

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL WZB , AT PUNE**

Appeal -73 /2024

Swapnesh Sherlekar

..Appellant

Versus

MoEF & Ors

...Respondents

**Affidavit in Reply on behalf of Respondent No 3**

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*S. Shankar*

**SHIVSHANKAR SWAMINATHAN**

**ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT NO -3**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
WESTERN BENCH AT PUNE  
APPEAL NO. 73 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

SWAPNESH SHERLEKAR AND ORS.

...APPELLANTS

AND

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ORS

...RESPONDENTS

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 3**

1. At the outset, the Respondent No. 3 (the "Answering Respondent") denies all and singular the contents of the captioned Appeal and no part thereof be deemed admitted for the lack of specific traverse.

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS

*Limitation*

2. The Answering Respondent submits that the captioned Appeal is *ex facie* barred by limitation.
3. Admittedly, the captioned Appeal has not been filed within the 30-day limitation period as prescribed under Sec. 16(h) of the NGT Act. Beyond the 30-day limitation period, a delay of 60 days may be condoned by the Tribunal if 'sufficient cause' can be established by the party for such delay. However, it is submitted that the Appellants have failed to establish 'sufficient cause' for the delay in filing the Appeal.
4. The solitary ground seeking condonation of delay is that the Appellants took time to find lawyers specialising in environmental law. However, this ground is a mere moonshine since Appellant No. 1 has previously filed proceedings before this Hon'ble Tribunal including OA No. 72 of 2023 (Western Zone Bench) and has in fact engaged the very lawyers that have filed the present Appeal, for the purposes

of pursuing a proceeding before the Bombay High Court at Goa, being *Dr. Claude Alvares & Ors. v. The State of Goa & Ors.*, PIL WP No. 34 of 2023.

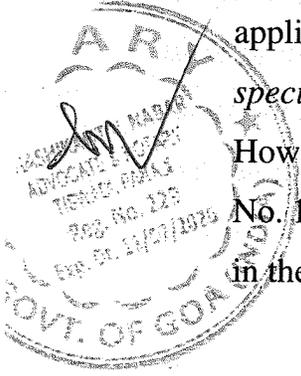
5. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in *Binod Bihari v. Union of India*, (1993) 1 SCC 572 (*Para 10*) that delay however minuscule, ought not to be condoned if the application seeking condonation has resorted to lies. The Appellants, in their application for condonation of delay, have stated that they "*had to find lawyers specialising in environmental law and appoint them to draft present Appeal*". However, as has been demonstrated above, this is not the case as the Appellant No. 1 has engaged the very same lawyers for pursuing *Dr. Claude Alvares* (supra) in the Hon'ble Bombay High Court at Goa.

*Judicial review limited where views of experts involved*

6. Before delving into the merits of the allegations made in the Appeal, it is pertinent to bear in mind the clear threshold laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for interference in challenges to ECs, from the perspective of the EAC being an expert body. The Supreme Court in *Rajeev Suri v. DDA*, (2022) 11 SCC 1 (*Para 509*) has held that once the EAC has applied its mind, a challenge to an EC can only be entertained if there is concrete material to show a "*total absence of mind*". A perusal of all the minutes of the EAC, coupled with the fact that it also sent an inspection team to the site and considered such inspection report in detail, when seen, leave no room for doubt that the said threshold is not met in the instant case. The EAC has considered every conceivable aspect and has even dealt with each and every grievance raised at the public hearing before granting the EC, that too with a score of specific conditions imposed on the Answering Respondent.

*Issue before High Court*

7. One of the issues raised in the present Appeal is that of the manner of transportation of mined ore, and in particular, the use of roads. This issue has been dealt with threadbare by the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa in PIL (WP) No. 6/2024 titled *Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association v. Director of Mines &*



*Geology & Ors (Para 43)* wherein the High Court has, on 29.06.2024, after considering various OMs of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and SOPs and Corrigenda (including the Corrigendum dated 06.06.2023) of the State Government, on the subject and incidentally the consent to operate issued to the Answering Respondent, refused to either prohibit transportation or impose conditions over and above those already statutorily in place. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *State of A.P. v. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju Kanumuru*, (2022) 8 SCC 156 (*Paras 12-13*) and this Hon'ble Tribunal in *Pravir Prabhakar Fadte v. MoEF & Ors.*, 2023 SCC OnLine NGT 4292 (*Para 48*) has held that matters dealt with or in seisin of the High Court cannot be dealt with by this Tribunal.

#### MERITS

##### *Grounds in Brief*

8. The Appeal raises ten (10) broad grounds to challenge the EC dated 23.01.2024. They are as follows:
  - i. That the project has been wrongly classified as a greenfield project and such classification has entitled the Answering Respondent to use baseline data from 2023.
  - ii. That the Answering Respondent has given inadequate responses.
  - iii. That the NEERI Report has not been considered while granting the EC.
  - iv. That the life of the mine (i.e., mineral reserves) has not been properly considered by the Answering Respondent.
  - v. That the EAC has not considered the requirements of the EC dated 17.11.2005 imposed on the erstwhile lessee, including the requirement of a mine closure plan.
  - vi. That tenancy rights have not been considered by the Answering Respondent.
  - vii. That the issue of transportation of ore has not been adequately addressed by the Answering Respondent.
  - viii. That the rainfall data provided by the Answering Respondent is inadequate.
  - ix. That the Mulgao Panchayat could not participate in the public hearing.
  - x. That the public hearing violated established norms.

12. The Answering Respondent submits that each of the above-mentioned ostensible issues are devoid of merit.

CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECT AS GREENFIELD MAKES  
NO DIFFERENCE TO THE EIA PROCESS

13. Grounds 14 to 16 allege that the Answering Respondent's Project has been wrongfully classified as a greenfield project. These grounds proceed on a misconception as to the distinction between a greenfield and brownfield project.

14. The ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTIFICATION, 2006 (the "EIA Notification, 2006"), under Cl. 2 only makes a distinction between a "new project" or an "expansion/modernisation of an existing project or activity". Cl. 2 of the EIA Notification, 2006 is reproduced below for ease of reference:

"2. Requirements of prior Environmental Clearance (EC):-

... :

- (i) All **new projects** or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification;
- (ii) **Expansion and modernization of existing projects** or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, that is, projects or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization;
- (iii) Any change in product - mix in an existing manufacturing unit included in Schedule beyond the specified range." [emphasis added]

15. Thus, a greenfield project would be one which falls within Cl. 2(i) of the EIA Notification, 2006 while a brownfield project is one which falls under Cl. 2(ii) of the EIA Notification, 2006 and pertains to expansion and modernization of existing projects.

16. That such is the understanding of the MoEFCC is evident from a PIB note dated 19.12.2011 titled "Implementation of Green Field Projects", the relevant portion of which reads as follows:

"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.**"

[emphasis added]

A copy of the Press Information Bureau note dated 19.12.2011 titled "Implementation of Green Field Projects" is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-1.**

17. The same is also evident from the instructions issued by the MoEFCC in its Agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> EAC Meeting, wherein Para 11 of the said instructions, provided as follows:

"11. PP needs to submit the documents w.r.t. validity of the mining lease (brown filed projects) and **letter of intent (green filed projects)** along with supporting documents. PP should submit the details of lease renewal/transfer/surrender in chronological manner." [emphasis added]

A copy of the Agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> EAC Meeting issued by the MoEFCC dated 03-04.05.2024 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-2.**

18. Thus, it is evident that the EAC considers a subsisting mining lease as a brownfield project, and a freshly granted mine (by way of a letter of intent pursuant to an auction) to be a greenfield project.
19. It is submitted that the only consequence flowing from such classification is that Para 7 of the EIA Notification, 2006 allows a brownfield project i.e., an expansion project to leapfrog to the stage of Appraisal by the EAC without having to go through the stages of Screening and Scoping. In some scenarios, such brownfield projects, where there is no increase in the pollution load are not put through any rigours of the EIA process.
20. Hence, it is clear that classification of a project as a greenfield project only implies that a project proponent has to undergo the rigours of all the steps contemplated in the EIA Notification.
21. In other words, the rigours placed on a greenfield project are far more stringent than that imposed on a brownfield project inasmuch as a brownfield project does not have to undergo the same level of detailed in-depth scrutiny as a greenfield project.

22. It is from this perspective that the MoEFCC has clarified by an OM dated 31.03.2011, bearing reference no. No. J-11015/200/2008-IA.II(M), as follows:

“III. Greenfield Projects:

...  
 (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.” [emphasis added]

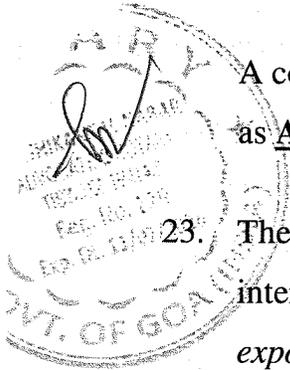
A copy of the OM dated 31.03.2011 issued by the is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-3**.

23. The PIB Note dated 19.12.2011 and the OM dated 31.03.2011, are an aid to interpretation for the EIA Notification 2006, in the nature of *contemporanea expositio* and are entitled to due weightage *vide K.P. Varghese v. ITO*, (1981) 4 SCC 173 (*Para 11*).

24. The Answering Respondent's Project, being a freshly granted mine through an auction process, having been issued a Letter of Intent in this regard, being akin to the aforesaid scenarios, noticed in the OM of 2011, has been classified as a greenfield project as per the instructions issued by the MoEFCC in its Agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> EAC Meeting.

25. Thus, even assuming without admitting that the EIA Notification, 2006 requires that a project be classified as greenfield or brownfield, the Answering Respondent has correctly classified the Project as a greenfield project since there was no existing EC or activity, of which an expansion was sought. In other words, the Answering Respondent, in the absence of an existing EC, could only have applied as a greenfield project, and the Appellants' argument is without merit since it is based on a misconception as to what constitutes a brownfield project.

26. It is also pertinent to note in this regard that the EIA Report specifically discloses the fact that this mine has been worked upon in the past. Hence, the mere mention of the word “greenfield” in a part of the Application is a matter of semantics and



an exercise of hair splitting being adopted by the Appellants. For instance, the following paragraphs of the EIA Report (Chapter 1, Pg. 2) mention the fact that mining has been undertaken in the past:

“The said Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block was earlier **operated by Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd. (SMCL) formerly known as Dempo Mining Corporation Ltd.** Pursuant to Supreme Court judgement in Goa Foundation 2 dated 07.02.2018, all the mining leases granted by the State Government were cancelled. Thereafter, State Government in terms of the said order and as per the provisions of MMDR Act put this block for auction as a fresh lease grant.”

[emphasis added]

27. Moreover, that the EAC was very well cognisant that the mine had been worked upon in the past is evident from Specific Condition No. 4.6 of the TOR, wherein the EAC sought a clarification as to whether the Answering Respondent was responsible for illegal mining. The said Condition is reproduced below:

“During the meeting, the EAC **noted that old excavated pits exist within the mine lease area.** Hence, the Project Proponent needs to submit a letter from the Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mine lease area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s. Vedanta Limited or not?”

[emphasis added]

#### NEW ALLOTTEE ENTITLED TO A CLEAN SLATE

28. The Answering Respondent, therefore, addressed a Letter dated 18.05.2023 seeking a clarification in this regard from the Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG), which by a Letter dated 25.07.2023, expressly stated that the Answering Respondent “**was not the erstwhile lessee of the said Block prior to auction**”. A copy of the said Letter dated 25.07.2023 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-4.**
29. Significantly, any alleged violations by the previous lessee cannot be the basis to reject an application seeking permission/clearance by the subsequent auction purchaser of a lease. In fact, this position has been accorded statutory recognition by virtue of Rule 9A(9) of the MINERALS (OTHER THAN ATOMIC AND HYDRO CARBONS ENERGY MINERALS) CONCESSION RULES, 2016 (“**MCR 2016**”), which categorically bars an authority from refusing to grant permissions to the new

lessee on account of violations of the previous lessee. Rule 9A(9) is reproduced below for ease of reference:

“No authority shall reject grant of any rights, approvals, clearances, licenses and the like **to the new lessee on account of past violations or outstanding dues of the previous lessee**, which may be agitated before appropriate forums separately without prejudice to any rightful legal claims of the parties.”

[emphasis added]

30. Simply put, in terms of Rule 9A of the MCR 2016, there is a statutory bar on an authority from considering past violations of the previous lessee, owing to which the EAC was barred from considering past violations.

#### ALLEGATIONS AS TO INADEQUATE RESPONSES INCORRECT AND MISLEADING

31. It is submitted that Ground 17 is misleading on two counts. Firstly, it seeks to give the impression as if Sr. No. 20 is a ToR issued in the peculiar facts of the Answering Respondent, when in fact, it is a standard form ToR specific to the mining leases, relatable to the fact that an EIA notification first came to be notified in 1994. Secondly, the Appellants have included within quotation marks the following words: “*compliance: green field project*”, to project the same as the response of the Answering Respondent to the said ToR. This, it is submitted, was not the response given by the Answering Respondent and the actual response given was as follows: “*The year wise production not applicable as it is a fresh grant. The Goa Government has auctioned the Block I-Bicholim Mineral Block as a fresh lease. And LOI is issued to Vedanta Ltd. MoEF & CC has considered this project as a Green Field Project. The mine operations will commence after obtaining necessary Statutory clearances and execution of lease Deed.*”

A copy of the ToR as issued by the MoEFCC is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-5**.

32. Similarly, in Ground 18, Sr. No. 71 in the ToR has been quoted, which refers to the Circular dated 30.05.2012 bearing reference no. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II (I). However, the said Circular only applies to expansion projects i.e., subsisting projects and hence, cannot be attracted in the instant case, as it has been already been demonstrated at Para 25 that the Answering Respondent’s Project is a

greenfield project by virtue of the Letter of Intent dated 13.01.2023 granted to it. Even here, the Appellants have tried to mislead this Tribunal by stating the response of the Answering Respondent to be “compliance: green field project”, when the actual response of the Answering Respondent to the said ToR was “*Goa Government has auction this mine block as a fresh mineral block. And LOI is issued to Vedanta Ltd. This point is not applicable.*”

A copy of the Circular dated 30.05.2012 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-6.**

33. It is evident from Paras 31 & 32 hereinabove that the Appellants are trying to mislead this Tribunal by misquoting responses of the Answering Respondent in a bald attempt to suit their narrative that the Answering Respondent has classified its project as greenfield in order to “circumvent” and “whitewash” the history of the site’s past activity. This is further substantiated by the fact that the Appellants have placed a truncated copy of the EIA Report on record. Moreover, it has already been demonstrated in Para 27 that the EAC was cognisant that the mine had been worked upon in the past and after establishing that the Answering Respondent had no liability for the damage done in the past by the Letter of the DMG dated 25.07.2023, proceeded to recommend the grant of the EC.

#### NEERI REPORT PENDING CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE HIGH COURT

34. Further, with respect to Ground 19, it is reiterated that the allegation of “whitewashing the history of the site’s past activity” is a misconception of the Appellants which is belied by the OM dated 31.03.2011 issued by the MoEFCC and above all, is based on a misreading of the EIA Notification, 2006 itself. As already stated in Para 19, it is only Para 7 of the EIA Notification, 2006 that allows for fast tracking of an EC application by placing it directly before the EAC for Appraisal without undergoing the prior two stages i.e., Screening and Scoping. The Answering Respondent has not been allowed to avail of this fast-track process under Para 7 and has been put through the entire EIA process involving Screening

and Scoping including a site visit by the EAC subcommittee held on 15.10.2023, before the Appraisal by the EAC.

35. With respect to Ground 20, it is submitted that the contents of the said ground are denied, and it is submitted that, the Appellant has, while relying on the said NEERI Report, concealed the fact that the said NEERI report, and its findings, are the subject matter of pending proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa i.e. PIL WP No. 1/2008, and hence, has not attained finality. In fact, the Hon'ble High Court has, by orders dated 15.06.2009 and 16.11.2009, afforded an opportunity to the affected parties to file their objections to the NEERI Report.

36. The Hon'ble High Court has thereafter, by an Order dated 08.07.2010, issued directions to the GSPCB to comply with the recommendations of the said Committee, and continues to oversee the implementation of the said Report. The matter has now been placed for final arguments on 24.07.2024.

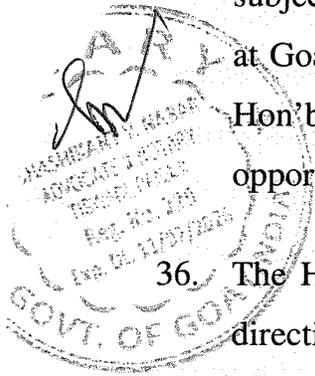
37. Simply put, the issue with respect to findings and recommendations of the NEERI Report are specifically under consideration before the Hon'ble High Court and hence, this issue ought not to be gone into by this Hon'ble Tribunal in view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Raghu Ramakrishna Raju Kanumuru* (supra) and by this Hon'ble Tribunal in *Pravir Prabhakar Fadte v. MoEF & Ors.* (supra).

A copy of the order dated 15.06.2009 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in PIL WP No. 01/2008 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R-7**.

A copy of the order dated 16.11.2009 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in PIL WP No. 01/2008 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R-8**.

A copy of the order dated 08.07.2010 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in PIL WP No. 01/2008 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R-9**.

A copy of the order dated 24.06.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in PIL WP No. 01/2008 is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R-10**.



38. With respect to Ground 21, it is denied that the impact assessment conducted as a prelude to the grant of the EC has not factored in either transportation or the mining done thus far. The aspect of transportation has specifically been dealt with in Chapter 3 (Description of the Environment) at Para 3.10, with the transport route map at Fig. 3.12 as well as Chapter 4 (Anticipated Environmental Impacts & Mitigation Measures) at Para 4.10 of the EIA Report. Further, as far as past mining is concerned, the observations of the subcommittee after the site visit held on 15.10.2023, which noted the presence of mining pits and settling ponds belies any suggestion that this aspect was not looked into. Furthermore, the Answering Respondent provided elaborate details of the mine as it stands including the pits and settling ponds therein in the reply to the additional details sought raised in the 20<sup>th</sup> EAC Meeting held on 22.09.2023 in Tables 3 & 4 respectively.

A copy of the Reply to the Additional Details sought is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-11**.

39. With respect to Ground 22, it is submitted that, the EIA Report elaborately deals with the gradients, the effect of rainfall and so also, the mining run-off, at Paras 3.6.2.1, and 4.2.4.2. Furthermore, the EAC in its 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held during 14-15 November, 2023 has also considered the same and noted the compliance of the Answering Respondent based on the observations of the subcommittee after its site visit.

#### RESERVES A SUBJECT MATTER OF MMDR ACT

40. With respect to Ground 23, it is submitted that, the assessment of mineral reserves and their conservation, is a function exclusively within the domain of the Ministry of Mines under the MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1957 (“**MMDR Act, 1957**”) and the Rules made thereunder and in particular, the MINERAL CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT RULES, 2017 (“**MCDR, 2017**”). More specifically, the INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES is the specialised body that is entrusted with the scientific assessment of mining *vide* Rule 10. Surely, the mining block was put to auction after consulting the said expert body. In any case, it is submitted that, this is a matter beyond the jurisdiction of this Hon’ble Tribunal

since the MMDR Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder are not enlisted in Schedule I of the NGT Act.

41. Further, in response to Ground 23, it is submitted that the Answering Respondent, on its part, has fairly disclosed its assessment of the reserves and pegged the life of the mine to be 30 years. The grant of the mining lease for a period of 50 years is obviously solely relatable to the unqualified statutory mandate of Sec. 8A(2) of the MMDR Act, 1957. In other words, Sec. 8A(2) provision does not allow the grant of a lease for a lesser period.

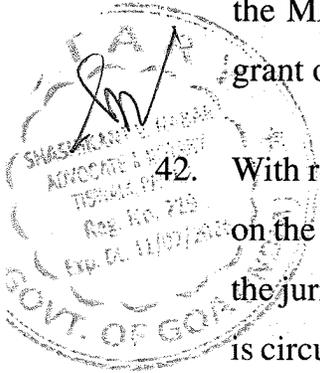
42. With respect to Grounds 24 & 25, it is submitted that, the Appellants seek a ruling on the application of Rule 45 of the MCDR, 2017 which would be squarely outside the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Tribunal, given that the jurisdiction of this Tribunal is circumscribed by Schedule I to the NGT Act and the enactments enlisted therein.

43. With respect to Grounds 26, 27 & 28, it is submitted that, the same is premised on a complete ignorance of elementary company law jurisprudence. The Appellants seek to equate two separate corporate entities, which have distinct juristic identities. In any event, the Answering Respondent had clearly disclosed the mine having been operated by Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd. (SMCL) in response to the additional details sought by the EAC at Point No. 6.

NO REQUIREMENT TO CONSIDER EC DATED 17.11.2005

44. With respect to Grounds 29 & 30, it is submitted that, there is no legal basis to bind the Answering Respondent to EC conditions imposed on an expired mining lease. This is especially in view of the clear bar contained in Rule 9A of the MCR, 2016, which expressly bars any impediment to a successful auction purchaser-lessee on account of the liabilities of the previous lessee/allottee.

45. With respect to Ground 31, as already stated, the Appellants are seeking to mislead this Hon'ble Tribunal by referring to a standard ToR specific to mining projects and this allegation is yet again premised on a misconception that the present



Project is a mere continuation of the erstwhile mining lease by a different juristic entity, when in fact, a distinct juristic entity has been allotted the mine as a result of a statutory auction process.

TITLE CANNOT BE DECIDED BY THIS TRIBUNAL

46. The contents of Ground 32 are denied and it is submitted that, a dispute as to title to property, cannot be the subject matter of proceedings before this Hon'ble Tribunal and should be agitated before the appropriate court, and their inclusion in the present matter is unwarranted and exceeds the scope of the proceedings. This Hon'ble Tribunal, in its judgment dated 05.09.2022, in ***Alchemist Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. v. GCZMA***, Appeal No. 22 of 2022 (*para 5*), has held that *"In the meanwhile, the litigation was going on with respect to the said property in respect of its title in various forums. We are not referring to the pleadings relating to the said litigation as the same is not of any significance for the purposes of the jurisdiction of this Tribunal as the title of the land in question, does not fall in the domain of this Tribunal."* Moreover, this Tribunal may not be competent to adjudicate on the aspect of agricultural tenancy especially since the GOA AGRICULTURAL TENANCY ACT, 1964 is not enlisted in Schedule I of the NGT Act.
47. Hence, with respect to Grounds 33 & 34, it is submitted that, ownership of lands is not a matter relatable to any of the scheduled enactments under the NGT Act. These Grounds are also premised on an ignorance of Rule 52 of MCR 2016, which contemplates compensation for surface rights owners. In other words, the assertion of the Appellants that the Answering Respondent must necessarily purchase/acquire the lands under which the mine is situated, fails to notice that a lessee obtains the right to operate on the same *ipso facto* with the grant of the mining lease and the land owner is entitled to compensation under the aforesaid Rule 52 and cannot insist that such land be purchased for all times to come.

ORE TRANSPORTATION DEALT WITH BY HIGH COURT

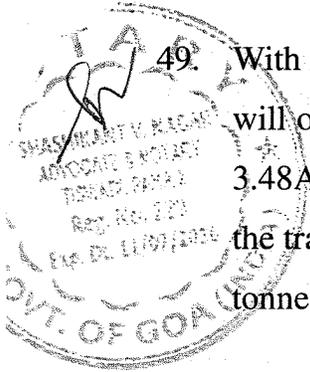
48. The issue of environmental concerns with respect to use of road for transportation, is subject matter of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa in PIL (WP) No. 6/2024 titled *Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association v. Director of Mines & Geology & Ors*, as stated hereinabove, and consequently, the said issue cannot be raised before this Hon'ble Tribunal *vide State of A.P. v. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju Kanumuru*, (2022) 8 SCC 156.

49. With respect to Ground 35, it is submitted that, any legal imposition by the DMG will obviously be applicable to the Answering Respondent. In this respect, Table 3.48A in the EIA Report provides details of vehicular movement and notes that the transportation route works only 237 days in a year & capacity of truck is 10.5 tonne as instructed by the DMG, Goa.

50. Above all, the issue of transportation of minerals in Goa was the subject matter of PIL WP. No. 06 of 2024 wherein the Answering Respondent had impleaded itself as a party. The Hon'ble High Court while disposing the said petition specifically referred to the various OMs as well as SOPs, including the Corrigendum dated 06.06.2023, and held that there were sufficient measures in place with respect to the transportation of ore, and that the same would be implemented by the State. The Hon'ble High Court also took note of the fact that the SOP issued by DMG is applicable on the e-auction ore and not over the transportation of iron ore from mines allocated by the State Government through auction route which shall be governed by the EC conditions. The relevant portions are reproduced below:

“9. Learned Advocate General has serious objection to the course adopted by us in expanding the scope of the PIL as according to him there are no pleadings to justify such a course. We strongly feel that the **concern of transportation through village roads needs to be addressed [...].**”

“20. What is in issue in this PIL **are the problems caused by bulk transport of minerals (iron ore) through mining villages in the mining zone of Goa that have plagued village communities in the past.** The petitioner expects the Government to accept their rights to a clean, healthy and pollution free environment as the primary consideration which should guide them while granting transport permissions to the mining companies/transporters of the minerals, rather than the commercial interests of the project proponent/transporters. The grievance is that though statutory provisions are in place to regulate such operations, they are grossly inadequate and worse still poorly implemented [...].”



“37. In respect of transportation of 'e-auction ore', **vide Corrigendum dated 06.06.2023**, the DMG has imposed the following restrictions on traffic movement on different transportation routes. Such restrictions read thus:

**CORRIGENDUM**

Subject: Transportation of Ore This Department vide Memorandum No.03/66/2023/Major/Mines/194 dated 05/04/2023 had put restriction on number of trips per hour to avoid traffic congestion on village roads. This restriction stands amended to the extent given below:

The traffic movement on different transportation routes will be monitored by Goa Electronics Limited on real time basis and the number of trips will be staggered between **20 trips to 40 trips per hour depending on the traffic congestion on the roads.**”

“39. It is therefore **not as if transportation of the ore through village roads is completely prohibited** as fairly submitted by the learned Counsel for the petitioner. **Moreover, the aforesaid SOPs/measures are put in place to mitigate the adverse impact of mining operations in the case of such habitations/villages.** Learned Counsel for the petitioners fairly submitted that the spirit of the OM dated 29.10.2014 is imbibed in the SOPs issued by the authorities from time to time. The safeguards imposed by way of SOPs, instructions, Rules and Regulations before and after filing of the PIL accords with the spirit of the OM dated 29.10.2014. These measures be strictly implemented.”

“45. We thus find from the materials that the expert bodies like **GSPCB and the DMG have issued the SOPs and imposed necessary safeguards in the transportation of the 'e-auction ore'**. It is not possible for us to substitute our opinion for that of the expert body like the GSPCB and DMG. The recommendations and decision of the DMG and GSPCB cannot be undermined in a light manner and due deference must be accorded to expert agencies when the decisions do not attract the taint of legal unjustness/infirmity. [emphasis added]

51. Significantly, the judgment also records that the restrictions on transportation have been incorporated in Conditions 13 to 24 (relating to transportation) of the CTO dated 04.03.2024 of the Answering Respondent:

“26. The CTO has been granted by the GSPCB under Section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Authorization under Rule 6(i) of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2016, as amended thereafter [...].”

A copy of the CTO dated 04.03.2024 granted to the Answering Respondent by the GSPCB is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-12**.

52. In other words, the issue with respect to transportation of ore by the Answering Respondent has been specifically considered by the Hon'ble High Court and hence, this issue ought not to be gone into by this Hon'ble Tribunal in view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Raghu Ramakrishna Raju Kanumuru* (supra) and by this Hon'ble Tribunal in *Pravir Prabhakar Fadte v. MoEF & Ors.* (supra).

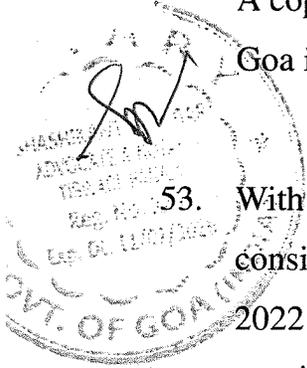
A copy of the Judgment dated 29.06.2024 of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court at Goa is hereto annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE R3-13**.

NO INADEQUACY WITH RAINFALL DATA

53. With respect to Ground 36, it is submitted that data from 2011 could not have been considered since the EIA was prepared based on the data from the period of 2018-2022 as recorded by the Hydromet Division, Indian Metrological Division was considered. In this regard, it is pertinent to note that there is no specific period specific in the Terms of Reference issued by the MoEFCC, and consequently, the Answering Respondent has relied on 5 years data, which is a standard practice. Therefore, there is no discrepancy as alleged by the Appellants in the peak rainfall data as supplied by the Answering Respondent.

54. Furthermore, it would appear that the rainfall of 200mm recorded in 2011 was an unprecedented incident caused by cyclonic storms, but even such a scenario has been considered by the EAC inasmuch as while the rainfall recorded for the season was 5.6 Million CuM, the Answering Respondent was required to provision for a water-holding capacity of 7.39 Million CuM. This is apparent from the observations at S. No. 3 of the EAC Meeting held on 21.09.2023, which is reproduced at Page 82 of the Appeal.

55. With respect to Grounds 37 & 38, it is submitted that, these concerns have already been addressed by the subcommittee during its site visit. Moreover, the Answering Respondent has communicated its compliance with these recommendations as on 04.12.2023, based on which the EAC in its 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting has granted the EC to the Answering Respondent.



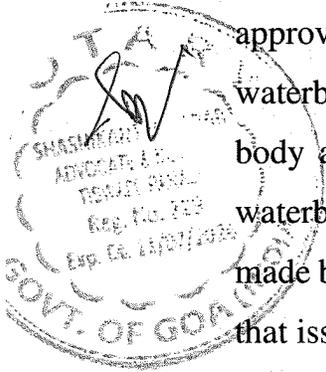
56. In this regard, Chapter 6.1.3.5 of the EIA Report notes that surface water samples shall be collected at 8 locations which will include all mine discharge points and upstream and downstream of Bicholim and Asnora rivers. Such samples shall be collected once a month. Further, it has been noted that the Asnora river touches the block boundary and proper mitigation measures have been proposed at Para 4.7 of the EIA Report i.e., a proper safety barrier of 50 mts shall be maintained near the Asnora river from the mine pit.
57. Further, the Answering Respondent, in its reply to an observation made by the EAC during its site visit, has stated that during the monsoon season, in addition to the monthly monitoring, all the discharge points will be regularly monitored on all rainy days and the TSS levels will be checked.
58. Furthermore, the dimensions of the drains will be maintained with the width of 2m and 1.5m in depth everywhere in the mine. A proper height will be maintained on the sides of the garland drain so that the water does not over-flow from the drains. The available garland drains are 11313m in length which covers all the dumps in the mine area and the same will be strengthened and maintained before the onset of the monsoon. Thus, the EIA Report has adequately dealt with the rainfall in the mining area and has devised an action plan for monitoring the same, thereby precluding the chances of disasters.
59. With respect to Ground 39, it is submitted that, the Answering Respondent has made no false claims with respect to the water bodies. In response to Point No. 3 in the additional details sought, the Answering Respondent has provided details of both mining pits and ponds in Tables 3 and 4 respectively. With respect to the Lamgao (Buddhist) caves, a buffer 300m has been kept, the statutory requirement for which is 45m as per the METALLIFEROUS MINES REGULATIONS, 1961 ("MMR, 1961"). The details of surface features inside the ML area along with distance from the UPL have been given as a response to Point No. 10 in the additional details sought. With respect to the assertion relating to misclassification of a

Communidade lake as a settling pond, it is submitted that all the settling ponds of the Answering Respondent have been inspected by the EAC's sub-committee and no such allegation can hence be entertained. Surely the experts from the EAC would not have failed to notice if a 'lake' was being projected as a settling pond.

