11.2005. extended J-011015/60/2005-IA.II(M) dated January 2,2008
47	41/55	M/S Salgaocar Mining Industries	J-11015/274/2006-IA,II(M) dt. 27.7.2007
48	41/56	M/s. Chowgule & Co. Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/20/2006-IA.II (M) dt:24.11.2006
49	44/56	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/43/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005
50	45/52	M/s Sociedade Timblo Irmoas Ltda. (SFI) rep. By Sociedade de Fomento Industries Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/260/2007-IA,II(M) dt. 22.8.2007
51	45/54	M/S SOVA	J-11015/58/2005-IA (M) dated 28.10.2005 extended J-11015/58/2005-IA(M) dated 23.10.2007
52	47/54	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/384/2005-IA.II (M) Dated: 28.03.2006
53	48/58	Shri Devendra Sawant Talaulikar	J-11011/537/2007-IA,II(I) dt. 31.12.2008
54	5/49	M/s. Chowgule & Co. Ltd.	J-11015/32/2005-IA.II (M) dt: 27.12.2005 extended by J-11015/32/2005-IA.II(M) dated 05/11/2007
55	50/53	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/384/2005-IA.II (M) dt:28.3.2006
56	51/52	Smt.Kunda R. Gharse	J-11015/386/2005-IA.II (M) dt:23.3.2006
57	59/51	Smt.Annapurna Dayanand Neugui, Legal heirs of Shri Zairam B. Neugi	J-11015/521/2007-IA II (M), Dt:18.10.2007
58	6/55	M/s. Sesa Sterlite Ltd.	J-11015/437/2005-IA.II (M) dt:5.12.2006 Further expansion given vide No. J-11015/1241/2007-IA.II (M) Dt: 24.12.2009

59	61/53	SOCIEDADE TIMBLO IRMAOS LTDA REPT. BY PANDURANG TIMBLO INDUSTRIES	J-11015/161/2005-IA.II (M) dated 20.10.2005
60	62A/52	Smt. Shashikala Kakodkar & Others D. B. Bandodkar & Sons Pvt. Ltd.	J-11015/36/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 4.10.2006
61	62B/52	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/385/2005-IA.II (M) dt:28.3.2006
62	69/51	SESA STERLITE Limited	J-11015/27/2005-IA.II (M) dated 6.9.2005(1994) and J-11015/1133/2007-IA.II (M) Dt: 29.12.2008.
63	7/41	M/s Emco Pvt Ltd	J-11015/34/2005-IA.II (M) dt:16.2.2006
64	70/52	SESA STERLITE Limited	J-11015/27/2005-IA.II (M) Dated: 06.09.2005 & expansion J-11015/1133/2007-IA.II (M) Dated: 29.12.2008
65	76/52	M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd	J-11015/70/2006-IA.II (M) Dated: 18.04.2007
66	8/41	SHRI GANGADHAR N. AGRAWAL	J-11015/100/2005-IA.II (M) Dated: 26.10.2005 ammended by J-11015/100/2005-IA.II (M) dt: 13.08.2007
67	83/52	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt Ltd.,	J-11015/385/2005-IA.II (M) dt:28.3.2006
68	84/52	M/s Bandekar Bros.Pvt. Ltd	No. J-11015/351/2005-IA.II (M) Dt: 18.4.2007
69	86/53	Salitho Ores Pvt. Limited	J-11015/415/2005-IA,II(M) dt. 30.4.2007
70	87/53	M/s. Sociedade Timblo Irmaos Ltda., (PTI )	J-11015/343/2005-IA.II (M) dt:13.7.2006
71	88/52	M/s. Sociedade Timblo Irmaos Ltda., (SFI )	J-11015/104/2005-IA,II(M) dt. 3.9.2007
72	89/52	M/S Lithoferro	J-11015/305/2006-IA,II(M) dt. 4.5.2007
73	92/52	Sociadade Timblo Irmaos Ltd.,Rep. by Timblo Pvt., Ltd.,	J-11015/36/2005-IA.II (M) dt:30.9.2005 amended by J-11015/36/2005-IA.II(M) dated 19.07.2007
74	95/52	Damodar Mangalji & Co.Ltd.	J-11015/302/2006-IA,II(M) dt. 9.4.2007
75	98/52	M/s. Chowgule & Co. Pvt.Ltd.	J-11015/399/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.8.2006 extended by J-1105/399/2005-IA.II (M) dated 05/11/2007
76	55/51	Geetabala M. N. Parulekar	J-11015/401/2005-IA.II (M) dt: 17.1.2007 ammended by J-11015/85/2008-IA.II (M) dt: 12.12.2008 and further expansion given vide No. J-11015/157/2009-IA-II (M) Dt: 18.1.2010
77	70/51	M/s R.S. Shetye & Bros.	J-11015/56/2005-IA.II (M) dated 30.9.2005 extended by J-11015/56/2005-IA-II(M) dt: 21.08.2007