60. In any case, no fault can be found with the Answering Respondent or the EAC since the said waterbody has been identified as a settling pond by the IBM while approving the mining plans for the said lease. Simply put, the nature of the waterbody being a settling pond has been recognized by the concerned statutory body and a third party such as the Appellant, who has no right over the said waterbody cannot claim that it is a lake, especially since no such claim has been made by the Comunidade before this Hon'ble Tribunal. This, apart from the fact that issues of ownership cannot be gone into in this Appeal.

#### MULGAO PANCHAYAT PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC HEARING

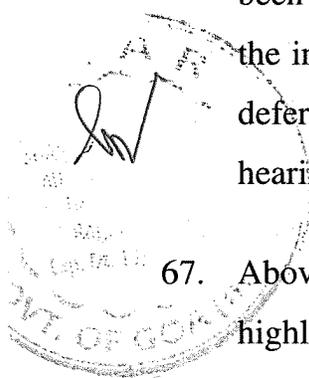
61. With respect to Grounds 40 to 46, it is submitted that, Appellants seek to provide a right of veto to the local bodies, which is not only foreign to the EIA Notification, 2006 but also under the MMDR Act, 1957.
62. There is no basis in the EIA Notification 2006 for such assertion. The involvement of the public at large (and by implication local bodies) has been restricted by the EIA Notification 2006 to the stage of public consultation. The village panchayat and local population were very much involved in the public hearing held on 11.08.2023 and any assertion suggestive of their exclusion is belied by the record. All concerns raised in the public hearing were responded to by the Answering Respondent in a point-wise manner, by way of a Letter dated 28.08.2023. A copy of the Letter dated 28.08.2023 is hereto marked and annexed as **ANNEXURE R3-14**.
63. In any case, with respect to the allegation raised under Ground 43, it is submitted that, the Answering Respondent had responded to the request of the Village Panchayat for a joint meeting with the Panchayat and all committees by its Letter



dated 04.08.2023 (Page 191 of the Appeal). The Answering Respondent, in its Letter, also gave reasons for seeking an adjournment of such joint meeting. It stated that: a) there was already a meeting with the office of the Village Panchayat on 03.08.2023, where different issues were discussed and the same were under consideration; and b) there had been meetings with the Comunidade of Mulgao and Mulgao Kruti Samiti of Mulgao, where the parties had put up some proposals, which were also under consideration. Therefore, as discussion on various issues had already been initiated by the Answering Respondent with the concerned stakeholders, an adjournment of the joint meeting was sought by the Answering Respondent. The Village Panchayat, Mulgao by its Letter dated 05.08.2023 rejected the request to adjourn the meeting.

64. Further, the Village Panchayat, Mulgao by its Letter dated 08.08.2023 sought cancellation of the public hearing scheduled to be held on 11.08.2023. It is submitted that the same is not permissible in view of the stipulation contained in Para 3.3 of Appendix IV of the EIA Notification, 2006 which allows for postponement only in the event of an untoward emergency. The reason for seeking rescheduling of the public hearing to be held on 11.08.2023 was that there was no awareness and clarification on the said Project/EIA Report. However, this aspect was already dealt with as can be seen from the minutes of the public hearing that the representatives of the Project Proponent made a Power Point presentation concerning the Project by explaining the contents thereof in Konkani and then as requested by the public, in the English language.
65. The allegation of the Village Panchayat of Mulgao being excluded from the public hearing is belied by the objections raised by them in the same which is recorded at Sr. No. 161, which shows the presence of a Panch member of Mulgao. In fact, the Answering Respondent, in its point-wise reply to the queries raised by the Panch member, has stated that the mines management had a meeting with the Panchayat members who are the elected representatives of the community.

66. With respect to Ground 47, it is submitted that, the objections raised regarding the public hearing are an exercise in hair-splitting without any real grievance. The grievance of the Appellants primarily has to do with the brief oral explanation provided at the public hearing. This ignores the fact that the EIA Report was already made available to those desirable to attend the meeting, which has not been denied by the Appellants. Essentially the demand of the Appellants is that at the instance of the Panchayat, the public hearing of Mulgao ought to have been deferred for them to better respond to the oral objections made at the public hearing.



67. Above all, there is no grievance of the Appellants or the Panchayat that is highlighted in the pleadings of the Appeal to suggest that the same was raised and yet not addressed. The Appellants have relied on the judgment in *Hanuman Laxman Aroskar v. Union of India*, (2019) 15 SCC 401 to allege that the objections raised were simply wished away. In contrast, in the instant case, the Answering Respondent has responded to each and every objection raised at the public hearing in a point wise manner, as can be seen from the Letter dated 28.08.2023.

68. With respect to the alleged lapses in the information supplied in the EIA Report as raised in Ground 48, it is evident that the same is being raised only to provide a semblance of a weight to the Appeal, without even a thorough reading of the EIA Report. For instance, the places of worship supposedly not mentioned have been specifically mentioned in Chapter 2 at Para 3.2.1 of the EIA Report. Similarly, the forest issue was expressly raised by the EAC in its meeting held on 21-22 September, 2023 and the status of the area not being a forest was confirmed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DFO) by its Letter dated 22.12.2023. Similarly, the waterbodies and the Buddhist caves are also expressly mentioned in Chapter 2 at Para 2.3.1 of the EIA Report. With respect to the mention of a greenfield project in this Ground, it is reiterated that even the EAC in its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting has classified the Project as a greenfield project.

69. With respect to Grounds 49 & 50, it is submitted that, the minutes were read out to all the participants of the public hearing and the corrections suggested by them were duly incorporated, read out and signed at the end of the public hearing 12.08.2023 at 1:30AM. This document was made available to the public by the GSPCB on the very next day as indicated at the said public hearing, and consequently was well within the Appellants' knowledge. It is significant to note that all concerns raised and corrections required were carried out and confirmed by the Collector at the public hearing itself, which is apparent from the videography of the public hearing. Moreover, at the said public hearing, the concerned officer informed the public that they would have a period of one week to seek correction of any discrepancies in the minutes.
70. Curiously, the Appellant No. 1 chose to wait for a period of two weeks to send the same, by email dated 25.08.23, which clearly shows that the grievances raised in the said email were merely an afterthought.
71. In fact, on an examination of the minutes of the said meeting, it is apparent that no queries were raised by the Appellant No. 1 with respect to the purported discrepancies of which correction has been sought as is evident from Page 237 of the Appeal and it is not the Appellants' case that his objections were not recorded accurately.
72. The allegations made in Grounds 51 & 52, once again show that the Appellants have not read the EIA Report inasmuch as the water bodies, places of worship, and schools have been dealt with at Para 2.3.1, which sets out the geographical aspect of the mine location and accounts for the water bodies, places of worship, and schools.
73. Ground 53 is a matter of record.
74. With respect to Ground 54, the allegation of absence of cumulative assessment by the EAC is denied in view of the law laid down in *Rajeev Suri v. DDA*, (2022) 11
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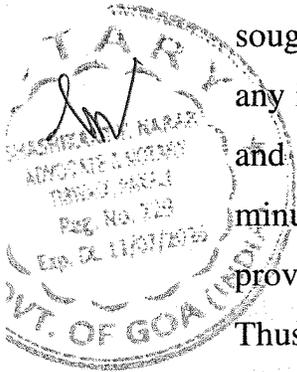
SCC 1, wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that once an expert committee has applied its mind, a challenge to an EC can only be entertained if there is concrete material to show a "total absence of mind". This threshold is not met in the instant case, as the EAC held multiple meetings before recommending the EC for a grant.

75. In fact, the EAC considered the Answering Respondent's Project on 22.09.2023 at its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting, after which it directed a site visit by the subcommittee and also sought additional details *inter alia* with specifics of the settling ponds, whether any illegal mining in the Project can be attributed to the Answering Respondent, and also sought a video recording of the public hearing. Significantly, these minutes record that the DMG was called as a special invitee, and that they would provide a copy of the report from the SIT and provide the same to the MoEFCC. Thus, making it evident that they were well aware that mining had taken place in the subject lease in the past.

76. With respect to Ground 55, it is submitted that, the same is misconceived inasmuch as the Appellants seem to conflate the site visit by the subcommittee with a public hearing.

77. With respect to Ground 56, it is submitted that, the assertions therein are biased preconceived notions of the Appellants and demonstrate a complete lack of reading of the EIA Report by them. The EIA Report elaborately deals with all habituated areas and places of worship and provides for mitigative measures apart from undertaking to not carry out blasting or drilling in those areas. The same can be seen in Chapter 2 at Para 2.1 (where it has been clearly stated that it is an opencast Iron ore mining project using HEMM and that there is no drilling and blasting involved in this Project) as well as Para 2.3.1.

78. With respect to Ground 57, it is submitted that, the Answering Respondent has collected and prepared the baseline data in terms of the OM dated 8.06.2022 bearing reference no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III [E 177258] issued by the



MoEFCC, which mandates that such data must not exceed 3 years from the date of the application. Thus, the operations of mines from 1941 would be irrelevant.

79. With respect to Grounds 58, 59 & 60, the content of Para 6 is reiterated and it is submitted that there has been no non-application of mind by the EAC in the grant of the EC in light of the threshold laid down in *Rajeev Suri* (supra).
80. With respect to Ground 62, the content of Para 46 is reiterated.
81. With respect to Ground 63, the content of Para 60 is reiterated.
82. With respect to Ground 64, the content of Para 69 is reiterated.
83. With respect to Ground 65, it is submitted that the course suggested by the Appellants for this Hon'ble Tribunal to follow, is directly contrary to the *dicta* of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Rajeev Suri* (supra), wherein it was held that:

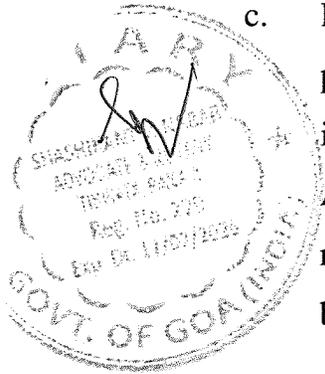
“509. Once an expert committee has duly applied its mind to an application for [an] EC, any challenge to its decision has to be based on concrete material which reveals **total absence of mind**. Absent that material, due deference must be shown to the decisions of experts [....]”. [emphasis added]

“529. [...] The expertise developed by the EAC cannot be undermined in a light manner and as noted above, **due deference must be accorded to expert agencies when their decisions do not attract the taint of legal unjustness** [....]”. [emphasis added]

#### SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS

84. Hence, in summary, it is submitted that:
  - a. The Appeal is barred by limitation, having been filed 43 days beyond the period of limitation u/s 16(h) of the NGT Act. Though otherwise within the condonable period, the same cannot be condoned in this case given that the ground given to seek condonation is *ex facie* fallacious vide *Binod Bihari* (supra).

- b. The Appeal is essentially premised on misconceived notions of the Appellants such as those relating to what constitutes a brownfield project, which in fact is, a subsisting project that is seeking expansion or modernisation. Ironically, a greenfield project is put through the rigours of a full-fledged EIA process unlike a brownfield project that is considered directly from the stage of appraisal.
- c. Hence, the EC granted to the Answering Respondent was so granted after putting it through all rigours contemplated under the EIA Notification, 2006, including most significantly, a public hearing, wherein inter alia the Appellants participated and raised the very same grievances sought to be raised in this Appeal and which grievances have been adequately dealt with by the EAC.
- d. A reading of the EAC minutes, which are well-reasoned and the fact that the EAC sent a subcommittee for a site inspection, demonstrate complete application of mind to all relevant issues and also all grievances raised at the public hearing. Thus, the threshold for judicial review of an EC as laid down by the Supreme Court in *Hanuman Aroskar* (supra) and *Rajeev Suri* (supra) is not met.
- e. The fulcrum of the Appeal is the fact that the lease in question was previously operated. Most grounds are anchored to this fact. However, all arguments of the Appellants are in ignorance of the statutory mandate of Rule 9A(9) of the MCR, 2016, which gives the new allottee the lease on a clean slate.
- f. Various aspects such as road transportation or the NEERI Report have been and are subject matter of writ proceedings before the Bombay High Court at Goa and hence, cannot be gone into by this Hon'ble Tribunal *vide Raghu Ramakrishna Raju* (supra).



g. Various issues raised in the Appeal are *ex facie* beyond the jurisdiction of this Tribunal such as ownership disputes, mining reserves, compensation for land owners and the like.

85. In the above conspectus, it is submitted that the instant Appeal be dismissed as being without merit.



**Shivshankar Swaminathan**

**Advocate for R-3**

**Dated: 30.07.2024**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN BENCH AT PUNE  
APPEAL NO. 73 of 2024

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

SWAPNESH SHERLEKAR AND ORS.

APPELLANTS

v.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ORS

...RESPONDENTS

**AFFIDAVIT**

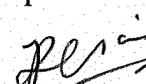
I, Jagdish Ravindranath Desai, son of Ravindranath Govind Desai, major of age, married, Indian National, r/o UG3, B1, Milroc Temple Towers, Opposite Swami Samarth Temple, Merces, Goa, working as Head Environment – Sesa Goa – Vedanta Limited, the authorised representative of the Respondent No. 3 in the captioned appeal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

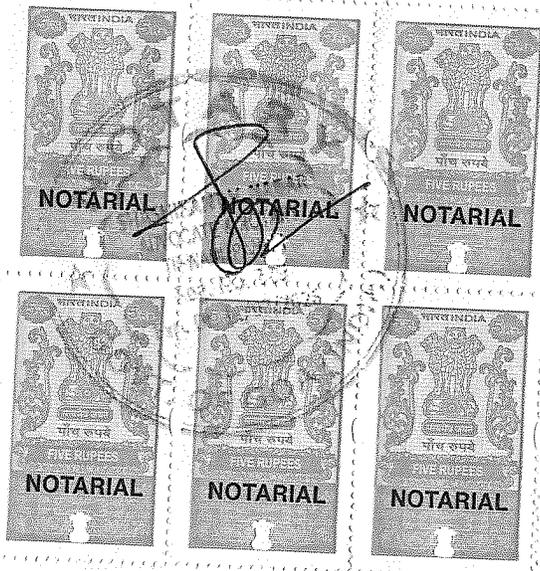
1. That I am the Head Environment – Sesa Goa – Vedanta Limited of the Respondent No. 3 in the captioned matter and hence am aware of the facts of this case and I have been duly authorised, hence I am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That contents of the accompanying reply at para 1 to 85 have been drafted by my counsel under my instructions and after going through and carefully understanding the same I state the same to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on the records of the case available at hand and the legal submissions made therein are based on legal advice which I believe to true. No part thereof is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.
3. That the annexures enclosed with the said reply are true and/or typed copies of their respective originals.
4. That the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.

  
**DEPONENT**

**VERIFICATION**

Verified at *Panaji* on this *30<sup>th</sup>* day of July, 2024 that the contents of foregoing affidavit are based on my knowledge and belief and that no part thereof is false and that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

  
**DEPONENT**



Solemnly affirmed before me by  
 Shri/Smt. Jagdish R. Desai  
 who has been identified by  
Adv. Shankar  
 Reg. No. 2399 Date 30/07/2024

*[Signature]*

SHASHIKANT V. NABAR  
 Advocate & Notary  
 Tiswadi Taluka  
 Panaji-Goa 403 001  
 Reg. No. 229

**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 Hydropwer including Irrigation, Mining and Road infrastructure. This includes 22 cases form 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



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

**IA Division**

**(Non-Coal Mining)**



**AGENDA FOR 14th EAC MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (NON-COAL MINING SECTOR), SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING 3-4 MAY, 2023 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

<b>Agenda ID</b>	EC/AGENDA/EAC/777238/4/2023
<b>Agenda Creation Date</b>	20/04/2023
<b>Title of Meeting</b>	AGENDA FOR 14th EAC MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (NON-COAL MINING SECTOR), SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING 3-4 MAY, 2023 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE.
<b>Meeting Mode</b>	Virtual
<b>Meeting Venue</b>	N/A
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Start Date :</b> 03/05/2023 <b>End Date :</b> 04/05/2023

	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Mode</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
Day 1	03/05/2023	Virtual	10:30 AM	05:30 PM
Day 2	04/05/2023	Virtual	10:30 AM	05:30 PM

**List of Proposals**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Proposal No.</b>	<b>Proposal Details</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Proponent</b>
1	IA/RJ/MIN/426653/2023	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>State:</b>	03/05/2023	SANDEEP

		<p>:Revalidation of EC under MoEF&amp;CC Notification S.O 1530(E) dated 06th April, 2018 for Lakheri Limestone Mine (ML Area 1516.88 ha) with production capacity of 1.5 MTPA and waste/ topsoil 11.25 Lakhs CuM per annum (Maximum) with existing Wobbler and screening plant of 400 TPH at villages Gendoli Kala, GendoliKhurdh, Pholai, Gutha, Mahuwa, Dangaheri, Budel, Kankra, Chamavali, Uttarana, Lkaheri, Sakhoda, Nayagaon &amp; Papadi, Tehsil: Indergarh&amp;Kesoraipatan, District: Bundi, Rajasthan of M/s ACC Limited.</p> <p><b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh EC  <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals  <b>Sector:</b> MIN</p>	<p>RAJASTHAN  <b>District:</b>  BUNDI</p>		KUMAR
2	IA/GA/MIN/422323/2023	<p><b>Project Name :</b>Block 1- Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore  <b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh ToR  <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals  <b>Sector:</b> MIN</p>	<p><b>State:</b> GOA  <b>District:</b>  NORTH GOA</p>	03/05/2023	DSS VEDANTA LIMITED
3	IA/MP/MIN/425852/2023	<p><b>Project Name :</b>Sagmania Limestones Mines(852.5 Ha)  <b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh ToR  <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals  <b>Sector:</b> MIN</p>	<p><b>State:</b>  MADHYA PRADESH  <b>District:</b>  SATNA</p>	03/05/2023	BIRLA CORPORATION LTD.
4	IA/RJ/MIN/424348/2023	<p><b>Project Name :</b>Proposed expansion of Sanu-II Limestone Mining Project (M.L. No. 01/1997, Area 998.4 ha.) with Mine Material handling capacity from existing 2.73 MILLION TPA to 10.23 MILLION TPA which includes ROM SMS grade Limestone resource- 2.73 MILLION TPA, Cement Grade Limestone resource-5 MILLION TPA &amp; recovery of mineral from Handling</p>	<p><b>State:</b>  RAJASTHAN  <b>District:</b>  JAISALMER</p>	04/05/2023	RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED

		of old backfilled limestone size reject dumps (0-30 mm size)-2.5 MILLION TPA along with Crushing (1X300TPH & 1X200 TPH) & Screening plants ( 4X250 TPH) <b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh ToR <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals <b>Sector:</b> MIN			
5	IA/RJ/MIN/424123/2023	<b>Project Name :</b> Unroi-II SMS Grade Limestone Mines, ML-06/2020, Village- Unroi, Tehsil- Sam, District- Jaisalmer, State- Rajasthan. (ML Area 998 Hectare). <b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh ToR <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals <b>Sector:</b> MIN	<b>State:</b> RAJASTHAN <b>District:</b> JAISALMER	04/05/2023	RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED
6	IA/RJ/MIN/424677/2023	<b>Project Name :</b> Unroi-I SMS Grade Limestone Mines, ML-05/2020, LEASE AREA : 998.00 Hectares <b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh ToR <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals <b>Sector:</b> MIN	<b>State:</b> RAJASTHAN <b>District:</b> JAISALMER	04/05/2023	RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED
7	IA/RJ/MIN/424210/2023	<b>Project Name :</b> KHUIYALA-I SMS GRADE LIMESTONE MINES (ML-01/2020) TOTAL LEASE AREA 944 Ha. <b>Proposal For:</b> Fresh ToR <b>Activity:</b> 1(a) Mining of minerals <b>Sector:</b> MIN	<b>State:</b> RAJASTHAN <b>District:</b> JAISALMER	04/05/2023	RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED

### Any Other Item(s)

Sr. No.	Proposal No.	Proposal Details	Location
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### Expert Appraisal Committee Members Details

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Mr Pankaj Verma	Scientist E	pankaj.verma@nic.in
2	Dr Dinesh Misra	IFS (Retired)	dmisra56@gmail.com
3	Sh Niranjana Kumar Vasu	Member (EAC)	vasuifs@gmail.com
4	Dr Asha Rajvanshi	Member (EAC)	asharajvanshi@gmail.com
5	Shri Avijit Gosh	Member (EAC)	avijitmining@gmail.com
6	Shri Bandi Ramchandra Reddy	Member (EAC)	reddynamchandra8858@gmail.com
7	Prof Pramod Kumar	Member (EAC)	nita_pramod@yahoo.com
8	Prof Devesh Walia	Member (EAC)	wadevesh@gmail.com
9	Dr Suresh Tiwari	Member (EAC)	smbtiwari@gmail.com
10	Dr K G Asha Manjari	Member (EAC)	kimberlite2016@gmail.com
11	Prof Dev Dutt Sharma	Member (EAC)	ddshpu@gmail.com
12	Shri Mohammad Niyazi	Member (EAC)	dirsnt.dgms@gmail.com
13	Mr V K Soni Representative of IMD	Member (EAC)	vijay.soni@imd.gov.in
14	Dr Y G Kale Representative of IBM	Member (EAC)	ygkale@ibm.gov.in

**Remarks**

AGENDA FOR 14th EAC MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (NON-COAL MINING SECTOR), SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING 3-4 MAY, 2023 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE.

**(NON-COAL MINING SECTOR)**

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**AGENDA FOR 14<sup>th</sup> EAC MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (NON-COAL MINING SECTOR), SCHEDULED TO BE HELD DURING 3-4 MAY, 2023 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

**Instructions:** Project Proponents are requested to strictly follow the following instructions:

1. It is requested that the project proponent or his/her authorized representative should participate in EAC meeting through Video Conferencing only (preferably not more than two representatives) who can make a presentation on their behalf on the salient features of the project, the related environmental issues, proposed Environmental Management Plan, commitment made during public hearing, CER, occupational health plan, plantation plan, method of mining, beneficiation activities, transportation plan, R&R issues and also respond to the queries/suggestions of the Committee.
2. NIC, MoEF&CC will moderate the Video Conferencing meeting. The Guidelines related to connecting VC is annexed herewith. PP will be ready before 10 minutes of the slot allowed to them. If any problem faced please contact Mr. Kamal, Moderator, NIC (**Mobile No. 8800225087, email- [support-ipb@nic.in](mailto:support-ipb@nic.in)**).
3. As there is a time restriction in Video Conferencing, therefore, PP is requested to submit the **requisite documents along with presentation through email to all the Committee Members and Officials of the Ministry by 24.04.2023**. There must be maximum 20 slides for ToR presentation and 30 slides for EC presentation. The Project Proponent is requested to include a separate slide for the matter of court case.
4. The presentation should reflect-
  - i. Point wise ToR Compliance;
  - ii. Contain information regarding total excavation from mines;
  - iii. Method of mining,
  - iv. Stage wise mine development preferably at 5-year interval showing the surface features such as habitations, roads, railway line, transmission line, water body, nallah, forest or other eco-sensitive zones, protection against the surface features
  - v. Surface features through KML file
  - vi. beneficiation, crusher,
  - vii. details of mining lease its validity,
  - viii. transfer,
  - ix. impact of mining activities on air, water, soil, noise, flora & fauna, habitation, socio-economic issues,
  - x. public hearing issues,
  - xi. involvement of forest land,
  - xii. requirement of clearance under Forest Conservation act, 1980,

- xiii. Wildlife protection act, 1972 and CRZ Notification, 2011, authenticated map regarding distance from ESZ if any falling within 10 Km of the ML.
  - xiv. permission for withdrawal of ground water,
  - xv. intersection of ground water table, permission for surface water / CGWA,
  - xvi. air quality modelling,
  - xvii. mitigation measures to all impacts,
  - xxviii. violation if any of any of the statutory requirement with action taken if any, In case of the expansion proposals in the flat of Annexure
  - xix. undertaking for compliance of various court orders and statutory requirement,
  - xx. time bound activity wise action plan for plantation, occupation health plan, CER, EMP,
  - xxi. Court case/litigation, violation if any etc.
  - xxii. Show the transportation route of minerals on maps during presentation.
  - xxiii. Certificate of compliance and compliance status in case of expansion proposals
  - xxiv. Point wise reply to observation made earlier by committee, if any.
5. Presentations for ToR should be brief, precise and supported by Letter of Intent/ mine lease and topo-sheet etc. All important features such as National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Mangroves, Biosphere Reserves/Bio-diversity, Heritage sites, Reserve Forests, Rivers, water Bodies, Highways, Railway line, Habitations, Critically Polluted Areas (CPA), cluster situation etc. should be clearly indicated in an area of 10 km radius of the proposed site.
6. The project proponents applied their on-line application should submit the Form-2, Form-1, Pre-feasibility report, approval from concerned department/states, compliance of existing EC, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA/EMP) Report, public hearing report, approved mining plan/review of mining plan, lease deed /LoI with its validity , queries subsequently raised by the Ministry, if any, and your para-wise comments thereto etc., in accordance with Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 are required to be forwarded to the Chairman/Members of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Non-Coal) including details of the court matters/Orders of the Court pertaining to the project, if any. Accordingly, I request you to forward a copy of each of these documents – Soft Copies to the Chairman/members of the Expert Appraisal Committee, at earliest before the meeting.
7. **All the brown field projects applied for EC, ToR, Amendment in ToR and EC should submit details in Annexure-III with all supporting documents** along with supporting documents which *inter-alia* include past production of mine since its inception, duly authenticated by Department of Mines & Geology, State

- Government. PP and Consultant shall examine the proposal in light of S.O. 804(E) dated 14.03.2017 and Common Cause Judgment dated 02.08.2017 and specifically mentioned about the violation if any. Details of demand if any raised by concerned Department of Mining and Geology in pursuant to common cause judgment dated 02.08.2017 and details of payment, if any made to Department of Mines & Geology.
8. Copy of affidavit needs to be submitted by PP in compliance of the Ministry's OM no. 3-50/2017-IA.III (Pt.), dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.
  9. In accordance with the circular no. J-11011/618/2010-IA. II (I) dated 30.5.2012, in case of expansion project, for which environment clearance was issued earlier, the project proponent shall submit a certified report of the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environment clearance for the on-going / existing operations of the project by the Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the EC as highlighted in the report(s) will be discussed by the EAC during appraisal of the project. PP and Consultant shall clearly bring out the non-compliance of EC Conditions if any and further course of action for compliance of the same.
  10. KML/Shape Files of the mine lease area at the time of presentation before EAC and to present on the details of mine lease online to show the present status of mine lease and also other leases in 10 km radius. PP shall ensure that KML file is correct in all respect and in case mining activities is showing outside the mining lease than a letter from concerned mining department needs to be submitted to certify that the mining activities is within the mining lease area only. The KML/Shape files should be emailed to all EAC Members & Ministry Officials by 24.04.2023.
  11. PP needs to submit the documents w.r.t. validity of the mining lease (brown filed projects) and letter of intent (green filed projects) along with supporting documents. PP should submit the details of lease renewal/ transfer/surrender in chronological manner.
  12. All Certificates' should be addressed to the Ministry on letter head with letter number & dispatch number.
  13. Please indicate the item number of the Agenda while circulating the documents.
  14. The Project Proponents shall ensure that the Certificate/NOC uploaded on the website or submitted to Ministry should have of the Name, Designation, Office Contact details and signature of the competent authority from the concern Department. In absence of this information, the certificate will be treated as invalid.
  15. The PP shall submit the hard copy of the documents circulated to the EAC members, uploaded online or presented during the meeting to the Ministry as per the travel advisory issued by Govt. Of India.
  16. The PP need to ascertain from the consultant that all the documents have been submitted in the Ministry as per the agenda.
  17. The Consultant shall include an undertaking in the EIA report that the prescribed TOR have been complied with and that the data

submitted is factually correct and also an undertaking shall be submitted owning the contents (information and data) of the EIA report. In case any document of information found misleading at any stage then EC/TOR/Amendment granted shall be liable for rejection and action may be initiated against consultant for cancellation of accreditation.

18. The Project Proponent during the submission of application or at the stage of TOR should indicate the name of the consultant/consultancy firm, Serial number they propose to hire for preparing EIA/EMP reports along with their complete details including their accreditation.
19. All correspondence with MoEF&CC including submission of application for TOR/EC, subsequent clarifications, as may be required from time to time, participation in the EAC meeting on behalf of the PPs shall be made by the authorized signatory only who should be a reasonably Senior Officer/Executive duly authorized in writing.
20. PP may kindly intimate the mobile numbers of the representing people in advance for communicating regarding login and logout in VC to the MS in advance.
21. Kindly send a brief write up of project/executive summary of the project (maximum three page, in word format without any table) and the name of the consultant with the Sl. No. In the QCI/NABET list in a week's time by e-mail to the following address: [pankaj.verma@nic.in](mailto:pankaj.verma@nic.in), [munna.shah@gov.in](mailto:munna.shah@gov.in), [vidyasagar.jha@gov.in](mailto:vidyasagar.jha@gov.in)

Sd/

(**Pankaj Verma**)  
Scientist 'E'

**Note: The items listed for environmental clearances will be taken up for appraisal only on fulfilment of relevant instruction given above.**

### Basic Information

**Important Note: Please send the information by e-mail in word format and a signed & scanned copy to the Member Secretary prior to the EAC meeting. Please also provide a copy to the members of the EAC during the EAC meeting.**

#### I. PROJECT DETAILS

1. Name of the project:
2. Name of the Company, Address Tele No. & E-mail Head of organization:
3. If a Joint venture, the names & addresses of the JV partners including their share
4. Latitude and Longitude of the project
5. Whether the project is in the Critically Polluted Area(CPA):
6. Cost of the project
7. Whether new or expansion project. If expansion:
  - (i) from .....MT to .....MT
  - (ii) What is the % of expansion
8. If for expansion, whether the application is under 7(ii) of the EIA Notification, 2006.
9. No. and Date of the ToR /and revised ToR, if any, letter issued by the MoEF (if this is a case for EC)
10. No. and Date of the EC and the revised EC letter issued by the MoEF (if this is a case for reconsideration. If so, what specific reconsideration(s) being sought by the proponent)
11. If the project was considered in EAC, Pl. give dates of the meeting(s).
12. Type of Mine: (Opencast/Underground/mixed):
13. Capacity of the mine applied for
14. Mine Lease Area
  - (i) As per block allotment
  - (ii) As per approved mine plan
15. Date of approval of mine plan, mine closure plan, status &date
16. Date of Board's approval:
17. Date of Ground water clearance and surface water approval.
18. Existing Ground water level in(M)
19. Date of mine closure approval
20. Any river/Nallah flowing near or adjacent to the proposed mine. If yes, please give details.

Details of mine lease: -

1. Date of entering into original lease deed.	1. Date of 1st lease renewal	1. Date of 2nd lease Renewal	1. Date of lease renewal
2. Date of expiry of original lease deed	2. Whether renewal or deemed renewal. 3. Date of expiry of 1 <sup>st</sup> lease renewal/deemed renewal	2. Whether renewal or deemed renewal 3. Date of expiry of 2 <sup>nd</sup> lease renewal/deemed renewal	2..... 3..... 3rd

## II TECHNICALDETAILS

### 21. Geological Reserve:

- (i) Total geological reserve
- (ii) Mineable reserve
- (iii) Extractable reserve
- (iv) Per cent (%) of extraction
- (v) Range of ground water level
- (vi) Total estimated water requirement:
- (vii) Details of intersecting ground water level

### 22. Details of Deposits:

- (i) Depth of ore body
- (ii) Grade of ore
- (iii) Stripping ratio

### 23. Method of mining:

### 24. Life of mine

25. Whether ambient air quality seasonal data has been monitored. If so, from which season to which season and whether the results are within the prescribed limits.

26. Whether the monitoring report of earlier EC from MoEF Regional Office has been obtained, in case the proposal is for expansion.

### 27. Details of O.B.

- (i) External OB dumps
- (ii) No of OB dumps
- (iii) Area of each dump
- (iv) Height of each dump
- (v) Quantity (in MCm) of OB in each dump
- (vi) Year of backfilling
- (vii) No. of OB dumps reclaimed
- (viii) If garland drains and settlement facility for runoff created
- (ix) Whether runoff water being utilized

28. Details of Internal Dumps

- (i) Number of internal dumps
- (ii) Area of each dump
- (iii) Height of each dump
- (iv) Quantity of wastes filled(MCm)

## 29. Utilization potential of wastes

- (i) Within the mines
- (ii) Outside mines
- (iii) Efforts made by proponent

30. Details of final MineVoids

- (i) Area
- (ii) Depth

31. Details of Quarry:

- (i) Total quarry area:
- (ii) Backfilled quarry area of ....ha shall be reclaimed with plantation
- (iii) A void of ..... ha at a depth of ..... m which is proposed to be converted into a waterbody
- (iv) Green belt created in ha.

32. Details of Land usage

- (i) Pre-mining
- (ii) Post-Mining
- (iii) Core area

33. Details of Forest issues

- (i) Total forest area involved (in ha) for mining lease.
- (ii) Total broken forest area.
- (iii) Status of Forest Clearance and extend of forest land diverted in ha.
- (iv) Is there any National Park, eco-sensitive Zones, within 10 km radius? If so, give the details.
- (v) Extent of forest land in the project (including safety zone and all types of forest land) (in ha)
- (vi) Total forest land for which Stage-1 FC is available (give area in ha), provide breakup of this area in following format:

Area(in ha)	Stage-1 FC issued vide letter no. & date	Validity period of earlier FC granted

- (vii) Balance forest land for which Stage-1 FC is not available (give area in ha)
- (viii) Details of wild life issues involved, if any. If so, whether WL management plan has been prepared; pl. indicates the status.

- (ix) Whether schedule -I species, if yes conservation plan is approved by CWLW?

34. Costs of the project:

- (i) Total capital Cost:
- (ii) Cost of Production:
- (iii) Sale Price:
- (iv) CSR cost:
- (v) R&R Cost:
- (vi) No of PAFs:
- (vii) Cost for implementing EMP:

35. Details of villages/habitation in mine lease area

- (i) Inside the lease
- (ii) Surrender by lease
- (iii) Extent of cropland acquired/ being acquired in ha.

36. Details of transportation of mineral

- (i) In pit:
- (ii) Surface to siding:
- (iii) Siding to loading:
- (iv) Quantity being transported by Road/Rail/conveyer/ropeway
- (v) Proposed change in transportation means if any, give details

37. Details of reclamation:

- a. Afforestation shall be done covering an area of: ..... ha at the end of mining. This will include:
- (i) Reclaimed external OB dump ( in ha):
  - (ii) internal dump (in ha),
  - (iii) Green belt ( in ha)
  - (iv) Density of tree plantation ( in no of plants)
  - (v) Void ( in ha) at a depth of ( in m )which is proposed to be converted into water body
  - (vi) Others in ha (such as excavation area along ML boundary, along roads and infrastructure, embankment area and in township located outside the lease etc).
  - (vii) Agriculture and horticulture
  - (viii) Fisheries
  - (ix) ECO Tourist/recreation spot

III. LEGAL ISSUES

38. Any court case pending. If so, please provide a list with details as an annexure.
- (i) Environment (Protection) Act
  - (ii) Air(P&CP) Act.

- (iii) Water (P&CP) Act.
- (iv) MMDR Act
- (v) The Factories Act.
- (vi) Other land R&R related cases.

39. Any violation cases pending. If so, please provide a list with details as annexure
40. Give details of actual production vis-à-vis sanctioned capacity since the inception of mine in following format or since 1993-94 as applicable:

Year	EC sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual production (MTPA)	Excess production beyond the EC sanctioned capacity

#### IV. PUBLIC HEARING ISSUES

41. Date and Place of public hearing:
42. The designation of officer presided our the PH
43. Issues raised during Public Hearing and assurance given along with the financial provisions and action plan, if any, by the project proponent. (Please attach as an annexure in a tabular form.)
44. Number of representation received in writing from the district and outside of district, please give details

#### V. Consultant;

45. Name of the EIA consultant who prepared the EIA/EMP report.
46. Whether the consultant has been accredited by the QCI and NABET as per the MoEF OM dated 2nd December,2009.
47. Name of specialists/consultants involved in making EIA report and in collecting data.

#### VI. Other Information

48. One page summary for TOR and EC separately as applicable.
49. Brief Background of the Project as per table:

1.	Details of PP and Group companies (a)Financial Position (b)Group companies (c)Legal issues (d) Past and current litigations	
2.	Social, economic and environmental aspects of the project in brief.	

**Compliance of MoEFCC's Office Memorandum No. 22-8/2018-IA. III, dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018 for submission of FORM 2 for EC Proposals**

**Form-2**

**APPLICATION FOR PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

**[Non-coal Mining Projects]**

<b>1 Details of Project</b>							
a.	Name of the Project (s)					:	
b.	Name of the Company / Organization					:	
c.	Registered Address					:	
d.	Legal Status of the Company					:	
e.	Joint Venture (Yes/No)					:	
	If Yes,						
	(i) No. of JV Partners( <b>Multiple Entries Allowed</b> )					:	
	Name of the JV Partner	Share of the JV Partner	Address of the JV Partner	Email Id of JV Partner	Mobile No. of JV Partner		
<b>2 Address for the correspondence</b>							
a	Name of the applicant					:	
b	Designation (Owner / Partner / CEO)					:	
c.	Address						
d	Pin code						
e	e-mail						
f.	Telephone No.						
g.	Fax No.						
<b>3 Category of the Project/Activity as per Schedule of EIA Notification,2006</b>							
a.	Project / Activity [1(a)(i)/1(a)(ii)/1(b)/1(c)/1(d)/1(e)/2(a)/2(b)/3(a)/3(b) / 4(a) / 4(b)(i)/ 4(b) (ii) / 4(c) / 4(d) / 4(e) / 4(f) / 5(a) /5(b) /5(c)/5(d)/5(e)/5(f)/5(g)/5(h)/5(i)/5(j)/6(a)/6(b)/7(a) / 7(b)/ 7 (c) / 7 (d) / 7 (da) / 7 (e) / 7 (f) / 7 (g) / 7 (h) / 7(i) / 8 (a) / 8 (b)						
b.	Category (A/B1/B2)					:	
	If B1 or B2						
	Reason for application at Central Level / State level (in case of B2 projects)					:	
	If Others						
c.	Please Specify					:	

	d.	EAC concerned (for category A Projects only) (Coal Mining / Non-coal Mining / Thermal / River Valley & Hydro / Industry-I / Industry-II / Infrastructure-I / Infrastructure-II / Nuclear & Defence / CRZ	:	
	e.	New/Expansion/Modernization/OneTimeCapacityexpansion (only for Coal Mining) / Expansion under Para 7(ii) / Modernization under Para 7(ii) / Change of Product Mix under Para 7(ii))	:	
<b>4 Location of the Project</b>				
	a.	Plot / Survey / Khasra No.	:	
	b.	Village	:	
	c.	Tehsil	:	
	d.	District		
	e.	State		
	f.	Pin Code		
	g.	Bounded Latitudes (North)		
		From	:	
		To	:	
	h.	Bounded Longitudes(East)		
		From	:	
		To	:	
	i.	Survey of India Topo Sheet No.	:	
	j.	Upload Topo Sheet File ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )	:	
	k.	Maximum Elevation Above Means Sea Level(AMSL)	:	
	l.	Upload (kml) File ( <i>Upload kml only</i> )	:	
	m.	Distance of Nearest HFL from the project boundary within the study area	:	
	n.	Seismic Zone (Zone: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5)	:	
<b>5 Whether project is executed in multiple States (Yes / No)?</b>				
<b>If Yes</b>				
	a.	Number of States in which Project will be Executed (e.g. 1,2,3,4,5,6)		
	b.	Main State of the Project		
	c.	Other State ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> ) (If the project to be executed, does not belong to any state, then state category could be selected as 'Other')		
		State	District	Tehsil
				Village
<b>6 Details of Terms of Reference (ToR)</b>				
	a.	Whether ToR is mandatory for submitting application (Yes / No)?		
		If Yes		
	b.	Date of issue of ToR / Standard ToR		

	c.	MoEF&CC / SEIAA File No.					
	d.	Upload ToR letter (PDF only)					
<b>7</b>	<b>Details of Public Consultation</b>						
	a.	Whether the Project Exempted from Public Hearing (Yes/No)?					
		If yes,					
		Reason					
	b.	Supporting Document ( <i>upload pdf only</i> )					
	c.	Whether details of Public Hearing available (Yes/No)?			:		
		If No,					
	d.	Reason thereof					
		Supporting Document ( <i>upload pdf only</i> )					
		If Yes,					
	e.	Date of Advertisement of Public Hearing					
	f.	Copy of advertisement in English (Upload PDF only)			:		
	g.	Whether Public hearing was presided over by an officer of the rank of Additional District Magistrate or above(Yes/No)?			:		
		If yes					
	h.	Designation of Presiding Officer (District Magistrate / District Collector / Deputy Commissioner / others - please specify)					
	i.	Copy of duly signed Proceedings of Public Hearing in English ( <i>Upload pdfonly</i> )			:		
	j.	Date of Public Hearing			:		
	k.	Venue of Public Hearing:			:		
		Village					
		Tehsil					
		District					
		State					
	l.	Distance of Public Hearing Venue from the Proposed Project (km)			:		
	m.	No. of people attended			:		
	n.	If the multiple public hearings conducted					
		Pl give the details of each PH as per (e) to (o) above					
<b>8</b>	<b>Details of Project Configuration / Product (Multiple Entries Allowed)</b>						
	a.	Whether the project is New (Yes/No?)					
		If yes,					
	b.	Project Configuration					
		Plant / Equipment / Facility		Configuration	Remarks if any		
	c.	Product			:		
		Product / Activity (Capacit	Quantit y	Unit	Mode of Transport / Transmission of		

	y / Area)			Product	
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unit:- (Tons per Annum(TPA), Mega Watt(MW), Hectares(ha), Kilo Litreper Day(KLD), Tons Crushed per Day(TCD), Cubic Meter per Day, Kilometers(Km), Million Liters per Day(MLD),Others)</li> <li>- Mode of Transport/Transmission of Product (Road, Rail, Conveyor Belt,Pipe Conveyor, Arial Ropeway, combination of two or three modes, Others)</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>If Expansion / Modernisation / One Time Capacity expansion (only for Coal Mining) / Expansion under Clause 7(ii) / Modernisation under Clause 7(ii) / Change of Product Mix under Clause 7(ii))</b>				
	a.	Details of environmental clearance granted earlier			
	(i)	Date of issue of environmental clearance	:		
	(ii)	MoEFCC / SEIAA File Number			
	(iii)	Upload EC Letter			
	b.	Details of certified report on compliance of earlier environmental clearance conditions			
	(i)	Details of Regional Office of MoEFCC / Zonal Office of CPCB / SPCB / UTPCC from which certified report on compliance of earlier environmental clearance conditions obtained	:		
	(ii)	Letter No	:		
	(iii)	Status of Compliance	:		
	(iv)	Certified report on compliance of earlier environmental clearance conditions (Including Monitoring Report) <i>(Upload pdf only)</i>	:		
	(v)	Date of site visit	:		
	c.	<b>Details of Consent to Operate</b>			
	(i)	Whether Consent to operate obtained (Yes/No)? If yes,			
	(ii)	Upload Copies of all Consent to operate obtained since inception <i>(Upload pdf only)</i>			
	(iii)	Date of issue			
	(iv)	Valid up to			
	(v)	File No.			
	(vi)	Application No.			
	(vii)	Upload Copy of Consent to operate valid as on date <i>(Upload pdf only)</i>			
	d.	Details of Capacity Expansion <i>(Multiple Entries Allowed)</i>			

	Product/Activity(Capacity/Area)	Quantity From	Quantity To	Unit	Mode of Transport/Transmission of Product	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unit:- (Tons per Annum(TPA), Mega Watt(MW), Hectares(ha), KiloLitre per Day(KLD), Tons Crushed per Day(TCD), Cubic Meter per Day, Kilometers(Km), Million Liters per Day(MLD),Others)</li> <li>- Mode of Transport/Transmission of Product (Road, Rail, Conveyor Belt, Pipe Conveyor, Aerial Ropeway, combination of two or threemodes, Others)</li> </ul>					
e.	Details of Configuration ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> )					
	Plant / Equipment/Facility	Existing Configuration	Proposed Configuration	Final configuration After expansion	Remarks if any	
<b>10</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>					
a.	Total Cost of the Project at current price level (in Lakhs)				:	
b.	Funds Allocated for Environment Management (Capital) (in Lakhs)				:	
c.	Funds Allocated Towards ESC (Entrepreneur Social Responsibility) (in Lakhs)				:	
d.	Funds Allocated for Environment Management Plan (EMP) (Recurring per Annum) (in Lakhs)				:	
<b>11</b>	<b>Whether project attracts the General Condition specified in the Schedule of EIA Notification (Yes/No)? [provide name of WL/CPA/ESA/Inter-state boundary / International boundary and distance from the project</b>				:	
	If Yes					
a.	Protected Area Notified Under the Wild Life(Protection) Act,1972				:	
b.	Critically Polluted Areas as identified by the Central Pollution Control Board from Time to Time				:	
c.	Notified Eco-Sensitive Areas				:	
d.	Inter-State Boundaries and International Boundaries				:	
<b>12</b>	<b>Whether projects attract the Specific Condition specified in the</b>				:	

<b>Schedule of EIA Notification (Yes/No)?</b>							
	If Yes						
a.	If any Industrial Estate/Complex / Export processing Zones /Special Economic Zones/Biotech Parks / Leather Complex with homogeneous type of industries such as Items 4(d), 4(f), 5(e), 5(f), or those Industrial estates with pre-defined set of activities (not necessarily homogeneous, obtains prior environmental clearance, individual industries including proposed industrial housing within such estates /complexes will not be required to take prior environmental clearance, so long as the Terms and Conditions for the industrial estate/complex are complied with (Such estates/complexes must have a clearly identified management with the legal responsibility of ensuring adherence to the Terms and Conditions of prior environmental clearance, who may be held responsible for violation of the same throughout the life of the complex/estate						
<b>13 Raw Material / Fuel Requirement (Multiple Entries Allowed)</b>							
a.	Details of Raw Material / Fuel Requirement						
	Raw Material / Fuel	Quantity per Annum	Unit	Source(in case of Import, please specify country and Name of the port from which Raw Material / Fuel is received)	Mode of Transport	Distance of Source from Project Site (in Kilometers) (In case of import, distance from the port from which the raw material / fuel is received	Type of Linkage (Linkage / Fuel Supply Agreement / e-auction / MoU / LOA / Captive / Open market / Others)

<p>In case of expansion proposals, total requirement of raw material / fuel shall be given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unit:- (Tons per Annum(TPA), Mega Watt(MW), Hectares(ha), Kilo Litre per Day(KLD), Tons Crushed per Day(TCD), Cubic Meter per Day, Kilometers(Km), Million Liters per Day(MLD),Others)</li> <li>- Mode of Transport/Transmission of Product (Road, Rail, Conveyor Belt,Pipe Conveyor, Aerial Ropeway,combination of two or three modes, Others)</li> </ul>								
b.		Upload copy of Linkage / Fuel Supply Agreement / e-auction / Memorandum of Understanding / Letter of Allocation / Captive source / others.					:	
<b>14 Baseline Data (Air / Water / Noise / Soil / Ground water table/ Others)</b>								
a.		Period of Base Line Data Collection						
		From (DD/MM/YYYY)					:	
		To (DD/MM/YYYY)					:	
b.		Season (Summer / Pre-monsoon / Post-monsoon / Winter)					:	
c.		No. of Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Monitoring Locations					:	
d.		Details of AAQ Monitoring ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> )						
Criteria Pollutants		Unit	Maximum Value	Minimum Value	98 Percentile Value	Prescribed Standard		
e.		No. of Ground Water Monitoring Locations ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> )					:	
f.		Details of Ground Water Monitoring						
Criteria Pollutants		Unit	Maximum Value	Minimum Value	98 Percentile Value	Prescribed Standard		

Criteria Pollutants: - (pH, TSS, TDS, Total Hardness, Chlorides, Fluoride, Heavy Metals, other parameters specific to the sector) - Unit :- (mg/l,NA)							
g.	No. of Surface Water Monitoring Locations					:	
h.	Details of Ground Water Monitoring ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> )						
	Criteria Pollutants	Unit	Maximum Value	Minimum Value	98 Percentile Value	Prescribed Standard	
	- Parameter :- (pH, DO, BOD, COD, Others parameters specific to the sector) - Unit :- (mg/l,NA)						
i.	No. of Ambient Noise Monitoring Locations					:	
j.	Details of Noise Monitoring ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> )						
	Parameter	Unit	Maximum Value	Minimum Value	98 Percentile Value	Prescribed Standard	
	- Parameter:-(Leq(Day),Leq(Night)) - Unit :- (A-weighteddecibels(dB(A))						
k.	No. of Soil Monitoring Locations ( <i>Multiple Entries Allowed</i> )					:	
	Parameter	Unit	Maximum Value	Minimum Value	98 Percentile Value		
	- Parameter :- (pH, N(Nitrogen), P(Phosphorus), K(Potassium),Electric Conductivity) - Unit :- (Millisiemens per Centimeter, Milligram per Litre, Percent, Centimeter per Second,Milliequivalents per 100 Gram, Milligram per Kilogram,Parts per Million, Kilogram per hectare, Others)						
l	<b>Ground Water Table</b>						
i	Range of Water Table Pre-Monsoon Season (Meters Below Ground Level (m bgl)):						
	From					:	
	To					:	

	ii	Range of Water Table Post-Monsoon Season (Meters Below Ground Level (m bgl)):						
		From					:	
		To					:	
	iii	Whether Ground Water Intersection will be there (Yes / No)?					:	
		If Yes,						
		(i) Upload Copy of Central Ground Water Authority Letter (Upload pdf only)					:	
		(ii) Letter No.					:	
		(iii) Date of issue					:	
<b>15 Details of Water Requirement (During Operation)</b> (Multiple Entries Allowed)								
	a.	Details						
		Source	Quantity in KLD	Method of water withdrawal	Distance from Source	Mode of Transport		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Source: Surface /Ground Water /Sea/Others</li> <li>- Mode of Transportation: Pipeline /Canal/Others</li> <li>- Method of water withdrawal: Barrage / Weir / Intake well / Jackwell / Tube well / Open well /Others</li> </ul>						
	b.	Upload Copy of Permission from Competent Authority (Upload pdf only)						
	c.	Letter No.					:	
	d.	Date of issue					:	
	e.	Permitted quantity					:	
	f.	Whether Desalination is proposed (Yes/ No)					:	
		If Yes,						
		(i) Desalination capacity (KLD)					:	
		(ii) Quality of Brine (KLD)					:	
		(iii) Mode of Disposal of brine					:	
<b>16 Waste Water Management (During Operation)</b>								
		Type / Source	Quantity of Waste Water Generated (Kilo Litre per Day)	Treatment Capacity (Kilo Litre per Day)	Treatment Method	Mode of Disposal	Quantity of Treated Water Used in Recycling / Reuse (Kilo Litre per Day)	Quantity of Discharged Water (Kilo Litre per Day)

a.	Total Waste Water Generation						:	
b.	Total Discharged Water						:	
c.	Total Reused Water						:	
<b>17</b>	<b>Solid Waste Generation Management</b> <i>(Multiple Entries Allowed)</i>							
	Item	Quantity per Annum	Unit	Distance from Site	Mode of Transport	Mode of Disposal		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Item:- (Industrial waste, Municipal Solid waste, Flyash, Bottom Ash, Hazardous Waste (as per Hazardous and Other Waste Management Rules 2016), E Waste, Bio-Medical waste, Construction &amp; Demolition waste, Plastic Waste, Others)</li> <li>- Unit:- (Tons, Kiloliter)</li> <li>- Mode of Disposal:- (Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF), Authorized Recyclers, Landfills, Sanitary Landfills, Others)</li> </ul>							
<b>18</b>	<b>Air Quality Impact Prediction</b> <i>(Multiple Entries Allowed)</i>							
	Criteria Pollutants	Unit	Baseline Concentration	Minimum Value	Incremental Concentration	Total GLC	Prescribed Standard	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parameter:- (PM10, PM, SO2, NOx, Others parameters specific to the sector)</li> <li>- Unit :- (Microgram per Meter Cube, NA)</li> </ul>							
<b>19</b>	<b>Power Requirement</b>							
a.	Quantity (Kilo Volt Amps (KVA))						:	
b.	Source						:	
c.	Upload Copy of Agreement <i>(Upload pdf only)</i>						:	
d.	Standby Arrangement (Details of DG Sets)						:	
e.	Stack Height (in m)						:	
<b>20</b>	<b>Land Ownership Pattern (Prior to the project proposal) in Ha</b>							
a.	Forest land						:	
b.	Private Land						:	
c.	Government Land						:	
d.	Revenue Land						:	

	e.	Other Land	:		
		Total land			
<b>21</b>	<b>Present Land Use breakup in Ha</b>				
	a.	Agriculture Area	:		
	b.	Waste/Barren Area	:		
	c.	Grazing/ Community Area	:		
	d.	Surface Water bodies	:		
	e.	Settlements			
	f.	Industrial			
	g.	Forest	:		
	h.	Mangroves			
	i.	Marine area			
	j.	Others (Specify)	:		
		Total	:		
<b>22</b>	<b>Land requirement for various activities (Multiple entries allowed) in Ha</b>			:	
	Description of Activity / Facility / Plant / Others		Land requirement	Remarks	
	Green belt				
	Total				
	- Activity / Facility / Plant / Others include: Main Plant, Township, Greenbelt, Ash pond, Quarry area, OB dump Area, Safety zone, Tailing pond, Landfill, Water reservoir, De-salination plant, Area for solid waste management, Built-up area, others				
<b>23</b>	<b>Ecological and Environmental Sensitivity (Within 10 Km):-<u>WLS-Wild Life Species; NPA-Notified Protected Area; ESAs-Eco Sensitive Areas;ESZs- Eco Sensitive Zones</u></b>				
a.	Details of Ecological Sensitivity				
	Details of Ecological Sensitivity	Name	Distance from the Project (Km)	Remarks	
	- Details of Ecological Sensitivity: - (Critically Polluted Area, WLS,NPA, ESAs, ESZs, Corridors, Wildlife Corridors)				

	b.	Whether NBWL recommendation is required (Yes/No)?			
		If yes			
		Upload NBWL recommendation in PDF			
	c.	Details of Environmental Sensitivity			
		Details of Environmental Sensitivity	Name	Distance from the Project (Km)	Remarks
		- Details of Environmental Sensitivity:- (Forest, Archaeological Sites, Defence Installations, Others)			
	d.	Whether NoC / Permission from the competent authority is required (Yes/No)?			
		If yes			
		Upload NoC / Permission from the competent authority in PDF			
<b>24 Forest Land</b>					
	1	Whether any Forest Land involved(Yes/No)?			
		If Yes			
	a.	Forests Clearance Status (In-Principle(Stage-I) Approval Obtained / Final (Stage-II) Approval Obtained / Forest Clearance Under Process(Stage-I) / Forest Clearance Under Process(Stage-II) / Application for Forest Clearance yet to be Submitted)		:	
		If In-Principle (Stage-I) Approval Obtained,			
		(i) MoEFCC file number		:	
		(ii) Date of InPrinciple (Stage-I) approval		:	
		(iii) Area diverted		:	
		(iv) Upload FC Letter (Upload pdf only and attach it as Annexure-FC letter)		:	
		If Final (Stage-II) Approval Obtained,			
		(i) MoEFCC file number		:	
		(ii) Date of Final Approval		:	
		(iii) Date of In-Principle Approval		:	
		(iv) Area diverted		:	
		(v) Upload FC Letter(Upload pdf only and attach it as Annexure-FC letter)			
		If Forest Clearance under process (Stage-I),			
		(i) MoEFCC file number		:	
		(ii) Area applied		:	
		If Forest Clearance under process (Stage-II),			

	(i) MoEFCC file number	:	
	(ii) Area applied	:	
b.	Legal Status of Forest Land (Reserved, Protected, Private, Village, Others)		
	If Others,		
	Please Specify Others	:	
<b>25</b>	<b>Tree Cutting, if any</b>		
a.	No. of Trees Cut for the Project (if Forestland not involved)	:	
b.	Details of Tree Cutting and Planting of Trees ( <i>Upload pdf Only</i> )	:	
<b>26</b>	<b>Land Acquisition Status</b>		
a.	Acquired Land		
b.	Land yet to be acquired		
c.	Status of Land acquisition if not acquired		
<b>27</b>	<b>Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&amp;R)</b>		
a.	No. of Villages		
b.	No. of Households		
c.	No. of PDFs (Project Displaced Families)		
d.	No. of PAFs (Project Affected Families)		
e.	Funds Allocated for R&R		
f.	Status of R&R (Completed / In-progress / Yet to start)		
<b>28</b>	<b>Whether there is Presence of Schedule-I Species (Yes/No)?</b>		:
	If yes,		
a.	Details of Schedule-I Species	:	
b.	Whether conservation plan for Schedule-I Species has been prepared (Yes/ No)?	:	
	If Yes,		
	(i) Upload conservation plan (Upload onlyPDF)		
	(ii) Fund Provisionmade		
	(iii) Period ofImplementation		
c.	Whether conservation plan for Schedule-I Species has been approved by competent authority (Yes/ No)?		
	(i) Upload copy of approval (Upload PDFOnly)	:	
	(ii) LetterNo.	:	
	(iii) Date ofissue	:	
	(iv) Recommendations ifany	:	
<b>29</b>	<b>Whether there is Presence of Water Bodies in Core Area(Yes/No)?</b>		:
	If yes,		
a.	Details of Water Bodies in Core Area	:	
b.	Whether there is Diversion required (Yes/No)?		
	If yes,		
c.	Details of diversion required		

	d.	Details of study conducted					
	e.	Whether permission has been obtained from competent authority (Yes/No)?					
		(i) Upload copy of permission (Upload PDF Only)					
		(ii) Letter No.					
		(iii) Date of issue					
		(iv) Recommendations if any					
<b>30</b>	<b>Whether there is Presence of Water Bodies in Buffer Area(Yes/No)?</b>				:		
		If Yes					
	a.	Details of Water Bodies in Buffer Area			:		
	b.	Direction of Water Bodies in Buffer Area (North / South / East / West / North East / North West / South East / South West)			:		
	c.	Distance of Water Bodies in Buffer Area (kilo meters)					
<b>31</b>	<b>Manpower Requirement</b>						
	a.	Permanent employment during construction			:		
	b.	Permanent employment during operation			:		
	c.	Temporary employment during construction			:		
	d.	Temporary employment during operation			:		
	e.	No. of working days			:		
	f.	Total manpower			:		
<b>32</b>	<b>Green Belt in Ha</b>						
	a.	In case of new projects			:		
	i.	Total Area of Green Belt					
	ii.	Percentage of Total Project Area			:		
	iii.	No. of Plants to be Planted			:		
	iv.	Funds Allocated for Plantation			:		
	v.	Upload Green Belt Plan (Upload PDF Only)					
	b.	Incase of expansion / modernization / change in product mix etc.					
	i.	Description	Existing	Proposed	Total		
		Total Area of Green Belt					
		Percentage of Total Project Area					
		No. of Plants					
		Funds Allocated					
	ii.	Upload Green Belt Plan (Upload PDF Only)					
<b>33</b>	<b>Project Benefit (Multiple entry allowed)</b>						
	Type of Project Benefits		Details of Project Benefit				
(Project benefits shall include environmental, social and others)							

<b>34</b>	<b>Whether the Project / Activity attracts the provisions of CRZ (Yes/No)?</b>			
	<b>If yes,</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Project Details</b>			
	a.	CRZ Classification: (CRZ I (A), CRZ I(B), CRZ II, CRZ III, CRZ IV (A), CRZ IV(B))		
	b.	Location type: (Non-Eroding Coast, Low and Medium Eroding Coast, High Eroding Coast)		
	c.	Details of Mangroves Land Involved, if Any		
	d.	Area of Mangroves Land (hectare)		
	e.	EIA (Terrestrial) Studies: (Carried Out, Not Carried Out)		
		<i>If Carried Out,</i>		
	1)	Summary Details of EIA (Terrestrial) Studies		
	2)	Upload Recommendation made in EIAs (Upload pdf only)		
	3)	Period of Study from (EIA Terrestrial)		
	4)	Period of Study to (EIA Terrestrial)		
		<i>If Not Carried out</i>		
		Give Reason		
	f.	EIA (Marine) Studies: (Carried Out, Not Carried Out)		
		<i>If carried out</i>		
	1)	Summary Details of EIA (Marine) Studies		
	2)	Upload Recommendation made in EIAs		
	3)	Period of Study from (EIA Marine)		
	4)	Period of Study to (EIA Marine)		
		<i>If Not Carried out,</i>		
		Give Reason		
	g.	Disaster Management Plan/National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (if Applicable)		
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Description of the Project Under Consideration</u></b>			
	a.	Type of Project: (Resort/Buildings/civic amenities, Coastal Roads/Roads on Stilt, Pipelines from Thermal power Blow Down, Marine Disposal of Treated Effluent, Facility for Storage of Goods/Chemicals, Offshore structures, Desalination Plant, Mining of Rare Earth/Atomic Minerals, Sewage Treatment Plants, Lighthouse, Wind Mills, Others)		
		<b><i>If Resort/Buildings/civic amenities,</i></b>		
	1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
	2)	Total Area/Built-up Area (hectare)		
	3)	Height of Structure		
	4)	FSI Ratio		