78	06/49	Shri Uday H. Gosalia LH of Late Hiralal Khodidas	J-11015/180/2006-IA,II(M) dt. 12.3.2007
79	11/41	M/s Sesa Mining Corp. LTd.	J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 and J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.09.2007
80	12/41	M/s Sesa Mining Corp. LTd.	J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 and J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.09.2007
81	13/41	M/s Sesa Mining Corp. LTd.	J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 and J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.09.2007
82	14/41	M/s Sesa Mining Corp. LTd.	J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 extended by J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.09.2007
83	15/41	M/s Sesa Mining Corp. LTd.	J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 and extended by J-11015/45/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.09.2007
84	3/51	SESA RESOURCES LTD.	J-11015/155/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 and extended by J-11015/155/2005-IA-II(M) DT: 02.01.2008
85	40/54	SESA RESOURCES LTD.	J-11015/155/2005-IA.II (M) dt:17.11.2005 and extended by J-11015/155/2005-IA-II(M) dt: 02.01.2008
86	21/54	M/s Sesa Resources Ltd.,	J-11015/44/2004-IA.II (M) dt :17.11.2005 and extended by J-11015/44/2004-IA-II(M) dt: 01.01.2008
87	5/54	M/s. Sesa Resources Ltd.	J-11015/44/2004-IA.II (M) dt :17.11.2005 and extended by J-11015/44/2004-IA-II(M) dt: 01.01.2008
88	20/54	M/s. Sesa Resources Ltd.	J-11015/44/2004-IA.II (M) dt :17.11.2005 and extended by J-11015/44/2004-IA-II(M) dt: 01.01.2008

3. As and when Govt. of Goa grants fresh mine lease, the lease holders may apply to MoEF&CC as per EIA Notification, 2006 to get fresh EC.

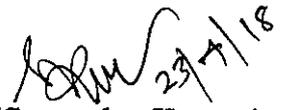
4. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

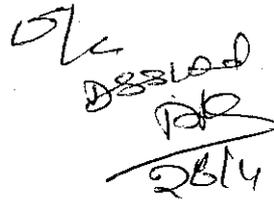
  
(Surendra Kumar)  
Advisor / Scientist 'G'

**Copy to:**

1. The concerned 88 project proponents.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa, Panaji.
4. The Principal Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Goa, Panaji.
5. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Goa, Panaji.

6. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
7. The Chairman, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Dempo Tower, EDC Plaza, 1st Floor, Panaji, Goa- 403 001
8. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W- 3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
9. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.
10. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office Chennai, Kendriya Sadan, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor E&F, Wings 17<sup>th</sup> Main Road, 1 Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034.
11. Monitoring File.
12. Guard File.
13. MoEF Website

  
(Surendra Kumar)  
Advisor / Scientist 'G'





Government of Goa  
 Directorate of Mines & Geology  
 Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa

Website: [www.dmg.goa.gov.in](http://www.dmg.goa.gov.in) e-mail: [auction-dmg@goa.gov.in](mailto:auction-dmg@goa.gov.in)

No.DMG/25/Auction Cell/LOI-function/2023/2803 Date:13/01/2023

### Letter of Intent for Block III - Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block

To,  
**Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.,**  
 6th Floor 601 Dr Ozler Forum,  
 Near St Andrews Church,  
 Vasco 403802 Goa India.

*Sub: Letter of intent with reference to e-auction dated December 16, 2022 for grant of a mining lease for Block III - Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block for Iron Ore mineral in Sirigao village, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District on 95.6712 Hectare Area.*



#### Background:

Government of Goa, pursuant to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the "Act") and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time (the "Auction Rules"), issued the notice inviting tender dated September 30, 2022 to commence the auction process for grant of mining lease for **Block III - Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block** located in North Goa. The e-auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the said mineral block and **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** was declared as the 'Preferred Bidder' under Rule 9(9)(iii) of Auction Rules, having quoted a Final Price Offer of **111.28% (One hundred eleven point two eight percent)**.

1.2 As required under Rule 10(1) of the Auction Rules and the tender document for the said mineral block, **Rajaram Bandekar**

(Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd. has made payment of the first instalment, being 20% (twenty per cent) of the upfront payment of Rs. 2,92,75,307 (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Two Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Three Hundred Seven) through e-Challan (e-Challan No. 202201023962) dated December 29, 2022, which was received at Goa.

## 2. Grant of Letter of Intent

2.1. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the Tender Document, the Government of Goa is issuing this letter of intent for grant of Mining Lease for **Block III - Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block** for Iron Ore in Sirigao village, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District on 95.6712 Hectare Area to **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** for a period of 50 (fifty) years.

## 3. Conditions

3.1. This letter of intent and the subsequent grant of aforementioned mining lease shall be subject to the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder, as amended from time to time, and the **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** shall be designated as the 'Successful Bidder' and subsequently granted the mining lease only upon satisfactory completion of all the requirements under the Acts and Rules made thereunder.