		5)	The governing Town Planning Rules/Regulations			
		6)	Details of Provision of Car Parking Area			
		<b>If Coastal Roads/Roads on stilt,</b>				
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps			
		2)	Area of Land Reclamation			
		3)	Estimated Quantity of Muck/Earth for Reclamation			
		4)	Carrying Capacity of Traffic			
		<b>If Pipelines from Thermal Power Blow Down,</b>				
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps			
		2)	Length of Pipeline			
		3)	Length Traversing CRZ Area			
		4)	Depth of Excavation			
		5)	Width of Excavation			
		6)	Length of Pipeline from Seashore to Deep Sea			
		7)	Depth of Outfall Point from Surface of Sea Water			
		8)	Temperature of effluent above Ambient at Disposal Point			
		<b>If Marine Disposal of Treated Effluent,</b>				
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps			
		2)	Location of Intake/Outfall			
		3)	Depth of Outfall Point			
		4)	Length of Pipeline			
		5)	Length Traversing CRZ Area			
		6)	Depth of Excavation			
		7)	Width of Excavation			
		8)	Length of Pipeline from Seashore to Deep Sea/Creek			
		9)	Depth of Outfall Point from Surface of Sea Water			
		10)	Depth of Water at Disposal Point			
		11)	Type of Disposal			
		<b>If Facility for Storage of Goods/Chemicals,</b>				
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps			
		2)	Name and Type of Chemical			
		3)	End use of the Chemical			
		4)	No. of Tanks for Storage			
		5)	Capacity of tanks			
		<b>If offshore structures,</b>				
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps			
		2)	Exploration or Development			
		3)	Depth of Sea Bed			
		4)	No. of Rigs/Platform			

		5)	Details of Group Gathering Stations		
			<b>If Desalination Plant,</b>		
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
		2)	Capacity of Desalination		
		3)	Total Brine Generation		
		4)	Temperature of Effluent above Ambient at Disposal Point		
		5)	Ambient Salinity		
		6)	Disposal Point		
			<b>If Mining of Rare Earth/Atomic Minerals,</b>		
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
		2)	Capacity of Mining		
		3)	Volume/Area to be mined		
		4)	Type of Mineral to be Extracted		
		5)	End use of the Mineral		
			<b>If Sewage Treatment Plants,</b>		
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
		2)	Capacity		
		3)	Total Area of Construction		
		4)	Compliance of effluent parameters as laid down by CPCB/SPCB/other authorized agency		
		5)	Whether discharge is in sea water/creek? If yes,		
			Distance of Marine Outfall Point from Shore/from the tidal river bank		
			Depth of Outfall Point from Sea Water Surface		
			Depth of Sea at Outfall Point		
			<b>If Lighthouse,</b>		
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
		2)	Total Area of Construction		
		3)	Height of the Structure		
			<b>If Wind Mills,</b>		
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
		2)	Capacity (MW)		
		3)	Transmission Lines: (Overhead, Underground)		
		4)	Diameter of Windmill		
		5)	Length of Blade		
		6)	Speed of Rotation		
		7)	Height of the Structure		
			<b>If Others,</b>		
		1)	Agency Name for Preparing CRZ Maps		
		2)	Please Specify with salient features		

		3)	Upload relevant Document ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )			
	<b>3.</b>	<b>Distance of Project (In Meters) from LTL/HTL to be Stated</b>				
		a.	Clause of CRZ Notification Under which the Project is a Permissible/Regulated Activity			
		b.	Whether CRZ Map Indicating HTL, LTL Demarcation in 1:4000 Scales Prepared? (Yes/No)			
			<i>If Yes,</i>			
		1)	Distance of Project (in meters) from HTL to be Stated			
		2)	Upload Maps( <i>kml File</i> )			
		3)	Distance of Project(in meters) from LTL to be Stated			
		4)	Upload Maps ( <i>kml File</i> )			
		c.	Whether Project Layout Superimposed on CRZ Map 1:4000 Scales?: (Yes/No)			
			<i>If Yes,</i>			
		1)	Upload Maps ( <i>kml File</i> )			
		d.	Whether CRZ Map 1:25000 Covering 7 km Radius Around Project Site Prepared? (Yes/No)			
			<i>If Yes,</i>			
		1)	Upload Maps ( <i>kml File</i> )			
		e.	Whether CRZ Map Indicating CRZ-I,II,III and IV Including Other Notified ESAs Prepared?: (Yes/No)			
			<i>If Yes,</i>			
		1)	Upload Maps ( <i>kml File</i> )			
		f.	NOC from State Pollution Control Boards Obtained: (Yes/No)			
			<i>If Yes</i>			
		1)	Upload Copy of NOC ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )			
		g.	Details of Rain Water Harvesting System			
	<b>4.</b>	<b>Recommendation of State Coastal Zone Management Authority</b>				
		a.	Upload Copy of CZMA ( <i>Upload pdf Only</i> )			
		b.	State the Conditions Imposed			
		c.	Social and Environmental Issues and Mitigations Measures Suggested Including but not Limited to R&R, Water, Air, Hazardous Wastes, Ecological aspects, etc. (Brief Details to be Provided)			
<b>35</b>	<b>Sector Specific Details</b>					
<b>I</b>	<b>Whether the proposal is mining of minerals (coal/non-coal) project (Yes/No)?</b>					
			<i>If yes,</i>			
	1	No. of Mineral to be Mined (Multiple Entries Allowed)			:	

		Minerals To be Mined	Major or Minor Mineral	
	2	Mine Capacity in ROM (Run of Mine)		
	3	Upload 500 meters Cluster Certificate from State Mines and Geology in case of minor minerals (Upload pdf Only)		
	4	<b>Mining Plan</b>		
	a.	Approval Letter No.		
	b.	Date of Approval		
	c.	Upload Approved Letter ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
	d.	Approved by State Mines & Geology Department / Indian Bureau of Mines / Ministry of Coal /Ministry of Mines /State Government /Atomic Mineral Directorate / Others)		
	e.	If Others, Please specify		
	f.	Approved Mining Lease Area		
	g.	Approved Capacity		
	5	<b>Technical Details</b>		
	a.	Total Geological Reserves (Million Ton)		
	b.	Mineable Reserves (Million Ton)		
	c.	Extractable Reserves(Million Ton)		
	d.	Percent of Extraction(%)		
	e.	Grade of Coal /Ore /Mineral		
	f.	Stripping Ratio		
	g.	Category of Gaseousness (Only for Coal Mining, Others may write Not applicable)		
	h.	Average Gradient(Degree)		
	i.	Maximum Thickness of Seams(meters) (Only for Coal Mining, Others may write Not applicable)		
	j.	Mining Method (Opencast / Underground /Mixed(Opencast + Underground) /Adit		
	k.	Life of Mine (Years)		
	6	<b>Details of beneficiation (including crushing / screening/others)</b>		
	a.	Whether it is proposed to install crusher within the mining lease area (Yes/No)? If yes,		
	b.	No. of crushers		
	c.	Details of crusher (Multiple entries allowed)		
		Crusher ID	Capacity (in TPH)	Remarks

		d.	Whether it is proposed to install beneficiation plant / Coal washery within the mining lease area (Yes/No)?	
			If yes,	
		e.	Beneficiation / washing Technology	
		f.	Capacity	
	7	<b>Details of Seams if applicable</b>		
		a.	No. of seams	
		b.	Thickness of seams to be worked on	
		c.	Maximum Thickness of Seams(meters) (if not Applicable, may Write NA)	
	8	<b>Details of Mining Lease</b>		
		a.	Details of Mining Lease	
		b.	Upload Letter of Intent (Upload pdf only)	
		c.	Date of Execution of Mining Lease with Reference Number	
		d.	Validity of Mining Lease	
		e.	Upload Copy of Executed Lease deed valid as on Date (Upload pdf only)	
		f.	Earlier Renewals (Multiple Entries Allowed)	
			Uploaded Copy of Earlier Lease	Date of Renewal
	9	<b>OB (Over Burden) Management (Only if Mining Method: Opencast)</b>		
		a.	<b>Details of External Dumps</b>	
			i) No. of OB Dumps	
			ii) Total Area (in Hectare)	
			iii) Height (in meter)	
			iv) Quantity (in Million Cubic meter)	
			v) No. of year back fill up	
		b.	<b>Details of Internal Dump</b>	
			i) No. of Internal Dumps	
			ii) Total Area (in Hectare)	
			iii) Height (in meter)	
			iv) Quantity (in Million Cubic meter)	
	10	<b>Details of Topsoil Management</b>		
		a.	Quantity of Topsoil excavated during the entire life of the mine (in Million Cubic meter)	
		b.	Quantity of Topsoil proposed for utilization for reclamation	

			during the entire life of the mine (in Million Cubic meter)				
		c.	Quantity of Topsoil proposed for utilization for other activities during the entire life of the mine (in Million Cubic meter)				
11	<b>Detail of Final Mine Void(Only if Mining Method: Opencast)</b>						
		a.	Area (in Hectare)				
		b.	Depth (in meter)				
		c.	Volume (in Million Cubic meter)				
12	<b>Details of Quarry(Only if Mining Method: Opencast)</b>						
		a.	Final Void of (hectare)				
		b.	At a Depth of (meter which is proposed to be converted into a Water Body.)				
		c.	Total Quarry Area (ha)				
13	<b>Details of Transportation</b>						
		a.	In Pit/Underground to Surface				
		b.	Surface to Siding/Loading				
		c.	Transportation / Conveyor Details				
14	<b>Details of Land Usage (Pre-Mining)</b>						
			Land Use	Within ML Area (Hectare)	Outside ML Area (Hectare)	Total	
			Agriculture Land				
			Forest Land				
			Waste Land				
			Grazing Land				
			Surface Water Bodies				
			Settlements				
			Others(Specify)				
15	<b>Details of Transportation</b>						
		a.	In Pit/Underground to Surface				
		b.	Surface to Siding/Loading				
		c.	Transportation / Conveyor Details				
16	<b>Details of Land Usage (Pre-Mining)</b>						
			Land Use	Within ML Area (Hectare)	Outside ML Area (Hectare)	Total	
			Agriculture Land				
			Forest Land				
			Waste Land				

		Grazing Land				
		Surface Water Bodies				
		Settlements				
		Others(Specify )				
		Others				
17	<b>Details of Land Usage (Post-Mining)</b>					
	Land Use	Plantation	Water Body	Public Use	Others	
	Excavation / quarry					
	Top Soil Storage					
	External OB dumps					
	Internal OB dumps					
	Roads					
	Built Up Area (Colony/Office)					
	Green Belt					
	Virgin Area					
	Other					
	Total					
18	<b>Details of Reclamation(Only if Mining Method: Opencast)Total</b>					
	<b>Afforestation Plan shall be Implemented Covering of Mining. This will include:</b>					
	a.	External OB Dump(in hectare)				
	b.	Internal Dump(in hectare)				
	c.	Quarry(in hectare)				
	d.	Safety Zone(in hectare)			:	
	e.	Final Void of (hectare)			:	
	f.	At a Depth of (meter which is proposed to be converted into a Water Body.)			:	
	g.	Density of Tree Plantation per ha (in no.)			:	
	h.	Others in ha (such as Excavation Area along ML Boundary, along Roads and Infrastructure, Embankment Area and in Township Located outside the Lease etc.)				
	i.	Total afforestation plant (in hectare)				

19	<b>Status of Progressive Mining Closure Plan (For Expansion Projects only)</b>							
	a.	Implementation of Various Activities as per Approved Progressive Mine Closure Plan (in Bar Chart) (pdf) <i>(Upload pdf only)</i>						
	b.	Any Deviation from the Approved Progressive Mine Closure Plan						
	c.	Total Area Excavated(in hectare)						
	d.	Total Area Backfilled after Excavation(in hectare)						
	e.	Total Area Reclaimed (in hectare)						
20	<b>Actual Coal/Ore Production vis-à-vis sanctioned capacity Since inception (Multiple Entries Allowed)</b>							
	Financial Year	Sanctioned Capacity as per EC (MTPA)	Sanctioned capacity as per CTO	Sanctioned capacity as per approved Mining Plan	Actual Production	Excess Production Beyond the EC/CTO/Mining Plan Sanctioned Capacity (MTPA)		
<b>36</b>	<b>Details of Court Cases if any</b>							
	a.	Whether there is any Court Cases pending against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed to be set up (Yes/No)?						
		If Yes,						
	b.	Name of the Court (Districts Court / High Court / NGT / Tribunals / Supreme Court of India)						
		<i>If name of Court: (Districts Court, High Court, NGT, Tribunals)</i>						
	c.	Name of the Sub-court						
	d.	Case No.						
	e.	Orders/Directions of the court,if any and its relevance with the proposed project						
	f.	Case Details						
	g.	Upload Court Order if any ( <i>Upload pdf Only</i> )						
<b>37</b>	<b>Details of direction issued under Environment (Protection) Act / Air (Prevention &amp; Control of Pollution) Act / Water (Prevention &amp; Control of Pollution) Act</b>							

	a.	Whether any direction issued under Environment (Protection) Act/Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act/Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act(Yes/No)?		
		If yes,		
	b.	Details of directions issued under Environment (Protection) Act/Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act/Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act		
	c.	Upload copy of directions issued under Environment (Protection) Act/Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act/Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act		
	d.	Compliance status of the directions		
<b>38</b>	<b>Details of EIA Consultant</b>			
	a.	Have you hired Consultant for preparing document(Yes/No)?	:	
		If No,		
		(i) Reason for not engaging the Consultant	:	
		If Yes,		
		(i) Accreditation No.	:	
		(ii) Name of the EIA Consultant	:	
		(iii) Address		
		(iv) Mobile No.	:	
		(v) Landline No.	:	
		(vi) E-mail Id	:	
		(vii) Category of Accreditation (Eligible for Category A / Eligible for Category B)	:	
		(viii) Sector of Accreditation	:	
		(ix) Validity of Accreditation	:	
		(x) Upload Certificate of Accreditation certified by QCI/NABET (Upload pdf Only)	b y	
<b>39</b>	<b>Documents to be attached</b>			
<b>I</b>	<b>If Project Type is New / Expansion / Modernization / one-time capacity expansion for coal mining:</b>			
	a.	Upload Copy of EIA/EMP Report		
	b.	Upload Copy of Risk Assessment Report		
	c.	Upload Copy of Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report(DPR) /Detailed Engineering Report /Detailed Conceptual Plan / Approved Mining Plan (in case of Mining proposals) (Upload pdf only)		

	d.	Upload Copy of Final Layout Plan ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
	e.	Upload Cover Letter ( <i>Upload pdf only and attach it as Annexure-document of Cover letter</i> )		
	f.	Upload a copy of documents in support of the competence/authority of the person making this application to make application on behalf of the User Agency ( <i>Upload pdf only and attach It as Annexure-authorization</i> )		
	g.	Upload copy of District Survey Report (for mining of minor minerals only)		
		Upload copy of Replenishment Study Report & Baseline Survey data (for river sand mining proposals only)		
	g.	Upload Additional File, if any ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
<b>II If Project Type is other than New / Expansion / Modernization / one-time capacity expansion for coal mining: -</b>				
	a.	Upload Copy of Feasibility Report/ Detailed Project Report(DPR)/Detailed Engineering Report /Detailed Conceptual Plan ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
	b.	Upload Copy of Final Layout Plan ( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
	c.	Upload Cover Letter( <i>Upload pdf only and attach it as Annexure-document of Cover letter</i> )		
	d.	Upload a copy of documents in support of the competence/authority of the person making this application to make application on behalf of the User Agency ( <i>Upload pdf only and attach it as Annexure-authorization</i> )		
	e.	Upload Additional File, if any( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
	f.	Upload Updated Form1( <i>Upload pdf only</i> )		
<b>40 Undertaking</b>				
	a.	I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to be best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information found to be false or misleading at any stage the project will be rejected and clearance given, if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost. In addition to above, I hereby give undertaking that no activity / construction / expansion has since been taken up		
	b.	Name	:	
	c.	Designation	:	
	d.	Company	:	
	e.	Address	:	

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Paryavaran Bhavan,  
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110003.  
Telefax: 24362434

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:**

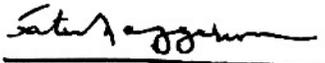
- (i) If any green field project does not envisage any diversion of forest land, it would be considered as per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006.
- (iii) In case of any green field project, which involves diversion of forest land, the project proponents are advised to re-examine the requirement 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

-4-

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
6. Guard File



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

Website: [dmg.goa.gov.in](http://dmg.goa.gov.in)

e-mail: [dir-mine.goa@nic.in](mailto:dir-mine.goa@nic.in)

Phone Nos. 0832 – 2426431/2425287/2422765

File No. 03/24/2023/Major/Mines/Part/ 1489

Date: 25/07/2023

To,  
M/s. Vedanta Ltd.  
Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex,  
Patto, Panaji, Goa.  
403001

**Sub: Clarification letter with respect to Terms of Reference granted to Vedanta Limited for Block I Bicholim Mine.**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter dated 18/5/2023 on the subject cited above. With regards to the special condition no. xvii mentioned in the summary records of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee held on 3-4 May 2023, it is clarified that:-

- (a) M/s. Vedanta has been declared as Preferred Bidder for Bicholim Mineral Block- Block I through an auction process conducted by the Government of Goa as per the Mineral Auction Rules, 2015.
- (b) M/s. Vedanta Ltd., was not the erstwhile lessee of the said Block prior to auction.
- (c) The matter of illegal mining in the State of Goa is under investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. S. Shanbhogue)  
Director



File No: IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM)  
 Government of India  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 IA Division

\*\*\*



Dated 16/06/2023



To,

Krishna Reddy  
 VEDANTA LIMITED  
 Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panjim, NORTH GOA, GOA, 403001  
 MK.Reddy@vedanta.co.in

**Subject:** Grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-regarding.

**Sir/Madam,**

This is in reference to your application for Grant of Terms of Reference (EC) under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-regarding in respect of project Block 1- Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore submitted to Ministry vide proposal number IA/GA/MIN/422323/2023 dated 09/06/2023.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) ToR Identification No.	TO23A0000GA5700309N
(ii) File No.	IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM)
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh ToR
(iv) Category	A
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	I(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Non-Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Block 1- Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore
(viii) Name of Company/Organization	VEDANTA LIMITED
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	NORTH GOA, GOA
(x) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(xi) ToR Date	16/06/2023
(xii) Applicability of General Conditions	no
(xiii) Applicability of Specific Conditions	yes

This has reference to the online proposal no. IA/GA/MIN/422323/2023 dated 16.03.2023 for grant of terms of reference (ToR) for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s Vedanta Limited with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao, Mayem & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa

District, Goa.

The details of the project and the recommendations of the EAC is at Annexure-I

**Details of Products & By-products**

Name of the product /By-product	Product / By-product	Quantity	Unit	Mode of Transport / Transmission	Remarks (eg. CAS number)
Iron Ore	Iron Ore	3000000	Tons per Annum (TPA)	Combination of two or three modes	mine to Iron Ore loading jetty by road and from jetty to port by water way ( Through Barges)

**Specific Terms of Reference**

Specific Terms of Reference Mining of minerals

**1. Waste Management**

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
1.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for year wise backfilling

**2. Land Environment**

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
2.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the plan for ecology restoration

**3. Water Environment**

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
3.1	The Project Proponent shall prepare the scheme for mandatory recycle/reuse of water as specified by the Central Ground Water Authority for different category areas seeking NoC for ground water withdrawal and the shall submit as part of EIA/EMP report.
3.2	The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of reduction of specific water requirement by optimization / technology up gradation, etc. The efforts shall be delineated in the EIA/EMP.
3.3	The Project Proponent shall carry out the assessment of impact due to the proposed project as per

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
	the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP. The project proponent shall conduct hydrological study for projects involving intersection of ground water table as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.
3.4	The Project Proponent needs to explore the likelihood of river water entering into the mine pit below the RL of the HFL and the measures that are required to be taken for prevention of seepage and in the event of seepage to drain out the water through settling tank.
3.5	The EAC noted that the mine lease area is in close proximity to the Assnora River (flowing adjacent to the mine lease boundary on the north western side). The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed report on the engineering design for garland drain, settling tank and check dams and its efficacy through recognized institution. The study should also include the per day silt load, settling velocity of the silt, retention time required based on the annual rainfall with a provision to monitor the water quality

#### 4. Miscellaneous

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
4.1	The Project Proponent shall ensure the validity of the baseline data and public hearing are valid as per Ministry's OM dated 08.06.2022 at the time of submission of proposal for EC.
4.2	The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for shifting the School within the mine lease area. PP should also provide the details of the nearest school present within the mine lease area and in the vicinity of the mine lease area by mentioning the distance and direction of the school from the mine lease area, strength of the school, working time of school, blasting time and the measures to be taken for control of ground vibration and fly rock.
4.3	The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC.
4.4	The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed site specific protection measures for the surface features such as habitations, water bodies, school, temple, road in and around the vicinity of the mine lease area.
4.5	The instant ToR is subject to the outcome of the two said court cases i.e., WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing Number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa and WP 592 of 2022 before the High Court of Bombay at Goa.
4.6	During the meeting, the EAC noted that old excavated pits exist within the mine lease area. Hence, the Project Proponent needs to submit a letter from the Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mine lease area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s. Vedanta Limited or not?

#### 5. Greenbelt

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
5.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the greenbelt/afforestation development plan for undertaking plantation in the periphery of the mine lease boundary, safety zone etc., The details of the no. of saplings proposed, type of species, spacing and the area to be covered including the cost and timeline for completion of plantation needs to be provided in the EIA report

#### 6. Socio Economic

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
6.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit employment based skill development plan for the local people and thrust should be to provide employment to local people after imparting training
6.2	The Project Proponent needs to carry out the Public Hearing as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. PP should also submit the time bound action plan on concerns of the public through a separate budget with capital expenditure with a timeline of 3 years. The Project proponent shall ensure that the activities proposed under the public hearing shall be different from the CSR activities.

#### 7. Transportation

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
7.1	The Project Proponent needs to submit the map showing the transport route of the mineral from the mine lease area to the destination, impact of details of habitation at a distance of 100m from the centre on both sides of road, details of no. of trips/day to and fro, capacity of the dumper/tipper to be deployed and the dimensions of the road and the carrying capacity of the road. The Project Proponent shall ensure that the transportation route shall not pass through any village road.

#### 8. Environment Monitoring

Sr. No	Specific Terms of Reference
8.1	The Project Proponent should prepare the EMP considering the scenario of pollution to be generated for normative and peak total excavation for assessing air and noise pollution
8.2	The Project Proponent needs to monitor the ambient air quality and noise level at the mine lease boundary, nearest village, crusher, predominant downwind direction and at other sensitive receptors. Accordingly, Project Proponent shall propose to install Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station within certain timeline

#### Standard Terms of Reference for 1(a) Mining of minerals

Activity: Mining of minerals

Standard Terms of Reference Mining of minerals

#### 1. Project Details

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
1.1	Year-wise production details since 1994 should be given, clearly stating the highest production achieved in any one year prior to 1994. It may also be categorically informed whether there had been any increase in production after the EIA Notification 1994 came into force, w.r.t. the highest production achieved prior to 1994. The production details need to submit since inception of mine duly authenticated by Department of Mines & Geology, State Government.
1.2	A copy of the document in support of rightful lessee of the mine should be submitted. In case of new mines copy of LoI granted by State Government to be submitted. PP should ensure that LoI is valid at the time of grant of ToR. PP should submit the copy of lease deed/supplementary lease deed/extension letter/transfer deed, from its initial grant to subsequent renewals/transfer/extension of validity.
1.3	PP should submit the District Survey Report (DSR) as per S.O. 3611(E) dated 25.07.2018 in case of minor minerals.
1.4	Brief of proposal to be submitted which include total excavation of the material required for the production of certain quantity of the minerals, location of the project, mining lease area, latitude longitude, seismic zone etc. In case of expansion project details of expansion viz. expansion in mining lease area or expansion in production of any particular mineral or expansion in total excavation, latest certified Compliance report (CCR) from IRO of conditions granted in existing EC needs to be submitted.
1.5	The PP should submit the real-time aerial video footage & video of the mining lease area and of the transportation route.
1.6	All corner coordinates of the mine lease area, superimposed on a High-Resolution Imagery/toposheet, topographic sheet, geomorphology and geology of the area should be provided. Such an Imagery of the proposed area should clearly show the land use and other ecological features of the study area (core and buffer zone).
1.7	Information should be provided in Survey of India Toposheet in 1:50,000 scale indicating geological map of the area, geomorphology of land forms of the area, existing minerals and mining history of the area, important water bodies, streams and rivers and soil characteristics.
1.8	The PP should collect the Baseline data (BLD) in respect of initial level of the mining lease. For this permanent bench marks (BM) needs to be established at prominent location preferably close to mining leases in question and should have precisely known relationship to the level datum of the area, typically mean sea level.
1.9	In case of sand mining, the entire mining lease area should be divided suitably into grids of 25 m x 25 m with the help of sections across the width of river and along the direction of flow of the river. The levels (MSL & RL) of the corner point of each grid needs to be recorded. Each Grid should be suitably numbered for identification. PP should identify grids which will be worked out and grids which will come under no mining zone i.e. safety barriers from the river bank. PP should comply with the sustainable sand mining management guidelines 2016 and enforcement and monitoring guidelines, 2020 etc.
1.10	A time bound Progressive Greenbelt Development Plan shall be prepared in a tabular form (indicating the linear and quantitative coverage, plant species and time frame) and submitted, keeping in mind, the same will have to be executed up front on commencement of the Project.

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
	Phase-wise plan of plantation and compensatory afforestation should be charted clearly indicating the area to be covered under plantation and the species to be planted. The details of plantation already done should be given. The plant species selected for green belt should have greater ecological value and should be of good utility value to the local population with emphasis on local and native species and the species which are tolerant to pollution.
1.11	Conceptual post mining land use and Reclamation and Restoration of mined out areas (with plans and with adequate number of sections) should be given in the EIA report.
1.12	Benefits of the Project if the Project is implemented should be spelt out. The benefits of the Project shall clearly indicate environmental, social, economic, employment potential, etc.
1.13	Compliance of the Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F: 3-50/2017-IA.III (Pt.), dated 30.05.2018 on the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated the 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India needs to be submitted and included in the EIA/EMP Report.

## 2. Forest

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
2.1	PP shall submit a certificate from Chief Conservator of Forests regarding involvement of Forest Land in the mining lease area if any. In case forest land is involved i) PP should submit the proof of application made for obtaining forest clearance and ii) a map clearly showing the forest & non-forest area.
2.2	Status of forestry clearance for the broken-up area and virgin forestland involved in the Project including deposition of net present value (NPV) and compensatory afforestation (CA) should be indicated. A copy of the forestry clearance should also be furnished.

## 3. Land Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
3.1	PP should submit the details of survey number [viz. survey no, area in hectare, classification of land (government, private, forest, grazing land etc.), villages] duly authenticated by State Government, falling in the mining lease area.
3.2	The study area will comprise of 10km zone around the mine lease from lease periphery and the data contained in the EIA such as waste generation etc. should be for the life of the mine / lease period.
3.3	Land use of the study area delineating forest area, agricultural land, grazing land, wildlife sanctuary, national park, migratory routes of fauna, water bodies, human settlements and other ecological features should be indicated. Land use plan of the mine lease area should be prepared to encompass preoperational, operational and post operational phases and submitted. Impact, if any, of change of land use should be given.
3.4	Details of the land for any Over Burden Dumps outside the mine lease, such as extent of land area, distance from mine lease, its land use, R&R issues, if any, should be given.

## 4. Wildlife

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
4.1	A study shall be got done to ascertain the impact of the Mining Project on wildlife of the study area and details furnished. Impact of the project on the wildlife in the surrounding and any other protected area and accordingly, detailed mitigative measures required, should be worked out with cost implications and submitted.
4.2	A detailed biological study of the study area [core zone and buffer zone] shall be carried out. Details of flora and fauna, endangered, endemic and RET Species duly authenticated, separately for core and buffer zone should be furnished based on such primary field survey, clearly indicating the Schedule of the fauna present. PP shall submit list of Schedule-I species present in core and buffer zone duly authenticated by CWLW. In case of any Scheduled-I fauna found in the study area, the necessary plan along with budgetary provisions for their conservation should be prepared in consultation with State Forest/Wildlife Department and details furnished. Necessary allocation of funds for implementing the same should be made as part of the project cost. Proof of its submission of conservation plan to the CWLW needs to be submitted.
4.3	PP shall submit a certificate from Chief Wildlife Warden regarding distance of mining lease from the protected area falling within 10 KM of the mining lease. In case project requires clearance under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 then copy of application made for the same needs to be submitted.

## 5. Baseline Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
5.1	One season (non-monsoon) [i.e. March - May (Summer Season); October - December (post monsoon season); December - February (winter season)] primary baseline data on ambient air quality as per CPCB Notification of 2009, water quality, noise level, soil and flora and fauna shall be collected and the AAQ and other data so compiled presented date-wise in the EIA and EMP Report. Site-specific meteorological data should also be collected. The location of the monitoring stations should be such as to represent whole of the study area and justified keeping in view the pre-dominant downwind direction and location of sensitive receptors. There should be at least one monitoring station within 500 m of the mine lease in the pre-dominant downwind direction. The mineralogical composition of PM10, particularly for free silica, should be given.
5.2	Air quality modelling should be carried out for prediction of impact of the project on the air quality of the area. It should also take into account the impact of movement of vehicles for transportation of mineral. The details of the model used and input parameters used for modelling 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 the habitation. The windrose showing pre-dominant wind direction may also be indicated on the map.
5.3	The PP should submit the photograph of monitoring stations & sampling locations. The photograph should bear the date, time, latitude & longitude of the monitoring station/sampling location. In addition to this, PP should submit the original test reports and certificates of the labs from which samples were analyzed.

## 6. Water Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
6.1	The water requirement for the Project, its availability and source should be furnished. Quantity of surface or ground water to be used for the Project should be indicated. A detailed water balance should also be provided. Submit the year wise target for reduction in consumption of the ground/surface water by developing alternative source of water through rain water harvesting measures. Description of water conservation measures proposed to be adopted in the Project should be given. Details of rainwater harvesting proposed in the Project, if any, should be provided. The capital and recurring expenditure to be incurred needs to be submitted.
6.2	Impact of the Project on the water quality, both surface and groundwater, should be assessed and necessary safeguard measures, if any required, should be provided.

### 7. Hydro Geology

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
7.1	Details of any stream, seasonal or otherwise, passing through the lease area and modification / diversion proposed, if any, and the impact of the same on the hydrology should be.
7.2	Information on site elevation, working depth, groundwater table etc. Should be provided both in AMSL and BGL. A schematic diagram may also be provided for the same.
7.3	Based on actual monitored data, it may clearly be shown whether working will intersect groundwater. Necessary data and documentation in this regard may be provided. In case the working bench will intersect groundwater table, a detailed Hydro Geological Study should be undertaken and Report furnished. The Report inter-alia shall include details of the aquifers present and impact of mining activities on these aquifers. Necessary permission from Central Ground Water Authority for working below ground water and for pumping of ground water should also be obtained and copy furnished. In case of surface water is proposed to be utilized then Necessary clearance from the Competent Authority for drawl of requisite quantity of water for the Project should be provided.

### 8. Transportation

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
8.1	Impact on local transport infrastructure due to the Project should be indicated. Projected increase in truck traffic as a result of the Project in the present road network (including those outside the Project area) should be worked out, indicating whether it is capable of handling the incremental load. Arrangement for improving the infrastructure, if contemplated (including action to be taken by other agencies such as State Government) should be covered. Project Proponent shall conduct Impact of Transportation study as per Indian Road Congress Guidelines.

### 9. Land Acquisition and R&R

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
9.1	Details about the land proposed for mining activities should be given with information as to whether mining conforms to the land use policy of the State; land diversion for mining should have approval

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
	from State land use board or the concerned authority.
9.2	R&R Plan/compensation details for the Project Affected People (PAP) should be furnished. While preparing the R&R Plan, the relevant State/National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy should be kept in view. In respect of SCs /STs and other weaker sections of the society in the study area, a need-based sample survey, family-wise, should be undertaken to assess their requirements, and action programmes prepared and submitted accordingly, integrating the sectoral programmes of line departments of the State Government. It may be clearly brought out whether the village(s) located in the mine lease area will be shifted or not. The issues relating to shifting of village(s) including their R&R and socio-economic aspects should be discussed in the Report.

#### 10. Socio-Economic Environment

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
10.1	Public health implications of the Project and related activities for the population in the impact zone should be systematically evaluated and the proposed remedial measures should be detailed along with budgetary allocations.
10.2	Measures of socio-economic significance and influence to the local community proposed to be provided by the Project Proponent should be indicated. As far as possible, quantitative dimensions may be given with time frames for implementation.
10.3	Activity-wise time-bound action plan on the issues raised and commitment made during public hearing to be submitted as part of the final EMP Report in compliance of the Ministry's OM F.No.22-65/2017-IA.III dated 30th September, 2020.

#### 11. Environmental Monitoring and Management

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
11.1	It should be clearly stated whether the proponent Company has a well laid down Environment Policy approved by its Board of Directors? If so, it may be spelt out in the EIA Report with description of the prescribed operating process/procedures to bring into focus any infringement/deviation/ violation of the environmental or forest norms/ conditions? The hierarchical system or administrative order of the Company to deal with the environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the EC conditions may also be given. The 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, may also be detailed in the proposed safeguard measures in each case should also be provided.

#### 12. Critically Polluted Areas, Aravali & CRZ

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
12.1	Proximity to Areas declared as 'Critically Polluted' or the Project areas likely to come under the 'Aravali Range', (attracting court restrictions for mining operations), should also be indicated and where so required, clearance certifications from the prescribed Authorities, such as the SPCB or

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
	State Mining Dept. Should be secured and furnished to the effect that the proposed mining activities could be considered.

### 13. Risk Assessment & Disaster Management

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
13.1	Occupational Health impacts of the Project should be anticipated and the proposed preventive measures spelt out in detail. Details of pre-placement medical examination and periodical medical examination schedules should be incorporated in the EMP. The project specific occupational health mitigation measures with required facilities proposed in the mining area may be detailed.
13.2	A Disaster Management Plan shall be prepared and included in the EIA/EMP Report.

### 14. Miscellaneous

Sr. No	Standard Terms of Reference
14.1	The general points are also to be followed: - a) All documents to be properly referenced with index and continuous page numbering. b) Where data are presented in the Report especially in Tables, the period in which the data were collected and the sources should be indicated. c) Project Proponent shall enclose all the analysis/testing reports of water, air, soil, noise etc. using the MoEF&CC/NABL accredited laboratories. All the original analysis/testing reports should be available during appraisal of the Project. d) Where the documents provided are in a language other than English, an English translation should be provided. e) The Questionnaire for environmental appraisal of mining projects as devised earlier by the Ministry shall also be filled and submitted. f) While preparing the EIA report, the instructions for the Proponents and instructions for the Consultants issued by MoEF vide O.M. No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II (I) dated 4th August, 2009, which are available on the website of this Ministry, should be followed. g) Changes, if any made in the basic scope and project parameters (as submitted in Form-I and the PFR for securing the TOR) should be brought to the attention of MoEF&CC with reasons for such changes and permission should be sought, as the TOR may also have to be altered. Post Public Hearing changes in structure and content of the draft EIA/EMP (other than modifications arising out of the P.H. process) will entail conducting the PH again with the revised documentation. h) As per the circular no. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II (I) dated 30.5.2012, certified report of the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environment clearance for the existing operations of the project, should be obtained from the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as may be applicable. i) The EIA report should also include (i) surface plan of the area indicating contours of main topographic features, drainage and mining area, (ii) geological maps and sections and (iii) sections of the mine pit and external dumps, if any, clearly showing the land features of the adjoining area.

#### Additional Terms of Reference

1.The prescribed TOR would be valid for a period of four years for submission of the EIA/EMP report, as per the notification S.O 751 (E) dated 17.02.2020. The instant TOR is valid up to four years from the date of issuance of TOR.

2.The Project Proponent should submit the EIA/EMP report as per the generic structure prescribed in Appendix-III of the EIA Notification, 2006 after incorporating the details of public hearing conducted and covering the above-mentioned issues, to take further necessary action for obtaining environmental clearance in accordance with the procedure prescribed

under the EIA Notification, 2006.

**Copy To**

1. **The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.**
2. **The Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Government of Goa.**
3. **The Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoE and CC), Government of Goa.**
4. **The Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Goa, Goa Van Bhavan, Goa.**
5. **The Chief Wildlife Warden, Goa Van Bhavan, Forest Department, Altinho, Panaji Goa. 403001.**
6. **The Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II Block, Bangalore - 560034.**
7. **The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.**
8. **The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011.**
9. **The Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Nr. Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Goa 403511.**
10. **The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.**
11. **The District Collector, North Goa District, Government of Goa.**
12. **Guard File.**
13. **PARIVESH Portal.**

**Annexure I**

The details of the project as ascertained from the documents submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 15°34'20.518"N to 15°36'54.018"N and Longitude: 73°54'4.754"E to 73°57'09.51"E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: D43B14 and falls in Seismic Zone-II.
- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and falls under Category "A" as the mining lease area is greater than 250ha and appraised at the Central level.
- iii. Details of Mine Lease:
  - a) The Project Proponent has submitted the Letter of Intent (LoI) granted by the Government of Goa vide Lr No: DMG/25/Auction Cell/LOI-function/2023/2801 dated 13.01.2023 for grant of mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao Mayem & Sirigao villages, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District over an area of 478.5206 Hectare for a period of 50 (fifty) years in pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules. This letter of intent is valid for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance.

iv. Land Use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	421.1153 Ha
Government land	57.4053 Ha
Total Mining lease area (MLA)	478.5206 Ha
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	Not Applicable

- v. Details of Mining Plan:
  - a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the Mining Plan is submitted to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Goa for approval and is under process.
  - b) The method of mining will be opencast mechanized without drilling and blasting. Total Mineral Reserves & Resources estimated as 84.743 million tonnes. Life of the mine will be 30 years @ 3.0 MTPA.
  - c) The proposed bench height and width will be 7m and 10-12 m respectively. The individual bench slope will be 70° and overall pit slope will be 27°.
  - d) The ore will be transported from Mine to Sarmanas jetty through dedicated road with only 0.9km stretch of public road in use.

vi. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	664 KLD	Pit Water	628 KLD
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	Ground water	36 KLD
Source	Water from Mine Pit will be used for dust suppression, Vehicle washing and Green belt. Water for domestic requirement will be met from bore well.	
Permission	The Bore wells are registered with Goa State Water Resource department. Application for using mine pit water will be submitted.	

## vii. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies/monument

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Directions
Village	Lamgoa	Within the lease area
Town	Bicholim Town	0.5 km, East
Road	State Highway SH-1	0.65 km, East
Railway Station	Tivim Railway station	10.5 km, North
Water Bodies	Asnora River	Touching lease boundary at one of the points
	Mandovi River	2.3 km, SW
School	Mulgao Govt. Primary School	Within the lease area
Worship places	Namuzgah/Idgah Shri Lairae Temple	Within the lease area 0.86 km

## viii. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/Protected Area/Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/No	Details of Certificate/letter/Remarks
Forest Land	No	No Forest land is involved in the mine lease area. The following Reserve Forests are located within 10 km radius of the mine lease area such as Kharapal RF -6.7 Km Ambadgaon RF - 7.4 Km
National park	No	The Project Proponent has submitted the letter from the Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests vide Lr No: DCF(WP)/Tech/Digi/Vol-I/75/2022-23/ 968 dated 23.01.2023 stating that the proposed Bicholim Mineral Block-I is not situated within 10 km radius from the boundary of any the protected area in the State of Goa. PP also submitted the authenticated map dated 24.01.2023 showing the distance of the following Wildlife Sanctuary from the mine lease area.
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	
Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ)/Eco-Sensitive Area(ESA)	No	i. Madei Wild life Sanctuary-14.105 km, E ii. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary -10.553 km, SW iii. Bondla Wild life Sanctuary -20.476 km, SE

## ix. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation	105.8894 ha
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	Rs159.0Lakhs
Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	25 ha
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	
Additional information (if any)	80.8894 ha (on backfilled area)

x. Rehabilitation & Resettlement:

R & R details	Not Applicable, as no resettlement is proposed during life of mine.
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xi. Details of Court Cases:

Court Case	Yes
Additional information (if any)	<p>First Case:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa</li> <li>2. The said writ petition has been filed against the State Government and seeks to challenge the identification of properties bearing survey no. 90/1(part) and 96/0 as part of the recently auctioned Bicholim mine. The petition alleges violation of Rule 5 &amp; 6 of Mineral Evidence Rules and Section 10B of MMDR, Act by the State of Goa and DMG. The petitioner has prayed for quashing of auction notice to the extent it includes the property of the petitioner and grant a writ of mandamus against the Respondents.</li> <li>3. Case status is pending.</li> <li>4. No adverse orders have been passed.</li> <li>5. As per the last order Vedanta limited was added as a party to the petition as it has won the mine in auction.</li> </ol> <p>Second Case:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WP 592 of 2022 before the High Court of Bombay at Goa</li> <li>2. The said writ petition seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the tender documents of Phase I auction of Goa mines. The petition alleges violation of Rule 5 &amp; 6 of Mineral Evidence Rules by the State of Goa and DMG. The petition alleges non-disclosure of essential facts such as bore hole data, approved mining plan, production data of the previous five years and exploration data. The petitioner has prayed for quashing of auction notice to extend it fails to include the essential facts and in the alternative to stay the auction.</li> <li>3. Case status is pending</li> <li>4. No adverse orders have been passed.</li> </ol>

	5. As per the last order Vedanta limited was added as a party to the petition as it has won the mine in auction
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- xii. The Project Proponent submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs 100 bearing no: A807037 dated 24.04.2023 stating that they will directions issued by MoEF&CC vide Office Memorandum F.No.3-50/2017.IA.III (Pt) dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 in terms of directions given Hon'ble Supreme Court in judgment dated 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India &Ors.
- xiii. The total project cost estimated as Rs 250.0 Cr. The employment potential of direct employment will be 433 no.s and indirect employment will be 195 no.s.

2. The proposal was considered by the EAC of Non Coal Mining projects in its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 3-4 May, 2023. Wherein the Project Proponent informed the EAC that the instant mine lease was obtained through auction and the Government of Goa granted the Letter of Intent (LoI) dated 13.01.2023 for grant of mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, MulgaoMayem & Sirigao villages, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District over an area of 478.5206 Ha for a period of 50 (fifty) years in pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules. This letter of intent is valid for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance. Then, the Project Proponent presented the KML file to indicate the site features in the vicinity of the mine lease area and in the study area of 10km radius. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to show the locations of the village, school and road in and around the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the Assnora River is flowing adjacent to the mine lease boundary on the north western side. Few habitations, a temple and a primary school exists within the mine lease area. Habitations will not be disturbed. No forest land is involved in the mine lease area. Only acacia plantations exist within the mine lease area. The Project Proponent also informed the settling ponds are under construction. The EAC on viewing the KML file noted that old excavated pits exist within the mine lease area and Assnora River is located close to the proximity of the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the ore will be transported from Mine to Sarmanas jetty through dedicated road with only 0.9km stretch of public road in use.

The EAC asked the Project Proponent whether there is any ban on mining activity in Goa. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that mining activity was not stopped because of CRZ and it may relate to sand mining only. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the instant mine is a first auction mine in Goa. The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that there will be no activity of drilling and blasting. Mining Plan has been submitted to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) for approval. Nearest Village of ESA of Western Ghats is Bayalvada Village - 11.84 km. Waste will be dumped and backfilled within the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that there are two court cases filed against the State Govt. regarding auction procedure and the Project Proponent has been added as a party. There is no stay order or any adverse orders and the court case is in preliminary stage. The EAC was of the view that the instant ToR is subject to the outcome of the two said court cases i.e., WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing Number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa and WP 592 of 2022 before the High Court of Bombay at Goa. The EAC asked the

Project Proponent to inform about the present status of the mining in Goa w.r.t Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 07.02.2018. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 07.02.2018 in Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 32138 of 2015 in the matter of the Goa Foundation vs M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. And Ors it was stated the State of Goa was not under any constitutional obligation to grant fresh mining leases through the process of competitive bidding or auction and the Ministry of Environment and Forest was obliged to grant fresh environmental clearances in respect of fresh grant of mining leases in accordance with law.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC in its EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 3-4 May, 2023, the EAC under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments, the EAC **recommended** the proposal for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) to M/s Vedanta Limited for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa for undertaking detailed EIA/EMP study subject to the specific conditions in addition to the standard ToR conditions applicable for non-coal mining projects.

**Validity unknown**

Digitally Signed by : Mr Pankaj Verma  
Member Secretary, MoEFCC (EC)

Date: 16/06/2023

**F. No. J-11011/618/2010-IA-II (I)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment and Forests**  
**(I.A. Division)**

**Paryavaran Bhawan**  
**CGO Complex, Lodhi Road**  
**New Delhi – 110 003**

**Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012**

**CIRCULAR**

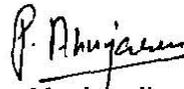
**Subject: Consideration of expansion proposals for grant of Environmental Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006.**

This is in continuation to this Ministry's circular no. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II (I), dated 20.10.2009 regarding consideration of expansion proposals for grant of environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006.

2. It has been now decided that while submitting the application for consideration for grant of environmental clearance of all expansion projects under the EIA Notification, 2006, the project proponent shall henceforth submit a certified report of the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance for the ongoing / existing operation of the project by the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

3. The status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance as highlighted in the report(s) will be subsequently discussed by the respective Expert Appraisal Committees during the appraisal of the expansion proposal and duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Applications for expansion project received without the compliance status as mentioned in para no.2 above shall not be accepted and placed for consideration before the Expert Appraisal Committees.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
**(Dr. P.L. Ahujarai)**  
**Director**

- i. All the Officers of IA Division
- ii. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/ SEACs
- iii. Chairman, CPCB
- iv. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all SPCBs / UTPCCs

**Copy to:**

- i. PS to MEF
- ii. PPS to Secretary (E&F)
- iii. PPS to SS (JMM)
- iv. JS (RG)
- v. Website, MoEF
- vi. Guard File

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WP NO. 1 OF 2008

VILLAGERS OF THE SHIRGAO VILLAGE ... Petitioner  
 Versus  
 SIRIGAO NAGARIK SANGHATANA,  
 SIRIGAO GOA AND 7 ORS., ... Respondents

Ms. Norma Alvares, Amicus Curiae  
 Mr. A. Kamat, Additional Government Advocate for the respondent  
 Nos.2,3,4.  
 Mr. A. N. S. Nadkarni, Senior Advocate with Mr. D. Lawande, Advocate  
 for the respondent No.5.  
 Mr. S. D. Lotlikar, Senior Advocate with Mr. P. S. Lotlikar, Advocate for  
 the respondent No.7.  
 Mr. Sudin Usgaonkar, Advocate for the respondent No.8.  
 Mr. A. F. Diniz, Advocate for the respondent No.6.  
 Mr. J. Vaz, Central Govt. Standing Counsel for the respondent No.9.

Coram:- B. P. DHARMADHIKARI &  
U. D. SALVI, JJ.

Date:- 15th June, 2009

P.C.

The respective Mining Companies are seeking time of four weeks to file their response upon the report submitted by the NEERI. Advocate Vaz for the added respondent No.9 is also seeking time to file an appropriate reply, if necessary. In the circumstances, list the matter for further consideration on 20/07/2009.

B. P. DHARMADHIKARI, J.

U. D. SALVI, J.

SMA

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WP NO. 1 OF 2008

VILLAGERS OF THE SHIRGAO VILLAGE ... Petitioner  
 Versus  
 SIRIGAO NAGARIK SANGHATANA,  
 SIRIGAO GOA AND 7 ORS., ... Respondents

Advocate Ms. Norma Alvoares, Amicus Curiae.  
 Mr. S. S. Kantak, Advocate General with Ms. Guari Bhonsule, Addl.  
 Govt. Advocate for respondents No.2, 3 and 4.  
 Mr. D. Lawande, Advocate for respondent No.5.  
 Mr. A. F. Diniz, Advocate for respondent No.6.  
 Mr. S. D. Lotlikar, Senior Advocate with Mr. H. Kankonkar,  
 Advocate for respondent No.7.  
 Mr. Sudin Usgaonkar, Advocate for respondent No.8.  
 Mr. Joseph Vaz, Central Govt. Standing Counsel for respondent  
 No.9.

Coram:- SMT. V.K.TAHILRAMANI &  
 N. A. BRITTO, JJ.

Date:- 16th November, 2009

P.C.

Heard. Report from NEERI has already been filed. Ms. Alvares, learned Amicus Curia, submits that after objections were filed by the private respondents to NEERI report, she has obtained certain clarifications/comments from NEERI which she has already placed on record, with copies to the private respondents. We would like to know the stand of Goa State Pollution Control Board in relation to the said NEERI report and/or further comments as regards the same.

2. Let response be filed by Monday 23rd November, 2009. Counsel on behalf of the private respondents also desire to file a rejoinder to the subsequent comments given by NEERI. They may

do so by Monday 23rd November, 2009, by exchanging copies to the Counsel for the other side.

3. Mr. Vaz is present on behalf of Union of India. In case he want to offer any comments on behalf of Union of India on NEERI report, he may do so along with other respondents. Stand over to 30th November, 2009.

SMT. V.K.TAHILRAMANI, J.

N. A. BRITTO, J.

ssm.

-1-

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA****PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 1 OF 2008**

VILLAGERS OF THE SHIRGAO VILLAGE ... Petitioner  
***Versus***  
 SIRIGAO NAGARIK SANGHATANA,  
 SIRIGAO GOA AND 7 ORS., ... Respondents

Ms. Norma Alvares, Advocate as Amicus Curiae.

Mr. S. S. Kantak, Advocate General with Mr. A. Kamat, Addl. Government Advocate for the Respondent nos. 2, 3 and 4.

Mr. A. N. S. Nadkarni, Senior Advocate with Mr. D. Lawande, Advocate for Respondent no. 5.

Mr. A. F. Diniz, Advocate for Respondent no.6.

Mr. S. D. Lotlikar, Senior Advocate with Mr. H. Kankonkar, Advocate for the Respondent no.7.

Mr. Sudin Usgaonkar, Advocate for Respondent no.8.

Mr. C. A. Ferreira, Central Government Standing Counsel for Respondent no.9.

**Coram :-**      **A. S. OKA**  
                                  **F. M. REIS, JJ.**  
**Date :**            **8<sup>th</sup> July, 2010.**

**P.C.**

We have heard the learned Counsel appearing for the parties.

2.            The issue of adverse impact on water resources and agricultural fields on account of mining activity in Shirgao Village, arises in this Petition. Considering the issues raised, we issue Rule. Learned Counsel for the Respondents waive service.

3.            We have perused various affidavits and documents placed on record. We have perused the earlier Orders passed by this Court. We have gone through the report of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (for short 'NEERI'), submitted in March, 2009. Our attention has been invited to last relevant Order passed by this Court on 23rd February, 2010. Clause 2 of the said Order records the decision taken by Goa Pollution Control Board in its meeting held on

9th February, 2010. The decision of the Goa Pollution Control Board to implement the three recommendations has been recorded in Clause 2 of the said Order.

4. The learned Senior Counsel appearing for Goa Pollution Control Board has invited our attention to directions issued under Section 33(A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, issued by the Board on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010. Directions have been issued vide said Order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010 to comply with various measures including the three recommendations accepted by the Goa Pollution Control Board in its meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. In short, the mandate issued by the Goa Pollution Control Board to various Mining Companies is to comply with various directions which are based on recommendations of NEERI as well as Orders issued by this Court from time to time. The Companies have been directed to submit a detailed time schedule and action plan on the basis of which they propose to comply with the directions. The Companies were called upon to submit the detailed time schedule within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of the directions. The Mining Companies have been put to notice that on their failure to comply with the directions, the Board will be compelled to initiate legal action in accordance with the provisions of law including closure of the unit.

5. The learned Amicus Curiae made a grievance regarding the nature of direction in Clause 3 incorporated in the directions dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010, on the basis of decision taken by the Board on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. The learned Counsel pointed out that the decision of the Board was to adopt "*remediation techniques for bio remediation of silted soils*" but on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010, the Board has directed to

*“Design remediation technique for bio remediation of silted soils/fields”*. The learned Amicus Curiae submitted that the use of this phraseology indicates that remediation techniques will have to be designed and thereafter the same will have to be implemented.

6. As far as this objection raised by the learned Amicus Curiae is concerned, the Goa Pollution Control Board has filed an affidavit dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 of its Member Secretary. Paragraph 2 of the said affidavit reads thus :

“I state that before explaining the reason for using the word “design”, at the outset I have to state that remediation technique for bioremediation of silted soils/fields and design remediation technique for bioremediation of silted soil/fields is one and the same thing; it makes no difference to the direction concerned or compliance thereof.”

7. In paragraph 4 of the affidavit, it is stated thus :

“It is for this reason that the word “design” came to be used. Use of the word “design” is logical and legal too. I therefore state that the use of the word “design” does not in any manner whatsoever, change or dilute the direction or that the use of the word “design” does not in any manner whatsoever, change either the decision taken in the meeting of the Pollution Control Board or the directions issued.”

8. We accept the statements made in the said affidavit. The said statements take care of the apprehension expressed by the learned Counsel appointed as Amicus Curiae. It is reiterated by the Pollution Control Board that the use of the word “design” does not in any manner whatsoever change or dilute the direction or that the use of the word “design” does not in any manner whatsoever

change either the decision taken in the meeting of the Pollution Control Board or the directions issued.

9. The learned Counsel pointed out that in terms of directions dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010, some outer limit will have to be prescribed within which the compliance should be made by the Mining Companies with the directions. She pointed out that the Order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010 shows that there is no direction issued for making compliance with the directions within a specified time limit.

10. As far as the aforesaid objection is concerned, we feel that the Pollution Control Board will have to conduct regular inspection and monitoring to ascertain the compliance with the directions issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010. In case the Pollution Control Board finds that the concerned Companies or concerned persons are slow in implementing the directions, the Pollution Control Board will have to issue further directions specifying the time limit for compliance with directions. As of today, it is not possible to fix an outer limit for compliance with the said directions. Pollution Control Board is seized of the matter and it is expected that the Pollution Control Board will take action and will issue necessary further directions in case requirement of issuing such directions arises on the basis of inspection and monitoring.

11. We direct that the directions contained in Order dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010 as well as in the earlier Orders passed by this Court will continue to operate till further orders. We direct the Pollution Control Board to file compliance report in this Court as regards the compliance by the Mining Companies of the directions

issued under Section 33(A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974. The compliance report shall be filed within a period of three months from today. We direct the Pollution Control Board to file compliance report as regards compliance with what is stated in paragraph 4 of the Order dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2010. The compliance report shall be filed by the Pollution Control Board by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2010.

12. On application made by the parties to the Petition, Registry is directed to make available copies of the compliance reports submitted by the Goa Pollution Control Board subject to payment of necessary copying charges. As and when reports are submitted by the Goa Pollution Control Board, the parties to the Petition will be free to apply to this Court for seeking necessary directions. We make it clear that copies of the reports filed by the parties to the Petition shall be supplied free of costs to the learned Amicus Curiae appointed to espouse the cause of the Petitioner.

13. In terms of the directions issued by this Court, the Director of the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, has filed affidavit dated 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. In view of what is stated in the affidavit and in particular what is stated in paragraph 8 thereof, we find that the Ministry has taken appropriate steps. Therefore, at this stage, we are not issuing any further directions against the Ministry.

**A. S. OKA, J.**

**F. M. REIS, J.**

arp/\*



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA**

**PIL WRIT PETITION NO.1/2008**

VILLAGERS OF THE SHIRGAO VILLAGE ... PETITIONER  
*Versus*  
SIRIGAO NAGARIK SANGHATANA,  
SIRIGAO GOA AND 7 ORS. ... RESPONDENTS

Ms Norma Alvares and Mr J. A. Lobo, Amicus Curaie.  
Mr Deep Shirodkar, AGA for the State.  
Mr Pavithran A.V. with Mr P. Kholkar, Advocates for Resp. No.5.  
Mr A. F. Diniz, Senior Advocate with Mr Ryan Menezes with Mr Nigel Fernandes, Advocates for Respondent No.6.  
Mr S.D. Lotlikar, Senior Advocate with Ms S. Kenny, Advocate for Respondent No.7.  
Mr Sudin Usgaonkar, Senior Advocate with Ms Pooja Naik, Advocate for Respondent No.8.

**WITH  
WRIT PETITION NO.214/2020**

RAJARAM BANDEKAR (SIRIGAO)  
MINES PVT. LTD., REP. BY ITS AUT.  
GEN. MANAGER, FELIX FERNANDES ... PETITIONER  
*Versus*  
THE STATE OF GOA, THR. ITS CHIEF  
SECRETARY AND 2 ORS. ... RESPONDENTS

Mr A. F. Diniz, Senior Advocate with Mr Ryan Menezes with Mr Nigel Fernandes, Advocates for the Petitioner.  
Ms Maria Correia, AGA for the State.

**CORAM: M. S. KARNIK &  
VALMIKI MENEZES, JJ.**

**DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**P.C.:**

1. Stand over to 24.07.2024 at 3.30 p.m. The parties are put to notice that an endeavour will be made to decide both these petitions finally.

**VALMIKI MENEZES, J.**

**M. S. KARNIK, J.**

Date: 01/12/2023

To,  
The Member Secretary,  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Govt. of India, Indira Prayavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbag Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

**Subject:** Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block (Area: 478.5206 Ha) located at Villages Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao, Mayem & Sirigao Taluka: Bicholim, District: North Goa, State: Goa by Vedanta Ltd. **Submission of Additional Details Sought (ADS) Reply Reg.**

**Ref:** 1. Proposal No. IA/GA/MIN/442593/2023 & MoEF&CC File No. IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM)  
2. Proposal Considered: 20<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 21-22 Sept., 2023 (Agenda Item No. 2.2)  
3. Minutes of Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> EAC held during 14-15, Nov., 2023 uploaded on Parivesh 2.0 Web Portal

Respected Sir,

With reference to the aforesaid subject and above cited reference; we would like to apprise that application of the above-mentioned proposal was submitted on Parivesh 2.0 Web Portal for obtaining Environment Clearance. Proposal for EC was present before the EAC (Non-coal Mining) in its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 22.09.2023. Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> EAC was uploaded on Parivesh Web Portal and committee asked to submit the Reply of Additional Details. The EAC was of the view that a site visit needs to be conducted by a sub-committee comprising of EAC Members and Officers from MoEF&CC.

Accordingly, the Ministry vide letter dated 09.10.2023 constituted a sub-committee to conduct the site visit during 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct., 2023. Subsequently, the committee undertook the day long field visit on 30.10.2023.

The EAC Meeting held during the 14-15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2023 and Report of the Hon'ble sub-committee was discussed.

Now, we are herewith submitting the following documents for further consideration.

- A. Reply of Additional Details Sought (ADS) raised in 20<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 22.09.2023.
- B. Reply of the recommendations of the Hon'ble sub-committee.

We request your good self to kindly consider our proposal in upcoming EAC for grant of Environment Clearance.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,  
**For Vedanta Limited**

  
Dhirajkumar Jagdish  
**Dy Chief Executive Officer-Iron ore Goa**  
**Authorised Signatory**

Encl: As above

VEDANTA LIMITED  
Sesa Goa iron ore: Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panjim, Goa – 403 001, India  
T +91 0832 2460600 | Website: [www.sesagoaironore.com](http://www.sesagoaironore.com)

Registered Office: Vedanta Limited, 1st Floor, 'C' wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue, Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400093, Maharashtra, India.  
CIN: L13209MH1965PLC291394

Sensitivity: Public (C4)

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(IMPACT ASSESSMENT DIVISION)  
NON-COAL MINING SECTOR**

\*\*\*

**SUMMARY RECORD OF 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF NON-COAL MINING PROJECTS CONSTITUTED UNDER THE EIA NOTIFICATION, 2006.**

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Re-constitution of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Environmental Appraisal of Mining Projects (Non-Coal) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was held during 21-22 September, 2023 through video conference. The list of participants is annexed herewith. After login of the Committee Members through video conference link provided by NIC discussion on each of the Agenda Items was taken up ad-seriatim.

**(1.0) Deliberation & Circulation on the Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup>EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 24-25 August, 2023:**

The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 24-25 August, 2023 were placed before the members of the EAC.