The State Government may impose such other conditions in the Mine Development and Production Agreement (MDPA) and/or Mining Lease as may be considered by the State Government to be in the interest of mineral development and in public interest.



**Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** shall be bound by (i) the enactment, bringing into effect, adoption, promulgation, amendment, modification or repeal of any Applicable Laws (including the Act and Rules) occurring at any time, including prior to or after the Bid Due Date; (ii) any amendments made by the State Government to this effect in the Tender Document, the letter

*Rajaram Bandekar*

*[Signature]*

of intent, the MDPA and/or the mining lease deed at any time, including prior to or after the Bid Due Date.

- 3.2. For reference, the requirements under the Auction Rules for designation of **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** as the “successful bidder” and subsequent grant of the mining lease are reiterated below. It is clarified that the requirements mentioned below are only for reference and in the event of any change in the Act or the Rules made thereunder, the requirements under the modified Act or the Rules made thereunder, as the case may be, shall be applicable.

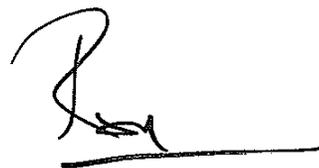
(a) Designation as the “Successful Bidder”:

**Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** shall be considered to be the “Successful Bidder” upon:

- (i) continuing to be in compliance with all the terms and conditions of eligibility;
- (ii) payment of the second instalment being 20% (twenty per cent) of the upfront payment;
- (iii) furnishing an irrevocable and unconditional performance security to the State Government from an Acceptable Bank and payable at Goa, pursuant to the Auction Rules;
- (iv) satisfying the conditions specified in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the Act with respect to a mining plan; and

(b) Signing of the Mine Development and Production Agreement

**Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** shall sign the Mine Development and Production Agreement with the Government of Goa upon obtaining all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections and the like as may be required under applicable laws for commencement of mining operations.




(c) Grant of Mining Lease

Subsequent to signing of the Mine Development and Production Agreement, **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** shall make payment of the third instalment being 60% (sixty per cent) of the upfront payment and thereafter the Government of Goa shall grant the aforementioned mining lease.

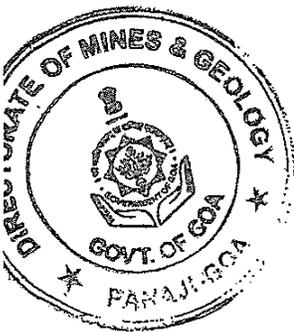
- 3.3. The State Government reserves the right, but not the obligation, to appropriate and dispose of (whether by way of sale, auction or such other means as the State Government may, in its sole discretion, determine) all or any part of the dumps presently located within the Mineral Block. Provided that such right shall be exercised by the State Government no later than 12 (twelve) months from the date of issuance of this Letter of Intent. It is clarified that the Successful Bidder shall, in accordance with Applicable Law, be entitled to dispose of only such part of the dumps in respect of which the State Government does not exercise the aforesaid right.

4. **Validity**

- 4.1. This Letter of Intent shall be valid only if **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** ensures that the Bid Security is valid until the Performance Security is furnished to the Government of Goa failing which this letter of intent shall become invalid from the date of expiry of the Bid Security.

- 4.2. This letter of intent is valid for a period of ~~3~~ **(three)** years from the date of its issuance, within which time all the above conditions must be fulfilled and the Mining Lease deed must be executed between the **Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Private Ltd.** and the Government of Goa. In case there is a delay in execution of Mining Lease Deed due to reasons beyond the control of the Preferred Bidder, then it may submit an application to Government of Goa, requesting for further extension

- 4.3. If the Government of Goa is satisfied that there is a delay in execution of Mining Lease Deed due to reasons beyond the control



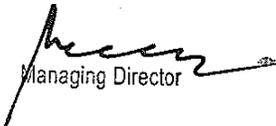
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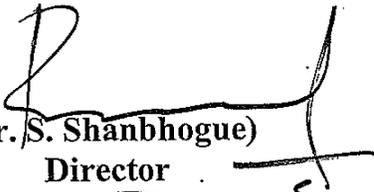
of the Preferred Bidder and a longer period is required to enable the Preferred Bidder to satisfy all or any of the above conditions, it may extend the validity of this letter of intent for such period or periods as the Government of Goa may specify. Provided that: (a) this letter of intent shall be extended for a maximum period of 2 (two) years; and (b) the total period for which this letter of intent would remain valid must not exceed 5 (five) years from the date of issuance.

Kindly return the duplicate copy of this letter of intent duly signed by authorized signatory in token of having accepted the above terms and conditions. The accepted copy of Letter of Intent along with Board resolution should be submitted latest by **January 27, 2023**.

M/s. Rajaram Bandekar (Sirigao) Mines Pvt. Ltd.

  
Managing Director



  
(Dr. S. Shanbhogue)  
Director