**Day 1: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 (Thursday)**

**1.1 Proposal for Mining of Iron Ore in Jilling Langalotta Iron Ore Mine of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Limited with total excavation of 17.4385 Million TPA [Saleable Iron ore- 7.7723 Million TPA, Mineral rejects-2.2276 Million TPA, Waste- 7.4385 Million TPA, Topsoil: Nil] along with existing: 5 nos. with Total Capacity - 1400 TPH (Stationary Crushing Unit), 2 x 300 TPH, 2 x 200 TPH, 1 x 400 TPH, Existing: 3 nos. with Total Capacity - 150 TPH (Mobile Screening Unit), 1 x 150 TPH Mobile Screening Plant 1 x 50 TPH, Stationary Screening Plant, 1 x 100 TPH Mobile Screening Plant, New: 10 nos. with Total Capacity - 4550 TPH (Crushing Unit), 1x800 TPH, 3 x 600 TPH, 3 x 400 TPH, 1 x 300 TPH, 1 x 250 TPH, 1x 200 TPH, New: 4 nos. with Total Capacity - 1000 TPH (Portable Screening Units), 4 x 250 TPH in the mine lease area of [456.037 ha (as per DGPS)/456.100 ha (as per RoR)] located at Village(s) Jalahari, Jurudi, Banspani, Khuntapani, Bholebeda, Jajang, Baitarani Reserve Forest in Barbil Tehsil, Keonjhar District, Odisha - [Proposal No: IA/OR/MIN/440292/2023, IA-J11015/34/2021-IA-II(M), EIA Consultant: M/s. MECON Ltd] - Environmental Clearance (Auction mine)**

The instant proposal is for mining of Iron Ore in Jilling Langalotta Iron Ore Mine of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Limited with total excavation of 17.4385 Million TPA

- xi. The Project Proponent needs to carry out the Public Hearing as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. PP should also submit the time bound action plan on concerns of the public through a separate budget with capital expenditure with a timeline of 3 years. The Project proponent shall ensure that the activities proposed under the public hearing shall be different from the CSR activities.
- xii. The Project Proponent shall carry out the assessment of impact due to the proposed project as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP. The project proponent shall conduct hydrological study for projects involving intersection of ground water table as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.
- xiii. The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of reduction of specific water requirement by optimization / technology up gradation, etc. The efforts shall be delineated in the EIA/EMP.
- xiv. The Project Proponent shall prepare the scheme for mandatory recycle/re-use of water as specified by the Central Ground Water Authority for different category areas seeking NoC for ground water withdrawal and the shall submit as part of EIA/EMP report.
- xv. The Action Plan on the compliance of the recommendations of the CAG as per Ministry's Circular No. J-11013/71/2016-IA.I(M), dated 25.10.2017 needs to be submitted at the time of appraisal of the project and included in the EIA/EMP Report.

**2.2 Bicholim Mineral Block- Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s Vedanta Limited for mining of Iron Ore with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA(Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa - [F.No: IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM), Proposal No: IA/GA/MIN/442593/2023, Consultant: M/s Mineral Engineering Services] – Environmental Clearance (EC)**

The instant proposal is for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s Vedanta Limited with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in

Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non Coal Mining) meeting held during 21-22 September, 2023

Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 15°34'20.518"N to 15°36'54.018"N and Longitude: 73°54'4.754"E to 73°57'09.51"E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: D43B14 and falls in Seismic Zone-II.
- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and falls under Category "A" as the mining lease area is greater than 250ha and appraised at the Central level.
- iii. Details of Terms of Reference (ToR):

Date of application	File. No/ Proposal No	Consideration	Details	Date of accord
16.03.2023	F.No: IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM)  IA/GA/MIN/422323/2023	3-4 May, 2023	Terms of Reference (ToR) to M/s Vedanta Limited for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem & Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa	16.06.2023

iv. Details of Mine Lease:

- a) The Project Proponent has submitted the Letter of Intent (LoI) granted by the Government of Goa vide Lr No: DMG/25/Auction Cell/LOI-function/2023/2801 dated 13.01.2023 for grant of mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa Mayem & Sirigao villages, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District over an area of 478.5206 Hectare for a

Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non Coal Mining) meeting held during 21-22 September, 2023

period of 50 (fifty) years in pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules. This letter of intent is valid for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance.

## v. Land Use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	421.1153 Ha
Government land	57.4053 Ha
Total Mining lease area (MLA)	478.5206 Ha
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	Not Applicable

## vi. Details of Mining Plan:

Review and Mining Plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Goa	Letter No.	No. MCDR-MPC 1 2023-GOA-IBM_RO_GOA
	Date	26.05.2023
	Mine Lease Area	478.5206 Ha
	Mineral	Iron Ore (Major Mineral)
Mining Parameters	Quantitative Description	
Method of Mining	Opencast mechanized mining without Drilling & Blasting	
Drilling/Blasting	Not Applicable	
Total Reserves and Resources	84.73 Million Tonnes	
Proved Mineral Reserve	36.071 Million Tonnes	
Life of mine	30 years	
Bench Height	7 m	
Bench Width	10 m	
Individual bench slope	70 <sup>0</sup>	
Overall pit slope	<26 <sup>0</sup>	
RoM output size	Less than 500 mm	
Crushing/Screening	Mobile Dry Crushing and Screening plant shall be available within the proposed mine to handle 4 MTPA of crude ore. The primary crusher will consist of 1 no. of Jaw crusher of capacity 120 TPH with an input feed of -500mm and shall produce output of -70 mm. It shall be followed by secondary crushers, 2 no.s of capacity 300 TPH and 200 TPH respectively. The input feed size shall be -70mm and output feed size obtained shall be -40mm. The Screening Plants of capacity -600TPH shall be installed where input the feed size shall be -70mm to obtain product of -40mm lumps & -10mm fines.	
Transportation details	ROM/Iron ore or Screened/crushed material will be transported by 10.5 Tonne trippers from Mine to Sarmanas jetty through a dedicated road. The total	

Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non Coal Mining) meeting held during 21-22 September, 2023

	distance from the mine to Jetty is 5.48 km of which 0.94 km stretch is public road and remaining 4.54 km is company owned dedicated road.
Dumpers capacity	40 tonne (within mines)
Waste handling and Disposal	During the mining period, the waste generated by mining will be temporarily stacked within the mining lease area as surface dump and backfilled in the exhausted portion of the pits. The total waste to be generated during the plan period is about 69.85 million tonnes. An area of 6.7146 Ha shall be utilized for Dumps and Material stocking at the conceptual stage of mining.

## vii. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	664 KLD	Pit Water	628 KLD
		Ground water	36 KLD
Source	Water from Mine Pit will be used for dust suppression, Vehicle washing and Green belt. Water for domestic requirement will be met from bore well.		
Permission	The Bore wells are registered with Goa State Water Resource department. Application for using mine pit water will be submitted.		

## viii. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies/monument:

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Directions
Village	Lamgoa	Within the lease area
Town	Bicholim Town	0.5 km, East
Road	State Highway SH-1	0.65 km, East
Railway Station	Tivim Railwaystation	10.5 km, North
Water Bodies	Asnora River	Touching lease boundary at one of the points
	Mayem Lake	0.46 km
	Mandovi River	2.3 km, SW
School	Mulgao Govt. Primary School	Within the lease area
Worship places	Namuzgah/Ildgah Shri Lairae Temple	Within the lease area 0.86 km
Caves/Fort	300m buffer from Lamgao caves Khorjuvem Fort: 2 km	

## ix. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/Protected Area/Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/No	Details of Certificate/letter/Remarks
Forest Land	Yes	Mayem Forest Common Boundary with the mine lease area

		<p>The following Reserve Forests are located within 10 km radius of the mine lease area such as  Kharapal RF -6.7 km  Kasarpal RF - 5.1 km  Ambadgaon RF - 7.6 km</p>
National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary, ESZ/ESA etc.,	No	<p>The Project Proponent has submitted the letter from the Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests vide Lr No: DCF(WP)/Tech/Digi/Vol-I/75/2022-23/968 dated 23.01.2023 stating that the proposed Bicholim Mineral Block-I is not situated within 10 km radius from the boundary of any the protected area in the State of Goa. PP also submitted the authenticated map dated 24.01.2023 showing the distance of the following Wildlife Sanctuary from the mine lease area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Madei Wild life Sanctury-14.105 km, E</li> <li>ii. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary -10.553 km, SW</li> <li>iii. Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary -20.476 km, SE</li> </ol> <p>The Project Proponent also submitted the letter dated 22.02.2023 obtained from the Director (Environment) &amp; Member Secretary, Goa-SEIAA stating that the Authority on perusal of Draft Zonal Master Plan for Eco-Sensitive Zones of Goa 2022 noticed that Eco Sensitive Zones declared by the Ministry of Environment &amp; Forest in the State of Goa covers six Talukas such as Sattari, Dharbandora, Ponda, Sanguem, Canacona and Quepem, Bicholim taluka is not included in Draft Zonal Plan and it is not part of Eco Sensitive Zones. It is also clarified that Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block of Vedanta Ltd is also not a part of any Eco Sensitive Area.</p>
Schedule-I species	Yes	<p>The Project Proponent has submitted the letter from the Office of the Dy. Conservator of Forests vide Lr No: 5/FCA/GEN/F&amp;F/DCFN/TECH/2022-23 dated 04.04.2023 with regard to list of Flora and Fauna species present in core and buffer zone.</p> <p>The following Schedule-I species are found in the study area such as</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Common leopard (<i>Felidae</i>)</li> <li>2 White-bellied Sea-Eagle(<i>Accipitridae</i>)</li> <li>3 Indian Peafowl (<i>Phasianidae</i>)</li> <li>4 Crimson rose- Butterfly (<i>Papilionidae</i>)</li> </ol>

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Status of Wildlife Conservation Plan	Yes	Wild Life Conservation Plan is prepared and submitted for approval of Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) on 19.06.2023. PP has submitted the copy of the acknowledgement from Chief Wildlife Warden.
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## x. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation	105.8894 ha
Budget for green plant& plantation till the end of life of mine.	Rs159.0Lakhs
Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	25 ha
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	
Additional information (if any)	80.8894 ha (on backfilled area)

## xi. Details of Baseline data:

Baseline Data (Air / Water / Noise / Soil / Ground water table/ others)			
Period of baseline data collection	March, 2023 to May, 2023		
Season (Summer / Pre-monsoon / Post-monsoon / Winter)	Summer Season		
Ambient Air Quality (no. of locations) and results	No. of Locations	Parameters	Results
	9	PM10	27.0 to 56.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
		PM2.5	14.0 to 36.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
		SO2	4.0 to 13.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
		NO2	<4.0 to 18.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Noise level (no. of locations) and results	No. of Locations	Parameters	Results
	09	During Day Time [Leq dB(A)]	43.1 to 61.7
		During Night Time [Leq dB(A)]	35.9 to 49.3
Water Quality (no. of locations) and results	Surface water quality		
	No. of Locations	Parameters	Results
	07	pH	6.35 - 7.39
		TDS (mg/l)	72 - 11240
		Fluoride (mg/l)	<0.1
		Chloride (mg/l)	18 - 5620
		Fe (mg/l)	<0.05
		Dissolved Oxygen (as O <sub>2</sub> ), mg/l	6.2 – 6.9
Biochemical Oxygen Demand		<3.0	

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		(as O <sub>2</sub> ), mg/l	
		Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) mg/l	22.0 – 26.0
	Groundwater Quality		
	No. of Locations	Parameters	Results
	10	pH	5.63 – 7.07
TDS (mg/l)		20 – 150	
Fluoride (mg/l)		0.1	
Chloride (mg/l)		5.0 - 19.0	
Soil Quality (no. of locations) and results	No. of Locations	Parameters	Results
	07	pH	5.38 to 5.78
		Electrical Conductivity (mohs/cm)	0.28 to 0.318
		Nitrogen (kg/ha)	200 to 275
		Phosphorus (kg/ha)	14.3 to 17.8
Potassium (kg/ha)		230 to 263	

## xii. Public Hearing (PH) Details:

Advertisement for PH with date	07.07.2023 Regional: Bhangar Bhui, Herald, Lokmat & Free press journal (Mumbai Edition) News papers
Date of PH	11/08/2023
Venue	Narayan Zantye Multipurpose Sports Complex, Sarvan, Bicholim, Goa
Chaired by	District Collector, North Goa
Main issues raised during PH	Pollution, impact on ponds, Support for Education, Health, Agriculture Development & Skill Development, Employment.
Budget proposed for addressing issues raised during PH	Rs 309.3 Lakhs

## xiii. Rehabilitation &amp; Resettlement:

R & R details	There is presence of habitation within ML Area at Mulgao and lamgao villages. Safety Buffer of 50m will be maintained from the habitations. No Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan is proposed during life of mine.
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## xiv. Court case details:

Court Case	Yes
Additional information (if any)	<u>First Case (Suresh Zantye &amp; ors. v. State of Goa &amp; Ors.):</u>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WP(Civil) 2478 of 2022 (Filing number) before the High Court of Bombay at Goa</li> <li>2. The said writ petition has been filed against the State Government and seeks to challenge the identification of properties bearing survey no. 90/1(part) and 96/0 as part of the recently auctioned Bicholim mine. The petition alleges violation of Rule 5 &amp;6 of Mineral Evidence Rules and Section 10B of MMDR, Act by the State of Goa and DMG. The petitioner has prayed for quashing of auction notice to the extend it includes the property of the petitioner and grant a writ of mandamus against the Respondents.</li> <li>3. Case status is pending.</li> <li>4. No adverse orders have been passed.</li> <li>5. As per the last order the matter has been disposed of by the HC on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with a direction to the Petitioner to make a representation before the Government and the Government is to dispose of the same within four months.</li> </ol> <p><u>Second Case (MSPL v. State of Goa &amp; Ors.):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WP 592 of 2022</li> <li>2. The said writ petition seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the tender documents of Phase I auction of Goa mines. The petition alleges violation of Rule 5 &amp; 6 of Mineral Evidence Rules by the State of Goa and DMG. The petition alleges non-disclosure of essential facts such as bore hole data, approved mining plan, production data of the previous five years and exploration data. The petitioner has prayed for quashing of auction notice to the extend it fails to include the essential facts and in the alternative to stay the auction.</li> <li>3. Case status is pending</li> <li>4. No adverse orders have been passed.</li> <li>5. As per the last order the matter was listed on 01.09.2023.</li> </ol> <p><u>Third Case (Suresh Govind Gaonkar &amp; Ors v. Directorate of Mines and Geology &amp; Ors):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PIL WP 2029/2023 (F)</li> </ol>
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	<p>2. PIL has been filed challenging state's decision to go ahead with the auction of the mining block. The said PIL also challenges the order dated 13.01.2023 which issues LOI to the successful bidder. The primary grievances of the petitioners are that village settlement are included within the mining blocks auctioned. Hence this PIL was preferred under Article 226 and 21 of the Constitution. Vedanta Limited is Respondent No. 3 in the aforementioned PIL. The matter is listed for first hearing on 25.09.23.</p>
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## xv. Affidavit/Undertaking details:

Affidavit as per Ministry's OM dated 30.05.2018	The Project Proponent has submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs 100 bearing no: A807037 dated 24.04.2023 stating that they will comply to the directions issued by MoEF&CC vide Office Memorandum F.No.3-50/2017.IA.III (Pt) dated 30th May, 2018 in terms of directions given Hon'ble Supreme Court in judgment dated 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India & Ors.
Undertaking of Project Proponent	<p>The Project Proponent has submitted an undertaking stating that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report of Block-1 Bicholim Mineral Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd was prepared by M/s Mineral Engineering Services, QCI/NABET Accredited EIA Consultant at Sr.No. 55 as per list of list of accredited consultant/organizations.</p> <p>The Project Proponent hereby undertaken that the information and data provided in the EIA report and submitted to the Ministry are factually correct and fully accountable for the same.</p>
Consultant submitted an Undertaking vide letter dated 02.06.2023	This is to declare that the prescribed ToRs have been complied with and that the data submitted are factually correct in respect of EIA & EMP report prepared for Block-1 Bicholim Mineral Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd, Goa.

## xvi. Details of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP):

Activities	Capital cost (Crores)	Recurring cost (Lakhs/annum)
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Plantation	-	7.5
Environment monitoring	44	44
Air pollution control measures	20	300
Water Treatment	-	11
Erosion control /monsoon measures	-	221
Personal protective equipment	-	15
Maintenance of fire protection systems	-	1.5
Environment awareness & training	-	5
Health	8	16
Total	72	621

xvii. Details of project cost and employment:

Particulars	(Rs. In lakhs)
Project Cost	25000 Lakhs
Employment	716 no.s

### 3. Observation and Recommendation of the EAC:-

The Project Proponent and the Consultant presented the KML file to indicate the site features in the study area of 10 km radius. The Project Proponent has shown the boundary of the mine lease area and informed the EAC that there are two habitations such as Mulgao and Lumgao and schools are located within the mine lease area. Two schools are located in the Mulgao Village. One school is located at a distance of 138m from the Ultimate Pit Limit (UPL) and the other school is located at a distance of 190m from the Ultimate Pit Limit (UPL). No drilling and blasting is involved. Green barriers are maintained to prevent it from the environment hazards. Tributary of Asnora River is touching the mine lease area on the western side. It has been observed that area between river & bottom pit 5 is approximately 6m AMSL which obstructs the flow of water between them, even the high flood condition and at the place where river is touching the block boundary, it is 10.93m AMSL. Hence, even during high flood level, river will not interact with the pit water. The EAC noted that there are few temples, caves and fort are present in the vicinity of the mine lease area. There will be no surface dumping and will be backfilled concurrently and there are voids available for backfilling. Later on the Project Proponent has informed that the pits will be used as a settling ponds. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent is giving two contradictory statements. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to provide the design of the settling ponds in different pits.

The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that Block-I Bicholim block is an old mine and it was auctioned to Vedanta Ltd in the year 2022 and Letter of Intent (LoI) was granted on 13.01.2023. The EAC asked the Project Proponent that after the year 2018 whether any Environmental Clearance has been granted in the State of Goa. The

Project Proponent has informed the EAC after the year 2018 there was no mining in Goa and this instant case is the first case for grant of Environmental Clearance. No forest land is involved in the mine lease area. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has submitted that Mayem Forest common boundary is sharing with the mine lease area. The EAC was of the view that involvement of forest land within the mine lease area is not clear as there are two contradictory information given by the Project Proponent. The EAC also noted that in this regard, the Project Proponent has not submitted the letter from the Forest Dept. No National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary, ESZ/ESA etc., is located within 10km radius of the study area. An application for Groundwater withdrawal was submitted to Water Resource Department submitted on 19.06.2023. No Rehabilitation and resettlement is involved in this proposal.

The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that ROM/Iron ore or Screened/crushed material will be transported by 10.5 Tonne trippers from mine to Sarmanas jetty through a dedicated road. The total distance from the mine to Jetty is 5.48 km of which 0.94 km stretch is public road and remaining 4.54 km is company owned dedicated road. Width of the road is 7.0m. Twenty four hours continuous volume count was manually undertaken during May-2023. The EAC noted that the width of the road is not adequate. About 1205 no. of trips per day will be carried out. No. of working days will be 365. The EAC was of the view that when the rainfall is 3500 mm/year it will be difficult to carry out mining for 365 days. The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that 275 working days are considered for calculation of traffic load. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to bypass the public road and also to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of the truck so as to reduce the no. of trips. The EAC opined that the Project Proponent needs to revisit the traffic load by considering the cycle time and waiting time. The EAC also asked the Project Proponent to strengthen the road and convert the road into concrete road.

The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that the predominant wind direction was from West to East. Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and submitted to Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) on 19.06.2023 for approval with a budget of Rs. 50 Lakhs. At the end of conceptual stage, an area of 105 ha will be under green belt/ plantation. Eco restoration will be carried out in similar to the reclaimed activity carried out in Sanquelim mine. Public hearing was carried out on 11.08.2023 and a budget of Rs 309.3 Lakhs have been earmarked to address the concerns raised during public hearing. The EAC also noted that about 4708 written objections was submitted against the project during the public hearing. The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the issues are same but the no. of objection letters were more in number and about 5183 no.s of letters were also received in support of the project. The EAC also noted that many complaints were received against the public hearing dated 11.08.2023. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to submit the video recording of the public

hearing. There are three court cases at present regarding the auction process and one of the court case was disposed on 17.07.2023 and will abide the directions of the Hon'ble High Court. Other two cases in the matter of MSPL v. State of Goa & Ors. in WP 592 of 2022 and in the matter of Suresh Govind Gaonkar & Ors v. Directorate of Mines and Geology & Ors. in PIL WP 2029/2023 (F) are pending before the Hon'ble High Court and no adverse orders has been passed.

The Department of Mines and Geology, Goa was invited as a special invitee to discuss the present status of mining in Goa. The Deputy Director has informed that the State Govt. is looking positive to restart the mining operations in Goa. Besides 10% DMF, there is also a scheme called Goa Iron Ore permanent fund wherein 10% of the sale value of the mineral will be spent towards community based activities as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The State Govt. has put up a scheme for approval before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in line with Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) Scheme. This fund has to be kept for prosperity. The report with regard to illegal mining will be obtained from the SIT and will be provided to the Ministry.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC noted that the handling of waste of 25.162 MTPA will be more than the Iron Ore production capacity of 3.0 MTPA. The EAC was of the view that the pollution potential will be more in handling of waste. The EAC not convinced with plan for backfilling and with the design of settling ponds as the annual rainfall is projected as 3500 mm/year. The EAC observed that the instant mine is located in dense vegetation area. The EAC also noted that the mine lease area is located close to the proximity of the habitations, school, forest (Mayem common boundary), river, temples, caves and fort. The EAC also observed that the Project Proponent has not properly worked out the traffic load. Many litigations were received against the public hearing/project. Further, the EAC also noted that mines were not in operation in Goa from the year 2018 and this instant proposal is a first case for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) under auction after 5 years. Thus there is a need to ascertain the present scenario and ground reality with regards to handling of waste, settling ponds, location of waste dump w.r.t habitation, school and river, other surface features as forest (Mayem common boundary), temples, caves and fort, mineral transportation route and traffic congestion. The EAC was of the view that a site visit needs to be conducted by a sub-committee comprising of EAC Members and officers from MoEF&CC. The EAC opined that the Ministry may constitute a sub-committee and submit its report to enable the committee to take a decision on the proposal. Therefore, the EAC **deferred** the proposal for want of following additional information: -

- i. The site visit report of the subcommittee.

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- ii. The Project Proponent needs to revisit the plan for backfilling with clearly indicating the voids area and the capacity available/required for backfilling.
- iii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the design of settling ponds by considering the annual rainfall, catchment area and its discharge.
- iv. The Project Proponent needs to bypass the public road and also to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of the truck so as to reduce the no. of trips. The EAC opined that the Project Proponent needs to revisit the traffic load by considering the cycle time and waiting time. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for strengthening the road and for converting the unpaved road into concrete road.
- v. Since the mine lease area is sharing the Mayem Forest common boundary, the Project Proponent needs to submit the letter from the State Forest Department regarding the involvement of forest land in the mine lease area.
- vi. The Project Proponent needs to submit a letter from the Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mine lease area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s. Vedanta Limited or not?
- vii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the video recording of the public hearing.

**2.3 Chettichavadi Jaghir Magnesite and Dunite Mine of M/s. Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Limited for Total Excavation of 1.4 million Tonne per annum (MTPA)/ [including 0.06 million tons of Magnesite, 0.12 million tons of Dunite, Waste, O.B, Inter Burden, Top Soil etc.] in the mine lease area of 449.364 ha, located at Chettichavadi Village, Salem Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu - [File No: 23-227/2018-IA.III(V), Proposal No: IA/TN/MIN/241375/2018, Consultant: Aadhi Boomi Mining & Enviro Tech (P) Ltd] - Environmental Clearance (Violation)**

The instant proposal is for mining of Magnesite and Dunite in Chettichavadi Jaghir Magnesite and Dunite Mine for Total Excavation of 1.4 million Tonne per annum (MTPA)/ [including 0.06 million tons of Magnesite, 0.12 million tons of Dunite, Waste, O.B, Inter Burden, Top Soil etc.] in the mine lease area of 449.364 ha, located at Chettichavadi Village, Salem Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:



**PART A**

**REPLY OF ADDITIONAL DETAILS SOUGHT RAISED IN  
20<sup>TH</sup> EAC MEETING HELD ON 22.09.2023**



**Point wise response to Additional Details Sought w.r.t Block 1 Bicholim mineral Block**

**Point No. 1 The site visit report of the sub-committee.**

**Reply:** The Ministry vide letter dated 09.10.2023 constituted a sub-committee to conduct the site visit during 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct., 2023. Subsequently, the committee undertook the day long field visit on 30.10.2023. The EAC Meeting held during the 14-15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2023 and Report of the Hon'ble sub-committee was discussed. Reply of the recommendations of the Hon'ble sub-committee has been prepared and same is enclosed as **Part B**.

**Point No. 2 The Project Proponent needs to revisit the plan for backfilling with clearly indicating the voids area and the capacity available/required for backfilling.**

**Reply:** 05 numbers of earlier mined out pits have been identified for backfilling purpose to accommodate waste to be generated in future besides additional pits to be made available progressively with mining till conceptual period. The physical details of available pits to be converted into backfilled areas are as follows:

<b>Existing Available Pits, Area, Depth &amp; Volume for Backfilling (Table 1)</b>							
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Mine Pit Location/ ID</b>	<b>Total Area of Pit in Ha</b>	<b>Area Available for Backfilling (Ha)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Top RL (m)</b>	<b>Bot RL (m)</b>	<b>Vol (m3)</b>
1	1 Top	22.4367	20.9942	99	62	-37	19356183
2	2 Top	13.0803	9.9465	60	60	0	2968920
3	3 Top	16.0596	13.1650	70	110	40	2240000
4	¾ Bottom	-	-	109	102	-7	-
5	5 Top	37.0242	35.7242	78	98	20	14213124
6	5 Top CB	-	-	77	124	47	-
7	5 Bottom	15.4196	12.0840	92	87	-5	7035240
<b>Total</b>		<b>104.0204</b>	<b>91.9139</b>				<b>45813467</b>

Further, the details of pits to be made available progressively with mining till conceptual period and converted into backfilled areas are as follows:

<b>Proposed Working Pits, Area, Depth &amp; Volume will be available for Backfilling (Table 1A)</b>								
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Mine Pit Location/ ID</b>	<b>Total Area of Pit in Ha</b>	<b>Area Available for Backfilling (Ha)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Top RL (m)</b>	<b>Bot RL (m)</b>	<b>Vol (m3)</b>	<b>Void availability for Backfilling</b>
1	2 Top	43.1944	39.2331	116	91	-25	10518996	In 5th year
2	¾ Bottom	39.4606	34.6140	169	102	-67	15412643	End of 3rd year
3	2 Top	68.52	65.6420	113	103	-10	47912000	In 6th year to 10th year
4	3 Top/ 2top Combined	38.2545	36.6500	118	108	-10	38161200	In 11th year to 13th year
5	4 Top/3 Top Combined	-	-	84	73	-11	-	In 11th year to 13th year
6	5 Top CB Pit	-	-	168	94	-74	-	In 11th year to 13th year
<b>Total</b>		<b>189.4295</b>	<b>176.1391</b>				<b>112004839</b>	

As shown in the above tables, five number of earlier worked out pits will have void volume of 45.81 million m<sup>3</sup> and during the Plan & Conceptual period progressive excavation, 112 million m<sup>3</sup> of void volume will be available for backfilling. Therefore, a total of 157.98 million M<sup>3</sup> of void volume will be available for backfilling in mined out pits having a cumulative area of 268.05 Ha. Additionally, 62 Ha area will be available as voids including 22 ha of water reservoir for storing rain water.

The details of proposed year-wise backfilling in these pits till conceptual period as per available space is given below in Table -2:

**Table 2**

Year	Waste Generation (m <sup>3</sup> )	Swelled Waste Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Backfilling Pit Location	Top MRL of Pit	Void Volume Utilised (m <sup>3</sup> )	Top MRL of Backfilled area	Dumped volume above TOP MRL of Pit (m <sup>3</sup> )	Remark
Year 1	1244889	1493867	5 Bot	87	1493867	45	0	
Year 1	2238957	2686749	5 Top	98	2686749	80	0	
Year 1	2238957	2686749	1 Top	100	2686749	20	0	
Year 2	732414	878897	5 Bot	87	878897	75	0	
Year 2	1810240	2172288	5 Top	98	2172288	110	0	Backfilling progressing towards 4 Top Area where Top RL is 170 Mts
Year 2	1810240	2172288	1 Top	100	2172288	40	0	
Year 3	500000	600000	5 Bot	87	600000	95	0	
Year 3	2000000	2400000	5 Top	98	2400000	170	0	Backfilling progressing towards 4 Top Area where Top RL is 170 Mts
Year 3	1502000	1802400	1 Top	100	1802400	100	0	
Year 3	1497434	1796920	3 Top	108	1796920	110	0	
Year 4	6768535	8122242	3/4 Bot	102	8122242	10	0	
Year 5	2912829	4992828	3/4 Bot	102	4992828	90	0	Rehandling of Waste
	1497434							
Year 5	8170622	9804746	2 Top	103	9804746	60	0	
From Year 6- Year 10	47750000	57300000	2 Top	103	57300000	100	0	
	5250000	6300000	5 Top	98	6300000	95	0	
From Year 11- Year 13	16075000	30140000	3 Top & 2 Top	108	30140000	73	0	Rehandling of Waste
	10850000							
	10075000	12090000	1 Top	100	11894483	100	195517	Surface Dump (1 Mts Height)
<b>Total</b>	<b>124924550</b>	<b>147439973</b>			<b>147244456</b>		<b>195517</b>	

It is evident from above tables that sufficient space is available to accommodate waste generated during life of mine considering swell factor of 1.2.

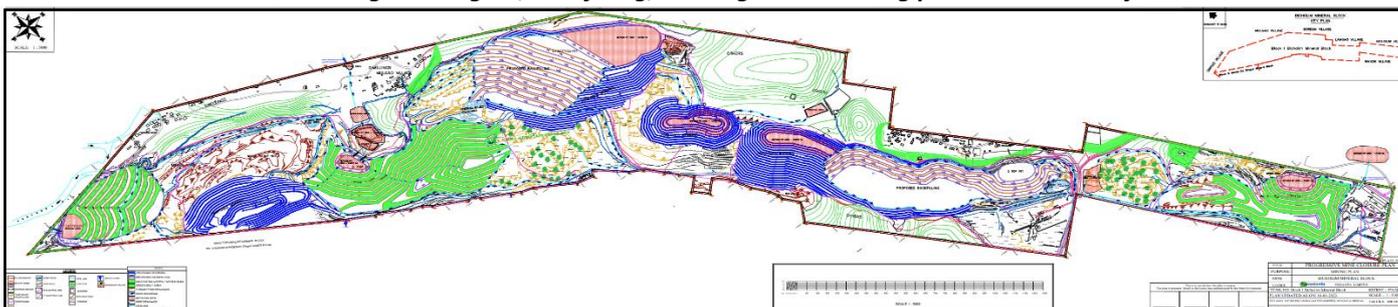
The conceptual availability of voids for backfilling is 157.98 (say 158) million CuM. Conceptual waste generation shall be 124.9 million Cum which will have a swelled volume of 149.90 million

CuM (say 150 million CuM). The 0.2 million CuM of swelled waste will be dumped over top of backfilled pits as surface dumps as explained above in Table-2.

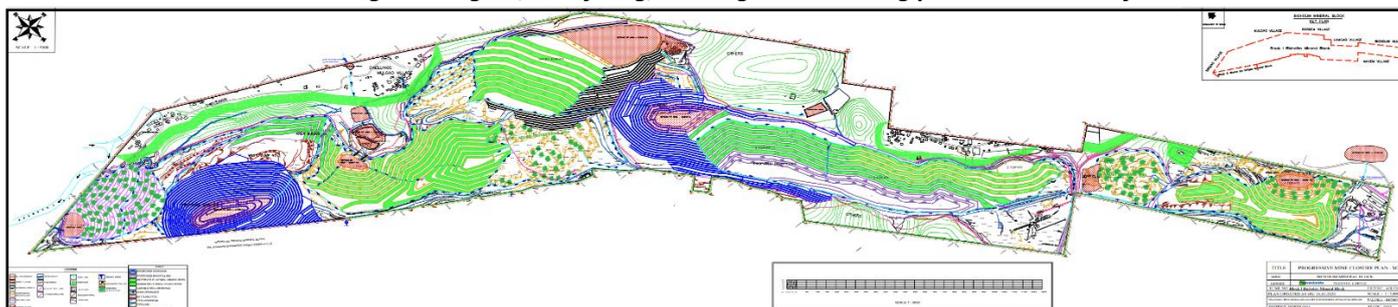
It is notable that the annual waste generation is in range of 4.35 to 12.58 million cum per year with an average of 9.61 million cum per year considering life of the mine as 13 years based on the presently available mineable reserves. It is also notable that life of the mine may reach upto 30 years if entire resources are converted to reserves by removing all encumbrances.

Drawings showing status of pits, reclaimed areas trough backfilling, green belt, siltation pits etc for five yearly block period up to conceptual stage is given below:

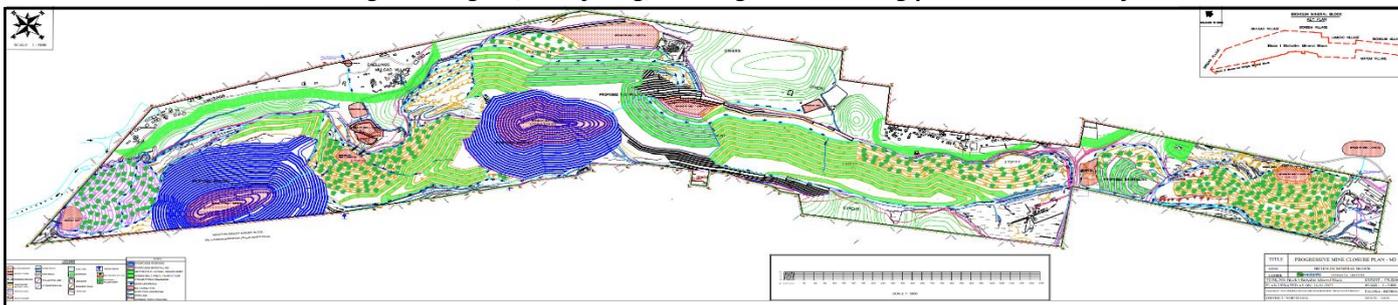
**PMCP Plan showing Working Pit, Backfilling, Drainages and settling ponds at the end of Plan Period M1**



**PMCP Plan showing Working Pit, Backfilling, Drainages and settling ponds at the end of Plan Period M2**



**FMCP Plan showing Working Pit, Backfilling, Drainages and settling ponds at the end of Plan Period M3**



- |   |                   |   |               |   |                      |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------|---|----------------------|
|  | Proposed Working  |  | Settling Pits |  | Existing Plantation  |
|  | Geotextile laying |  | Green Belt    |  | Proposed Backfilling |

**Point No. 3** The Project Proponent needs to submit the design of settling ponds by considering the annual rainfall, catchment area and its discharge.

**Reply:** As discussed above, this mine is old operational mine where the mining activities were ceased as per Supreme Court judgement in Goa Foundation case dated 07.02.2018 and therefore mine has adequate nos of abandoned pits and siltation ponds having arrangements of garland drains etc besides voids for backfilling.

06 numbers of earlier mined out abandoned pits and 12 nos of interlinked siltation ponds have been identified for collecting surface run off from respective catchment sub basins. The details of pits giving catchment and water holding capacity is as follows.

**Table 3**

Pit ID	Area Covered by Pit (Ha)	Pit Dimensions (L*W*D) in mts	Catchment Area (In Ha)	Water holding Capacity. (Million m3)	Bottom RL (MRL)
1 Top Pit	13.3	380x350x52	40	1.46	-37
2 Top Pit	9.12	380x240x33	28	0.98	-7
3/4 Bottom	8.28	380x215x80	20	0.52	-7
5 Top Pit	12	400x300x95	40	1.40	7
5 Top CB Pit	6.66	370x180x78	11	0.39	64
5 Bottom Pit	8.75	350x250x40	21	0.74	-31
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>160</b>	<b>5.49</b>	

It is evident from the above table that six number of earlier worked out pits have been identified for collecting surface run-off as depicted in Table 3. A total of 5.49 MM3 of void volume is available for surface run-off holding in six pits having a cumulative area of 58.11 Ha which have a total catchment area of 160 Ha. Map showing pit positions is as follows:



Further, the pit-wise water holding capacities at the end of each plan period up to conceptual stage are as follows:

Pit ID	Water holding Capacity (Million m3)			
	Existing Pits	Plan Period M1	Plan Period M2	Plan Period M3
<b>1 Top Pit</b>	1.46	0.63	0.63	0.63
<b>2 Top Pit</b>	0.98	1.19	1.51	0.48
<b>3 Top Pit</b>	-	1.23	-	-
<b>3/4 Bottom</b>	0.52	1.25	1.25	4.31
<b>5 Top Pit</b>	1.4	0.23	0.23	0.23
<b>5 Top CB Pit</b>	0.39	0.64	1.43	1.43
<b>5 Bottom Pit</b>	0.74	0.44	0.44	0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>7.50</b>

It is evident from the above table that during entire mine life water holding capacity of 5.49 or more than 5.49 million CuM will be available at any time. Further, a total 12 nos of settling ponds have been earmarked within and outside the ML Area for collecting surface run-off. The details of settling ponds are as follows

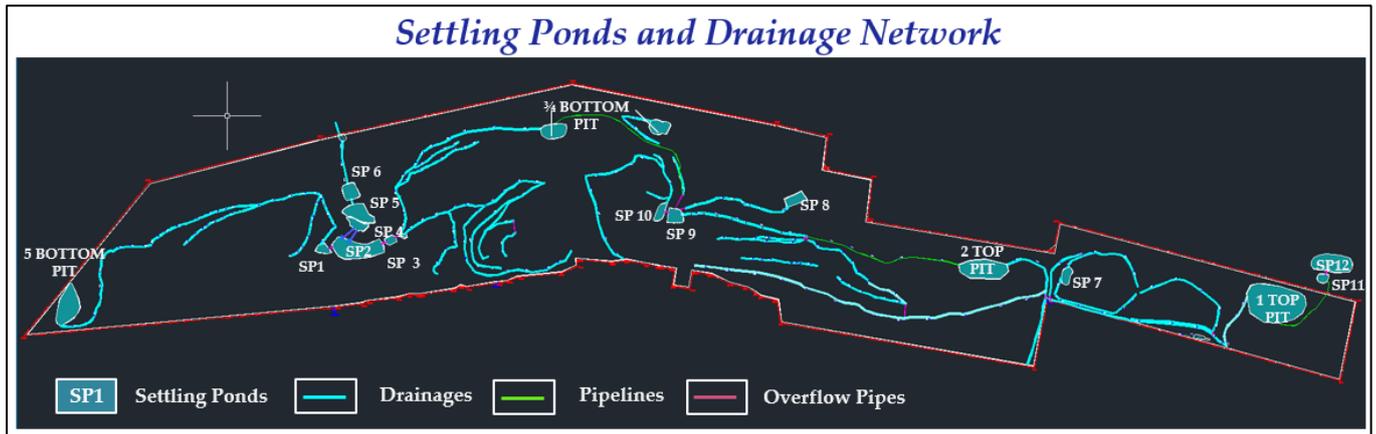
**Table – 4**

**Details of Settling Ponds within & outside the ML Area**

Pit ID	Area in m2	Depth in mts	Volume in m3	Location
SP1	1824	1.8	3283.2	5 Top pit Area
SP2	1667	1.8	3000.6	
SP3	27879	8	223032	
SP4	5208	2	10416	5 Top Mulgao Area
SP5	8602	2	17204	
SP6	4661	2.5	11652.5	
SP7	3896	1.5	5844	1 Top Area (Sec 43)
SP8	5831	3	17493	2 top area
SP9	3753	1.5	5629.5	3 Top Sec 22
SP10	5564	1.5	8346	
SP11	2443	3	7329	Outside lease (Above 1 Top Area)
SP12	17130	4	68520	
<b>Total</b>			<b>381749.8</b>	

It is clear from the above table that a total of 0.38 Million M3 of void volume is available for surface run-off holding in 12 nos settling ponds having a cumulative area of 8.84 Ha. Considering five fillings in a year, the gross volumes of settling ponds will be 1.90 Million M3.

Layout of settling ponds and drainage network is as follows:



- Catchment area of Pits = 160 ha
- Rainfall received = 160 ha x 3500 mm = 5.6 Million CuM
- Effective surface runoff to be accumulated in voids = 5.6 x 0.7 = 3.92 Million CuM
- Pits water holding capacity = 5.49 Million CuM
- Gross settling ponds capacity = 1.90 Million CuM
- Total water holding capacity of mined pits and settling ponds = 7.39 Million CuM

Since total water holding capacity in pits and settling ponds (7.39 Million CuM) is more than rainfall and surface runoff volume from catchment (3.92 Million CuM), there is sufficient space for effective surface runoff management in during extreme precipitation times.

The dimensions of the drains to be maintained will be 2m in width and 1.5 m in depth everywhere in the mine. A proper height will be maintained on the sides of the garland drain so that water does not get over-flooded from the drains. The available garland drains are 11313 m in length and daily average surface run-off is estimated as 14003 m<sup>3</sup>. The garland drains have capacity to accommodate instant volume of 33939 m<sup>3</sup> as per above dimensions. Therefore, garland drains capacity is more than sufficient to take care of average daily surface run off during raining period. Additional drains are proposed to take care of peak run off during the plan period. Therefore, water management structures comprising of drains, settling ponds and mined out pits are available as well as planned to address the catchment area run-off for conceptual period.

The overflow discharge water will be regularly monitored so that quality of water is maintained as per the prescribed standards and always clear water from ponds / pits meet the natural system. In case required, water treatment would be done in the pits by using lime and flocculants or other organic chemicals.

**Point No. 4** The Project Proponent needs to bypass the public road and also to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of truck so as to reduce the no. of trips. The EAC opined that the Project Proponent needs to revisit the traffic load by considering the cycle time and waiting time. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for strengthening the road and for converting the unpaved road into concrete road.

**Reply:** Traffic load and effective distance between two trucks

S. No.	Transportation Working Days	Quantity (In TPA)	Tonnes/Day	Trips per day	Mode of Transport
1	237	30,00,000	12658	1205	Road
Total trips per day				1205	

The total travel distance upto Jetty is 5.48 kms (4.54 dedicated road and 0.94 km MDR-20 Public Road). The Road width details for various segments are as follows:

Dedicated Road corridor		Public Road
3.31 Km	1.23 km	0.94 Km
12-15 mts wide Road	7 mts wide Road	7 mts wide Road



- Capacity of truck is 10.5 tons as per directives of Deptt. of Mines & Geology, Goa
- Total Handling per day is 12658 tons /day
- Transportation timings are 6.00 am to 7.00 am, 8 :00 am to 12.45 pm and 2 :00 pm to 5.45 pm. Therefore, the effective transportation time is 9.30 hrs.
- Per Hour Handling is: 1332 tons/hour
- No. of Vehicles per Hour (One way): 127 vehicles

- No. of Vehicles per Hour (to and fro): 254 vehicles
- The Speed of vehicle is 25 KMPH and the lead distance is 5.48 Kms
- The time taken for 5.48 km is 13.15 mins for each truck and loading time is 1min, weighment time at both source location is 2 min, Tarpaulin tying and untying time is 2 min, unloading time 1 min and waiting time 10 min.
- Each truck length is 15'. 5" (4.58 m)
- If we consider distance from truck to truck is 5 m both side = 10 m
- Each vehicle occupies a min. distance of 14.58 m = ~ 15 m
- The length of road is 5.48 Km = 5480 m
- No. of vehicle which can travel on this road for one side=  $5480 / 15 = 365$ , However we would be plying only 127 trucks hence effective distance between two vehicles is 43 m.

**Measures for transportation are given below:**

- Public road is hot mixed and same will be maintained.
- Dedicated road is proposed to be hot mixed in phased manner.
- Entire Dedicated transportation route is surrounded by thick Green Belt
- Transportation vehicles shall be properly maintained to minimize the exhaust emission.
- Regular tests shall be carried out to check exhaust emission and PUC certification of transportation vehicles at prescribed interval.
- Transportation trucks will be loaded with prescribed capacity and covered with tarpaulin before leaving mines premises.
- Overloading of the material will be avoided.
- Regular monitoring of the emission levels.
- Over speeding of Vehicle will not be allowed.
- Traffic Marshals shall be provided for regulating movement of vehicles as well as for safety of persons.
- Training will be given to all drivers about safe driving.

- Regular water sprinkling by means five hired water tanker of 10KL capacity on haul road and Loading points will be carried out
- Used of fixed dust suppression system on haul roads
- Installation of two wheel washed system (one each at the exit of the dedicated road and jetty exit respectively)
- Manual and mechanised machines for road sweeping
- Washing of mine exit points/ Junctions (Mayem, Pilgao and Jetty exit area) after transportation hours/at night with water tanker having pipe arrangements
- Underpass proposed at Mayem junction to prevent interface with public.

*(N.B.-The regular mining in the state of Goa stopped since 2012 (it started for brief period in 2018 and again stopped). The truck owners who have already invested in the 10.5 T trucks are severely affected due to the stoppage of mining activity and are against procurement of new / high-capacity trucks, till their losses are covered. The company has already conducted series of meetings with the truck owner's associations for the higher capacity trucks and the truck owners are not agreeing to any changes in short term of 5 years. The MOM is attached for reference. However, the engagement with the truck owners for higher capacity truck will continue.*

*Company will also engage with all stake holders to explore the feasibility for installing conveyor belt system for transportation in near future, if permitted.)*

*(Roads: The public road which is used for transportation is only 0.94 km long and the same is a hot mix road and in well maintained condition. The dedicated road of 4.54 km has very thick green belt on both the sides. There is no habitation along the dedicated road. Nearest habitation will be more then 250m from the road. The dedicated road before joining the public road is concreted and provided with the wheel wash system. Dedicated road sweeping machine will also be deployed to maintain the public road clean. The company also undertakes to hotmix the stretch of 4.54 km of dedicated road in a phased manner in three years' time frame. The estimated cost towards hot mixing is worked out as INR 18 crores)*

**Point No. 5** Since the mine lease area is sharing the Mayem Forest common boundary, the Project Proponent needs to submit the letter from the State Forest Dept. regarding the involvement of Forest land in the mine lease area.

**Reply:** Total mine lease area is 478.5206 Ha, out of which 421.1153 ha is Private Land and 57.4053 ha is Govt. Land.

Letter confirming that the Bicholim Mineral Block is not falling under the Govt. Forest land and also it does not identify as Private Forest land by State Level Expert Committee headed by Sawan/Dr. Karapurkar/V.T. Thomas issued by the Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division

vide letter no. 5/MINES-GEN/DCFN/TECH/2023-24/56, dated 12.04.2023. Copy of Letter is enclosed as **Annexure I**.

**Point No. 6 The Project Proponent needs to submit a letter from the department of geology and mining, Govt. of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mine lease area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s. Vedanta Limited or not?**

**Reply: The clarification letter from Directorate of Mines and Geology has been enclosed as Annexure II.**

The Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block was earlier operated by Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd. (SMCL) formerly known as Dempo Mining Corporation Ltd. Pursuant to Supreme Court Judgement in Goa Foundation 2 dated 07.02.2018, all the mining leases granted by the State Govt. were cancelled. Thereafter, State Govt. in terms of the said order and as per the provisions of MMDR Act put this block for auction as a fresh lease grant.

The e-auction process was conducted in accordance with the Tender Document for said Mineral Block. Vedanta Limited emerged as the highest qualified bidder having submitted the highest final price offer and was declared as the preferred bidder under Rule 9(9) (iii) of auction Rules.

Further, upon submission of the first Installment, being 20% of the upfront payment, Government of Goa issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) vide letter no. DMG/25/Auction Cell/LOI-function/2023/2801 dated 13.01.2023 for the grant of a mining lease for Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao, Mayem & Sirigao Villages, of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District, Goa State over an area of 478.5206 Ha over a period of 50 years. Copy of Letter of Intent is enclosed as **Annexure III**. Mine lease is yet to be executed and mining has not been carried out by the Vedanta Ltd.

**Point No. 7 The Project Proponent needs to submit the video recording of the public hearing.**

**Reply: The Goa State Pollution Control Board vide their letter No. 11/15/2023-PCB/ Leg/13555 dated 22/09/2023 to the Member Secretary, EAC ( Non Coal Mining ) has submitted all the documents related to public hearing which also includes the public hearing video. Copy of letter enclosed as Annexure IV**

The project proponent will also physically share the video through pendrive to the Member Secretary, EAC ( Non Coal Mining ), MoEF & CC, New Delhi.



GOVERNMENT OF GOA  
**Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests,**  
**North Goa Division,**  
**Ponda - Goa, 403 401**

Ph No: 0832-2312856 Fax No: 2312095 email:- [dcfnorth-forest.goa@nic.in](mailto:dcfnorth-forest.goa@nic.in)  
 No.5/MINES-GEN/DCFN/TECH/2023-24/56 Dated:- 12/04/2023

To,  
 The Conservator of Forests (Conservation)  
 Van Bhavan,  
 Panaji- Goa

Sub:- Status of land within Block -1 of Bicholim Mineral Block – reg.

Madam,

With reference to the letter No. CF(C)/General/FD/2022-23/5176 dated 17/02/2023 on the above cited subject , the detail of village wise Survey Nos. (as per the list attached as Annexure-I) within Block -1 of Bicholim Mineral Block is verified and found that the area under the above mentioned Survey Nos is not a Govt. Forest and also does not identified as Private Forest by State Level Expert Committee headed by Sawant / Dr. Karapurkar/ V. T. Thomas. The plan showing Block-1 – Bicholim Mineral Block is enclosed herewith as Annexure-II for kind information.

The Plan & Survey Nos. of Block II, III and IV were not submitted by the User agency, therefore could not be verified by this office.

Yours faithfully,

  
 Dy. Conservator of Forests,  
 North Goa Division,  
 Ponda- Goa.

Encl:- As above.

CERTIFIED COPY UNDER RIGHT TO  
 INFORMATION ACT, 2005  
  
 ASSTT. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS  
 PONDA GOA



**Government of Goa**  
**Directorate of Mines Geology**  
**Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa**  
**Website: dmgoa.gov.in** **e-mail: dir-mine.goa@nic.in**  
**Phone Nos. 0832 – 2426431/2425287/2422765**

File No. 03/24/2023/Major/Mines/Part/ 1489

Date: 25/07/2023

To,  
M/s. Vedanta Ltd.  
Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex,  
Patto, Panaji, Goa.  
403001

**Sub: Clarification letter with respect to Terms of Reference granted to Vedanta Limited for Block I Bicholim Mine.**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter dated 18/5/2023 on the subject cited above. With regards to the special condition no. xvii mentioned in the summary records of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee held on 3-4 May 2023, it is clarified that:-

- (a) M/s. Vedanta has been declared as Preferred Bidder for Bicholim Mineral Block- Block I through an auction process conducted by the Government of Goa as per the Mineral Auction Rules, 2015.
- (b) M/s. Vedanta Ltd., was not the erstwhile lessee of the said Block prior to auction.
- (c) The matter of illegal mining in the State of Goa is under investigation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. S. Shanbhogue)  
Director



**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/2023/280/**

**Date:13/01/2023**

**Letter of Intent for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block**

To,  
**Vedanta Limited**  
Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex,  
Patto, Panaji, Goa, 403001 India.

*Sub: Letter of intent with reference to e-auction dated December 14, 2022 for grant of a mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore mineral in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao Mayem & Sirigao village, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District on 478.5206 Hectare Area.*

**1. Background:**

1.1 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 I - Bicholim Mineral Block** located in North Goa. The e-auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the said mineral block and **Vedanta Limited** was declared as the ‘Preferred Bidder’ under Rule 9(9)(iii) of Auction Rules, having quoted a Final Price Offer of **63.55% (Sixty three point five five percent)**.



- 1.2 As required under Rule 10(1) of the Auction Rules and the tender document for the said mineral block, **Vedanta Limited** has made payment of the first instalment, being 20% (twenty per cent) of the upfront payment of Rs. 27,16,70,301 (Rupees Twenty Seven Crore Sixteen Lakh Seventy Thousand Three Hundred One) through e-Challan (e-Challan No. 202300008550) dated January 4, 2023, 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 I - Bicholim Mineral Block** for Iron Ore in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao Mayem & Sirigao village, Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District on 478.5206 Hectare Area to **Vedanta Limited** 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 **Vedanta Limited** 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.

**Vedanta Limited** shall be bound by (i) the enactment, bringing into



*[Handwritten signature]*

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 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 **Vedanta Limited** 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”:

**Vedanta Limited** 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 subsection (2) of Section 5 of the Act with respect to a mining plan; and



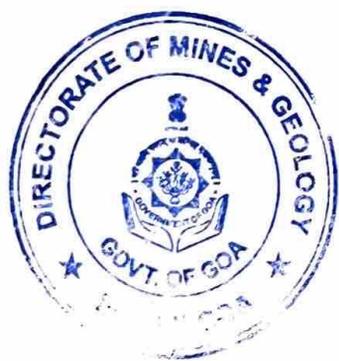
(b) Signing of the Mine Development and Production Agreement

**Vedanta Limited** 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, **Vedanta Limited** 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.

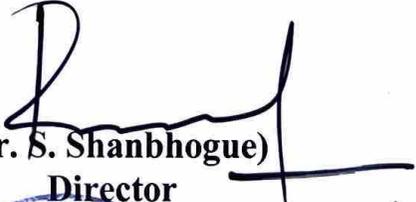


#### 4. Validity

- 4.1. This Letter of Intent shall be valid only if **Vedanta Limited** 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 **Vedanta Limited** 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 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**.

  
(Dr. S. Shanbhogue)  
Director



# GOA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

## गोंय राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ

(An ISO 9001-2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018 Certified Board)

Phone Nos : 0832- 2407700,  
2407701, 2407703



Email Ids:

Chairman, GSPCB: chairman-gspcb.goa@nic.in  
Member Secretary, GSPCB: ms-gspcb.goa@nic.in  
Office: mail.gspcb@gov.in

**BY SPEED POST**  
**MOST URGENT**

No.11/15/2023-PCB/Reg/135555

Date:- 22/09/2023

To,

The Member Secretary,  
EAC (Non Coal Mining),  
IA Division,  
Ministry of Env., Forest and Climate Change  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi - 110003

Sub:- Environmental Public Hearing.

Sir,

As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification (EIA) dated 14/09/2006, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, the Goa State Pollution Control Board has conducted Environmental Public Hearing as per the said notification with respect to Block I Bicholim Mineral Block with area of 478.5206 Ha located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgao, Mayem and Sirigao villages of Bicholim Taluka, North Goa District, Goa for the production of 3.0 MPTA of iron ore by M/s. Vedanta Ltd.

In this regard, I am to enclose herewith the following documents for your perusal and necessary action.

1. The copy of the dully approved proceedings of the Environmental Public Hearing held on 11/8/2023 reflecting the views and concerns expressed by the public present for the hearing recorded and read out to the public out on the same day, alongwith translation of the same in the official State Language i.e. Konkani – **Annexure "A"**
2. Copy of clarification/objection to in the minutes of Public Hearing held on 11/8/2023 – **Annexure "B"**.
  - The serial no.3 of the Minutes of the Public hearing i.e Shri. Nilesh Dhabolkar may be read as Shri. Nilesh Karbotkar, as there was a typographical error in the minutes.
  - The serial no.95 of the Minutes of the Public hearing i.e Sujay Parrikar may be read as Shri. Sujay Pethikar , as there was a typographical error in the minutes.
  - The serial no. 142 of the Minutes of the Public hearing i.e Sharmila Volvoikar may be read as Sharmila Valavalkar, as there was a typographical error in the minutes.

3. Attendance Sheet – Annexure “C”
4. Attendance of Speakers – Annexure “D”
5. The recordings of the proceedings (Pendrive 1 no.)– Annexure “E”
6. The copy of representation/ suggestions/ objections received by the Board– Annexure “F”
7. The copy of the supporting received by the Board– Annexure “G”
8. Reply to the queries submitted by project proponent raised during the Environmental public hearing in English - Annexure “H”
9. The copies of the notices issued in the various newspapers/T.V. Channels - Annexure “I”

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the same.

Yours faithfully,

*(Handwritten Signature)*  
 (Member Secretary I/c)  
 Goa State Pollution Control Board

Encl: As above.

Copy to:-

1	M/s. Vedanta Limited, Sesa Goa iron ore: Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panjim Goa 403001.
2	Office copy
3	Guard file

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(IMPACT ASSESSMENT DIVISION)  
NON-COAL MINING SECTOR**

\*\*\*

**SUMMARY RECORD OF 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF NON-COAL MINING PROJECTS CONSTITUTED UNDER THE EIA NOTIFICATION, 2006.**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Re-Constituted Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Environmental Appraisal of Mining Projects (Non-Coal) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was held during 14-15 November, 2023 through video conference. The list of participants is annexed herewith. After login of the Committee Members through video conference link provided by NIC discussion on each of the Agenda Items was taken up ad-seriatim.

**(1.0) Deliberation & Circulation on the Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 18-20 October, 2023:**

The minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> EAC meeting held during 18-20 October, 2023 were placed before the members of the EAC.

**Day 1: 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 (Tuesday)**

**1.1 Amendment in EC dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 w.r.t Condition No 22 for Guda Clay mine of M/s Harish Clays with enhancement of production capacity from 60,000 TPA to 2,50,000 TPA (ROM) of Clay in the mine lease area of 284.20 ha, located at Village-Guda, Tehsil Kolayat, District Bikaner, Rajasthan - [File No: J11015/163/2014-IA.II(M), Proposal No: IA/RJ/MIN/125957/2014, Consultant: M/s. Enviro Green Consultants (I) Pvt. Ltd] - Amendment in EC**

The instant proposal is for amendment in EC dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 w.r.t Condition No 22 for Guda Clay mine of M/s Harish Clays with enhancement of production capacity from 60,000 TPA to 2,50,000 TPA (ROM) of Clay in the mine lease area of 284.20 ha, located at Village-Guda, Tehsil Kolayat, District Bikaner, Rajasthan.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. Initially, the Project Proponent has obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) vide EC letter dated 18.02.1998 for the production capacity of 60,000 TPA of clay.

**10. Observation and Recommendation of the EAC: -**

The EAC noted that the site visit was conducted by the subcommittee during 15-17 October 2023. The EAC deliberated on the observation and recommendations of the subcommittee. After detailed deliberations, the EAC agreed to the recommendations of the subcommittee.

**2.8 Report of the field visit undertaken by EAC sub-committee during 29-31 October, 2023 at Bicholim Mineral Block- Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s Vedanta Limited for mining of Iron Ore with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem&Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa - [F.No: IA-J-11015/ 3/2023-IA-II(NCM), Proposal No: IA/GA/MIN/442593/2023] - Environmental Clearance (EC)**

The instant proposal is for mining of Iron Ore in Bicholim Mineral Block – Block 1 (Auction Block) of M/s Vedanta Limited with proposed production capacity of 3.0 MTPA, Waste: 25.162 MTPA (Total Excavation: 28.162 MTPA) along with crushing and screening plant capacity of 4.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 478.5206 ha, located in Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa, Mayem&Sirigao Villages of Bicholim Taluka of North Goa District, Goa.

2. The total mine lease area is 478.5206 Ha, out of which Private land is 421.1153 Ha and Government land is 57.4053 Ha. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 15°34'20.518"N to 15°36'54.018"N and Longitude: 73°54'4.754"E to 73°57'09.51"E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: D43B14 and falls in Seismic Zone-II.

3. The Directorate of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Goa vide letter dated 13.01.2023 granted the Letter of Intent (LoI) for grant of mining lease for Block I - Bicholim Mineral Block for Iron Ore over an area of 478.5206 Hectare for a period of 50 (fifty) years in pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules. This letter of intent is valid for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance.

4. Review and Mining Plan was approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Goa vide letter dated 26.05.2023. Method of Mining will be Open cast mechanized mining without Drilling & Blasting. ROM/Iron ore or Screened/crushed material will be transported by 10.5 Tonne trippers from Mine to Sarmanas jetty through a dedicated road. The total distance from the mine to Jetty is 5.48 km of which 0.94 km stretch is public road and remaining 4.54 km is company owned dedicated road.

5. The Project Proponent obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) vide ToR letter dated 16.06.2023. Baseline data was carried out during March-May, 2023 (Summer Season). Public hearing was conducted on 07.07.2023. About 4708 written objections were submitted against the project and about 5183 no.s of letters were also received in support of the project. Budget of Rs 309.3 Lakhs has been earmarked to address the concerns raised during public hearing.

6. There are two habitations such as Mulgao and Lumgao and schools are located within the mine lease area. Asnora River is touching the mine lease boundary at one of the points and Mayem Lake is found at a distance of 0.46km from the mine lease area. Namuzgah/Idgah is found within the mine lease area. A safety distance of 300m buffer has been left from Lamgao caves.

7. Mayem Forest Common Boundary with the mine lease area. Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block of Vedanta Ltd is not a part of any Eco Sensitive Area. The Schedule-I species such as Common leopard (*Felidae*) White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Accipitridae*) Indian Peafowl (*Phasianidae*) and Crimson rose- Butterfly (*Papilionidae*) are found in the study area. Wild Life Conservation Plan is prepared and submitted for approval of Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) on 19.06.2023.

8. No Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan is proposed during life of mine. There are three court cases pending against the project w.r.t auction. Total cost of the project is Rs 250 Cr. The Capital cost of EMP is Rs 72.0 Lakhs and about 716 no.s will get employment.

9. The instant proposal was earlier considered in the EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 21-22 September, 2023 and the EAC after detailed deliberations opined that there is a need to ascertain the present scenario and ground reality with regards to handling of waste, settling ponds, location of waste dump w.r.t habitation, school and river, other surface features as forest (Mayem common boundary), temples, caves and fort, mineral transportation route and traffic congestion. The EAC was of the view that a site visit needs to be conducted by a sub-committee comprising of EAC Members and officers from MoEF&CC.

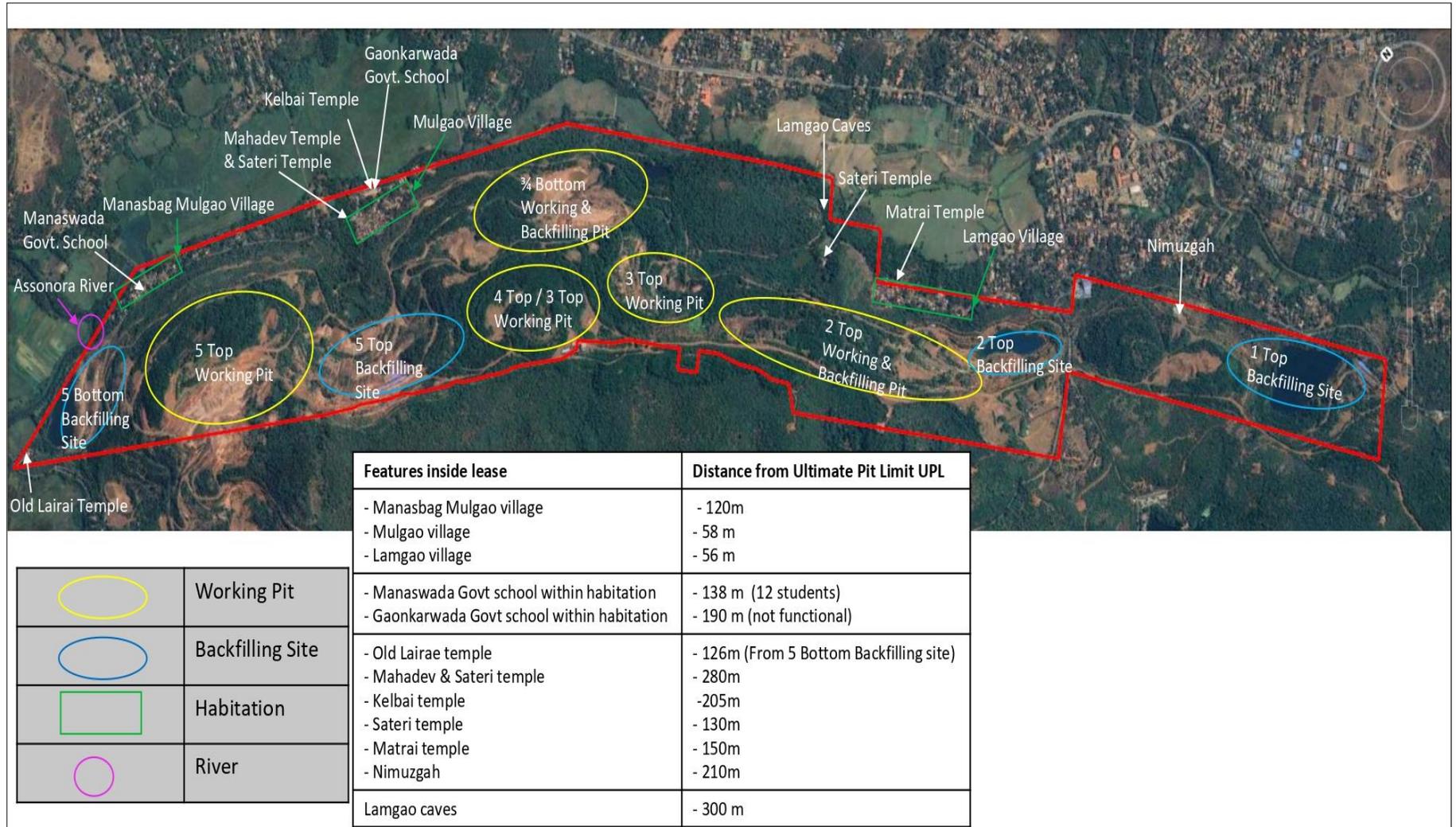
10. Accordingly, the Ministry vide letter dated 09.10.2023 constituted a sub-committee comprising of the following members to ascertain the ground realities of the project.

1. Shri Niranjana Kumar Vasu, EAC (Non-Coal Mining), Member,
2. Shri. Avijit Ghosh, EAC (Non-Coal Mining), Member,
3. Shri. Pankaj Verma, Scientist E & Member Secretary EAC (NCM), MoEF&CC,
4. Shri. Saurabh Upadhyay, Scientist C, MoEF&CC,
5. Shri Suresh Kumar Adapa, Scientist E, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru;

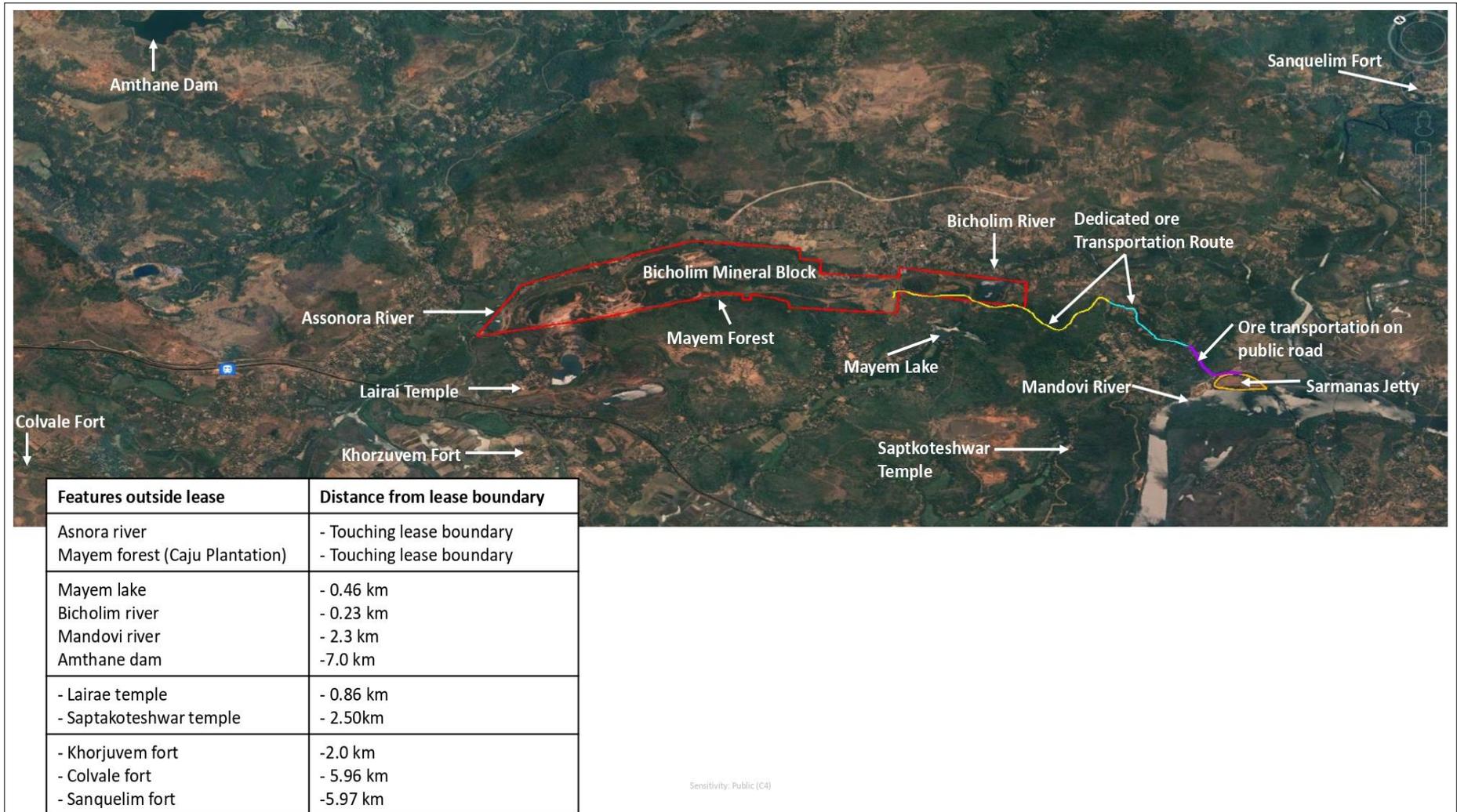
6. Shri. A. Mohankumar, Consultant, MoEF&CC

11. The aforesaid committee undertook the day-long field visit on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The following officers from M/s Vedanta Ltd such as Head of the Mines, Head of the Environment, Mines Manager, Geologist and EIA Coordinator were present during the site visit. The Project Proponent gave a brief about the layout of the mine lease area. The subcommittee during the site visit observed the following: -

1. The subcommittee visited the mine lease area which extends from mines office to the bottom pit by road covering a distance of 7.0 km in the lease area. The subcommittee also observed the boundary pillars erected by the Project Proponent alongside the mine lease boundary.
2. The subcommittee observed the dense vegetation throughout the mine lease area.



**Figure 1: Google Image of Bicholim Mineral Block showing working & backfilling pits and surface features in the mine lease area**



**Figure 2: Google Image of Bicholim Mineral Block showing surface features in the buffer zone**



**Figure 3: Project Proponent explaining about mine layout and site features**

- The subcommittee visited the mine pit with stagnant rain water, top and bottom working pits. The Project Proponent has informed that the rain water in the mine pit is being used for dust suppression and agricultural purposes by the local farmers. The rainwater stagnant in the working pits will be pumped out and will be channelized through network of pipes and will be discharged into settling ponds. The Project Proponent also informed that the waste generated during mining will be temporarily stacked within the mining lease and will be backfilled in the exhausted portion in the working pits. The material from one pit will be used to backfill the other exhausted working pit.



**Figure 4: Rainwater stagnant in the mined out pit**



**Figure 5: Rainwater stagnant in the working pit**

4. The subcommittee has observed that the permanent water sprinklers are not in place.
5. The subcommittee has observed the temple within the mine lease area and Assonora River touching the mine lease boundary. The Project Proponent has informed that the safety distance of 50m is left on either side of the river. A dense plantation has been carried out in the safety zone.
6. The subcommittee also visited the settling pond in the mine lease area. The subcommittee noted that the settling pond is poorly maintained. The Subcommittee suggested to construct silt check dam based on the rate of inflow. Subcommittee also suggested the Project Proponent not to discharge any water outside lease area without passing it through treatment plant.



**Figure 6: Settling Pond**

7. The subcommittee visited the Mayem Forest boundary which is demarcated by poles with white flags from the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed that the forest boundary is about 70-80m away from the mine lease area. The Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) survey has been carried out by the Forest Dept but pillars are not demarcated by the Forest Dept. The Project Proponent also informed that a letter has been obtained from the Dept. of Forest stating that the forest land is not involved in the mine lease area. The subcommittee suggested that the Project Proponent should consult with the Forest Dept and should erect the pillars to differentiate the mine lease area from the forest boundary.
8. The subcommittee has visited the waste dump to see the dump height, dump slope and plantation made on waste dumps. The subcommittee noted that the plantation has been carried out using coir mats. The subcommittee suggested that the proper terracing has to be done and suitable measures to be undertaken for preventing soil erosion.



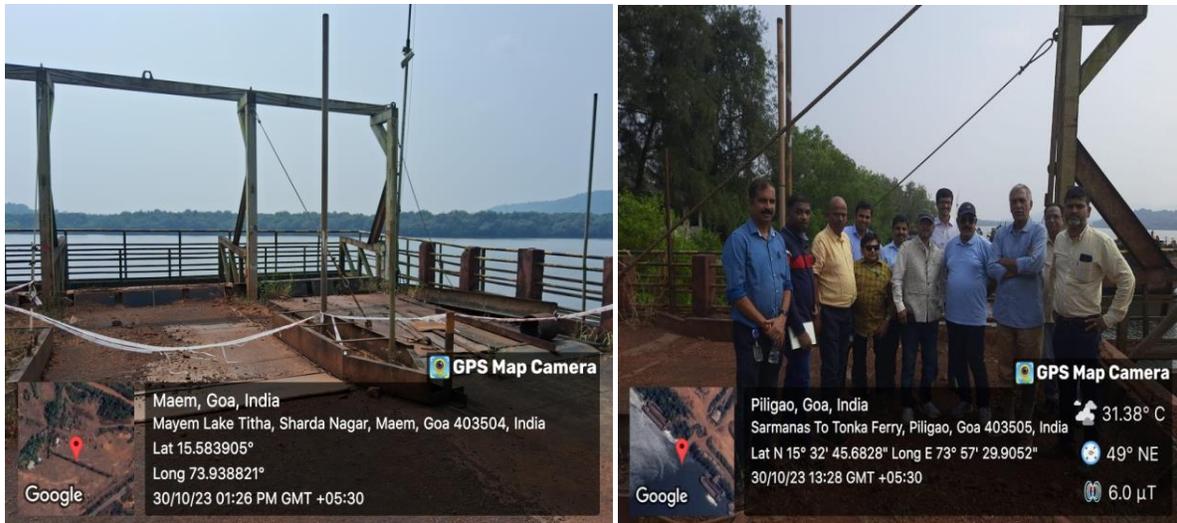
**Figure 7: Near Waste Dump**

9. The subcommittee observed that the villages and schools are located in the mine lease area. The Project Proponent has informed that the villages such as Manasbag Mulgao village (~120m from Ultimate Pit Limit-UPL), Mulgao Village (~58m from UPL) and Lamgao Village (~56m from UPL) are located within the mine lease area. The Project Proponent also informed that the Manaswada Govt. School is located at a distance of ~138m from UPL with 12 no. of students and Gaonkarwada Govt. School is located at a distance of ~190m from UPL which is non-operational.
10. The subcommittee has observed that the crematorium ground is located within the mine lease area. The subcommittee also visited the Idgah located within the mine lease area. The Project Proponent has informed that the mining activity will be carried out by using ripper dozer combination. There will be no activity of drilling and blasting. A buffer zone of 200m will be maintained from Idgah. The subcommittee was of the view that the mining activity shall be strictly carried out by using only ripper dozer combination.
11. The subcommittee has visited the crushing and screening units in the mine lease area. The subcommittee noted that the crushing and screening units are not maintained well. The subcommittee opined that the fabrication works has to be carried out before starting mining operations and also suggested that the crushers and screening plant should have adequate arrangement to suppress dust and also measures should be taken to control noise.



**Figure 8: Crushing and Screening Units**

12. The subcommittee has observed that there are four Schedule-I species reported in the study area. The subcommittee asked the Project Proponent to ensure that whether any other Schedule-I species has been added as per latest Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022.
13. The subcommittee has visited the entire mineral transportation route of 5.48 km [4.54 km company owned dedicated road + 0.94 km public road] from the mine lease area to Sarmanas Jetty. The subcommittee has observed that there at two places public road is getting intersected. The width of the road is not adequate. The Project Proponent has informed that the under passes are proposed at the intersecting points and hence the public road will not be disturbed. Traffic marshals will be deployed at the intersecting point to monitor the movement of traffic. During rainy season, no transportation will be carried out and only developmental works will be carried out. The subcommittee also visited the Sarmanas Jetty. The subcommittee opined that the maintenance works has to be carried out at Sarmanas Jetty before commencing mining operations. The subcommittee was of the view that the Over Land Belt Conveyor (OLBC) from the mine lease area to Sarmanas Jetty may be solution for eco friendly transportation and economics.



**Figure 9: Sarmanas Jetty**

14. The subcommittee opined that the Project Proponent needs to develop an own nursery.
15. The subcommittee also visited the nearby Sanquelim mine of Sesa Goa Ltd to see the reclamation activities carried out in the mined out area.

## 12. Recommendations of the Sub-committee:

1. The Project Proponent needs to submit the techno economic feasibility report for laying Over Land Belt Conveyor (OLBC) from the mine lease area to Sarmanas Jetty.
2. The subcommittee asked the Project Proponent to submit the ecology restoration plan for mined out pits for using as Water reservoir/Pisciculture.
3. The subcommittee noted that the transfer of material from one pit to other working pit will lead to transportation issues. The subcommittee asked the Project Proponent to identify the shortest lead distance and also to explore the possibility of concurrent backfilling. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the sequential stage wise mining in top and bottom working pits and their backfilling plan.
4. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for strengthen the settling pond with proper stone pitching in line with the design of settling pond considering the annual rainfall, flow rate, catchment area and its discharge. The action plan for monitoring the water level and water quality before discharge needs to be submitted.

5. The design of garland drain around the waste dumps to divert the water to settling ponds and the measures to be taken to arrest the suspended solids needs to be submitted. The measures to be taken for preventing the soil erosion on slope of waste dumps needs to be submitted.
  6. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for installing permanent water sprinklers.
  7. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan and timeline to modify the crushing and screening units. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the material flow sheet and material balance.
  8. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for developing their own nursery by mentioning the details of the area to be covered, species to be planted and budget proposed. Most of the standing vegetation in the lease area constitutes of *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Casuarina equisetifolia* and it is further invading the open areas through natural regeneration. The invasion may be checked through planting native species in the region.
  9. The Project Proponent needs to ensure that whether any other Schedule-I species has been added as per latest Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022 or not. Accordingly, the Project Proponent shall submit the revised authenticated Schedule-I species. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the breakup of the conservation activities proposed under Wildlife Conservation Plan.
  10. The Project Proponent needs to submit the map demarcating the surface features in the mine lease area and their safety distances left/maintained as per mines acts and rules.
  11. The Project Proponent needs to provide proper treatment of channels and nallas flowing in the lease area for soil and water conservation. Scientifically designed and placed check dams and other engineering structures at different places can help control the erosion and loss of productive soil. Necessary study from competent institution/individuals may be done for this purpose.
- 13. Observation and Recommendation of the EAC: -**

The EAC noted that the site visit was conducted by the subcommittee during 29-31 October 2023. The EAC deliberated on the observation and recommendations of the

subcommittee. After detailed deliberations, the EAC agreed to the recommendations of the subcommittee.

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**List of members of Expert Appraisal Committee participated through VC**

S.No	Member Name	Member Address	Designation	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov., 2023	15 <sup>th</sup> Nov., 2023
1	Dr. Dinesh Misra, IFS (Retd.)	Plot No 65, Sector 8, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, 382 008	Chairman	Yes	Yes
2	Sh. Niranjana Kumar Vasu, IFS (Retd.)	816, Shanti Nagar, Opposite Durgapur Railway Station, Jaipur-Rajasthan, 302018	Member	Yes	Yes
3	Dr. Asha Rajvanshi, Scientist 'G' (Retd.), WII	B/104/106 Rock Valley Apartments, GMS Road, Sewla Kalan, P.O. Majra, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248171.	Member	No	No
4	Shri. Avijit Ghosh (CMD- Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited) (Retd.)	Singhee Marg, A- 604 Shahadeo Tower, P.P.Compound, Ranchi 834001, Jharkhand	Member	Yes	Yes
5	Shri. Bandi Ramchandra Reddy (Former CMD-South Eastern Coalfields Limited)-(Retd.)	Flat No-503 A, Jyoti Cosmos, White Fields, Hi-Tech City, Kondapur, Hyderabad-500081	Member	Yes	No
6	Prof. Pramod Kumar, Professor, Shri Aurobindo College, University of Delhi	Shri Aurobindo College, University of Delhi 1372, B-1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070	Member	Yes	No
7	Prof. Devesh Walia, Department of Environmental Studies	Department of Environmental Studies, NEHU, Shillong-793022 Meghalaya	Member	Yes	Yes
8	Dr. Suresh Tiwari Scientist-F	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, New Delhi Branch, Prof. Ram Nath Viji Marg Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi – 110060	Member	No	No



**PART B**

**REPLY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
THE HON'BLE SUB-COMMITTEE**



## ADS Reply

**Point No. 1**      **The Project Proponent needs to submit the Techno-Economic feasibility report for laying Over Land Belt Conveyor (OLBC) from the mine lease area to Sarmanas Jetty.**

**Reply:**            Transportation route from mine site to jetty currently covers a total distance of 5.48 kms (4.54 dedicated road and 0.94 km MDR-20 Public Road). Based on the present capacity of the tippers, 1205 trips are required per day and the present road network is adequate for the purpose with widening and strengthening of some patches. The preliminary Techno-Economic feasibility study has been undertaken and prima facie it does not look feasible to switchover to OLBC system considering the terrain of the likely route having mounds and low-lying areas, vegetation/forest patches and its likely degradation, accessibility, environmental impacts and safety issues, technologies available, cost of the system, implementation period vis-a-vis remaining reserves in the mining lease.

The preliminary Techno-Economic feasibility issues for laying Over Land Belt Conveyor (OLBC) from the mine lease area to the Sarmanas Jetty along with cost and timeline comparison for conveyor system and dedicated road are discussed in **Annexure I**.

**Point No. 2**      **The subcommittee asked the Project Proponent to submit the ecology restoration plan for mined out pits for using as water reservoir/pisciculture.**

**Reply:**            The Ecology Restoration or Mine Reclamation activities at Block I Bicholim Mineral block will be carried out concurrently with mining operations. The company has inhouse experienced team having experience of mine land reclamation. The company also proposes to collaborate and take support of various reputed institutes and consultancy firms in ecology restoration of the area more importantly the local stake holders will be consulted in the process of ecology restoration. Detailed ecology restoration plan for mined out pits for using as water reservoir/pisciculture is enclosed as **Annexure II**.

**Point No. 3**      **The subcommittee noted that the transfer of material from one pit to other working pit will lead to transportation issues. The subcommittee asked the Project Proponent to identify the shortest lead distance and also to explore the possibility of concurrent backfilling. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the sequential stage wise mining in top and bottom working pits and their backfilling plan.**

**Reply:**            As suggested by the Hon'ble Committee detailed study of mineral transportation from one pit to another pit including sequential mining has been carried out. The company has explored the possibility of concurrent backfilling and the concurrent backfilling will be possible only from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> year. Details are enclosed as **Annexure III**.

**Point No. 4**      **The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for strengthen the settling pond with proper stone pitching in line with the design of settling pond considered the annual rainfall, flow rate, catchment area and its discharge. The action plan for monitoring the water level and water quality before discharge needs to be submitted.**

**Reply:**            At conceptual stage, total 12 nos of settling ponds will be developed and these will be strengthened by the stone pitching. Details of settling ponds considering the annual rainfall, flow rate, catchment area and its discharge is given in **Annexure IV**.

**ADS Reply**

The entire monsoon runoff is channelized into mine pits and supernatant water flows into series of settling ponds through drains. The clear water is allowed to naturally overflow by Header arrangements or through check dams.

In case required, Lime or combination of Lime and flocculent is used in the mine pit or settling pond so that the particles settle, and clear water is discharged. The discharge water is monitored regularly so that water quality meets the prescribed limits.

The inhouse Environment management cell will undertake the regular monitoring and analysis of discharge water through Environment laboratory recognized by MoEF&CC.

The monitoring reports will be submitted to Goa State Pollution Control Board on monthly basis and MoEF&CC Regional office on six monthly basis.

**Surface Water Quality Monitoring**

Surface water samples shall be collected at 8 locations which include all the mine discharge points and upstream and downstream of Bicholim and Asnora river. Samples shall be collected once a month. The parameters listed in IS: 2296 shall be monitored.

During monsoon season, in addition to the monthly monitoring, all the discharge points will be regularly monitored (on all the rainy days) and the TSS levels will be checked.

Sampling locations are given below:

**Table - 3**  
**Surface Water Sampling Locations**

S. No.	Sampling Location	
1	Mine Discharge	1 Top (Bicholim Dhabdabha)
2		2 Top Discharge (Lamgao)
3		5 Top Discharge (Mulgao)
4		5 Bottom Discharge (Shirgao)
5	Bicholim River	Upstream Bicholim River
6		Downstream Bicholim River
7	Asnora River	Upstream Asnora River
8		Downstream Asnora River

Designs of sampling ponds & Action Plan of water monitoring has been prepared and same is enclosed as **Annexure IV**.

**Point No. 5**      **The design of garland drain around the waste dumps to divert the settling ponds and the measures to be taken to arrest the suspended solids needs to be submitted. The measures to be taken for preventing the soil erosion on slope of waste dumps needs to be submitted.**

**Reply:**            The dimensions of the drains to be maintained will be 2m in width and 1.5 m in depth everywhere in the mine. A proper height will be maintained on the sides of the garland drain so that water does not get over-flooded from the drains. The available garland drains are 11313 m in length which covers all the dumps within the mine lease area. The same will be strengthened and maintained before the onset of monsoon. The daily

**ADS Reply**

average surface run-off is estimated as 14003 m<sup>3</sup>. The garland drains have capacity to accommodate instant volume of 33939 m<sup>3</sup> as per above dimensions. Therefore, garland drains capacity is more than sufficient to take care of average daily surface run off during raining period. Additional drains are proposed to take care of peak run off during the plan period. Therefore, water management structures comprising of drains, settling ponds and mined out pits are available as well as planned to address the catchment area run-off for conceptual period.

The detailed design of settling ponds is given in Reply of Point No. 11.

Measures to be taken to arrest the suspended solids and for preventing the soil erosion on slopes of waste dumps for preventing the soil erosion on slope of waste dumps is given below:

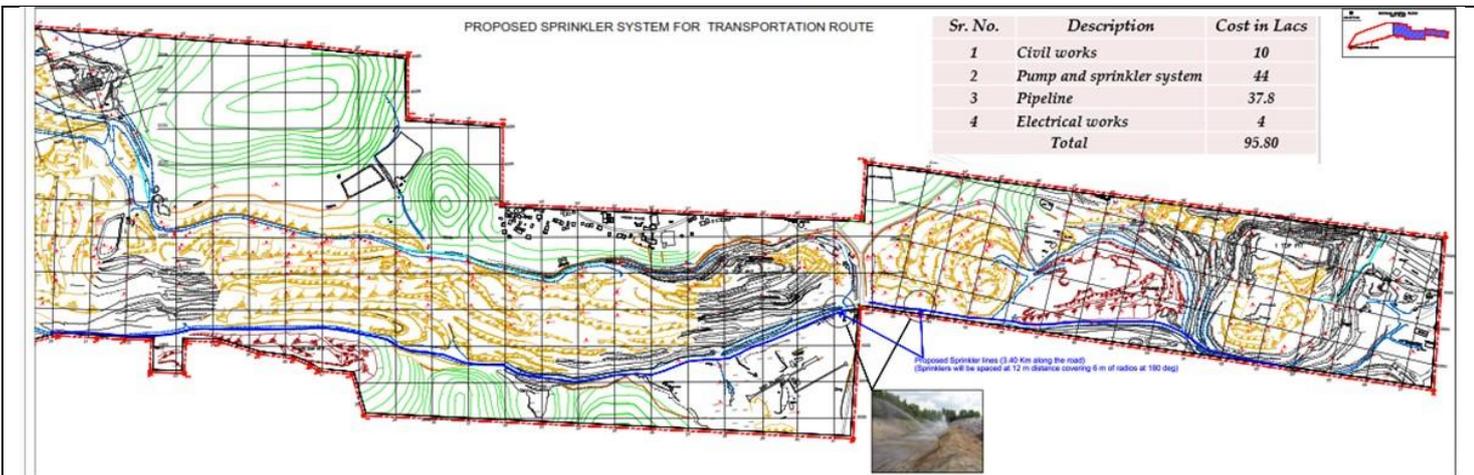
**MITIGATION MEASURES**

- Inward slope will be provided to all the dump benches so that the water doesn't flow over the slope and erodes the dump slope surface
- Covering the finalised dump slope with lateritic material and then covering with coir geotextiles
- Use of ERW pipes between benches to channelise the surface runoff water and diverting to settling ponds.
- Boulder walls 1.5m ht and 2m wide will be provided at the toe of the dump to arrest the flow of silt.
- Garland drains around the dump is constructed 1m bottom width, 2m top width and 1m deep with a length of 6100 m to divert water to settling pond for arresting the suspended solids.
- Use of Stylo grass seeds and Glyricidia cuttings at the onset of monsoon to create green cover on the dump slopes.
- Annual Plantation of native species on waste dump.
- Safety green belt /barrier of 50 mts shall be maintained near the Assonora river from the mine pit.
- Annual de-siltation of the settling ponds, drains.
- Use of lime and flocculants in case required so as to settle the suspended solids in settling pond.

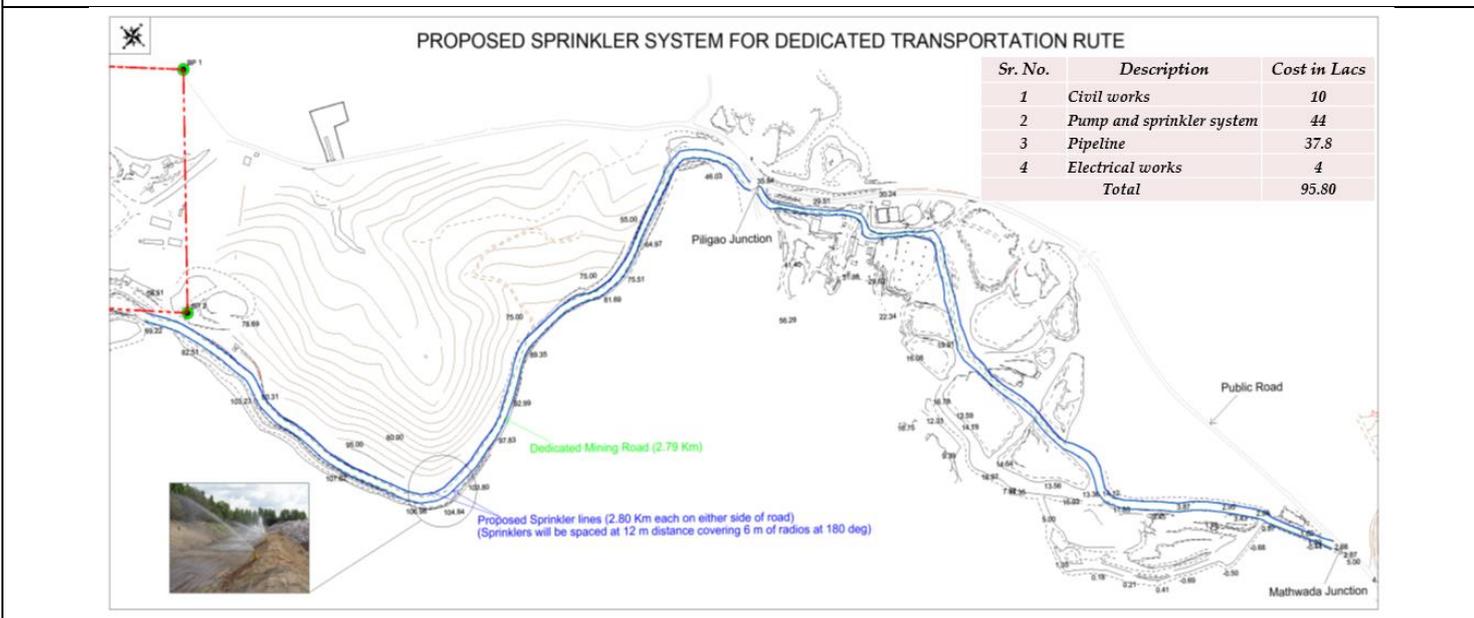
**Point No. 6      The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for installing permanent water sprinklers.**

**Reply:** Permanent water sprinklers with 3.40 km length along the haul road within the ML Area and 2.80 km length outside the ML Area on either side of the road will be installed. Sprinklers will be spaced at 12m distance covering 6m of radius at 180 degree. Estimated budget for the installation of the same is Rs. 191.60 Lakh.

Action plan for installing the permanent water sprinklers for dedicated transport route is given below.



**Figure 2 Layout of Proposed Water Sprinkler System within the ML Area**



**Figure 3 Layout of Proposed Water Sprinkler System for Dedicated Road**

**Table – 4**  
**Estimated Budget for Proposed Water Sprinkler System**

S. No.	Description	Cost (Rs. In Lakh)
1	Civil Works	20.00
2	Pump & Sprinkler System	88.00
3	Pipeline	75.60
4	Electrical Works	08.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>191.60</b>

**Point No. 7.** The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan and timeline to modify the crushing and screening units. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the material flow sheet and material balance.

**Reply:** Crushing & screening will be modified within 4 months after obtaining the Clearances. Budget proposed for the same is Rs. 6.97 Crore.

A flow sheet of modify crushing & screening unit is given below:

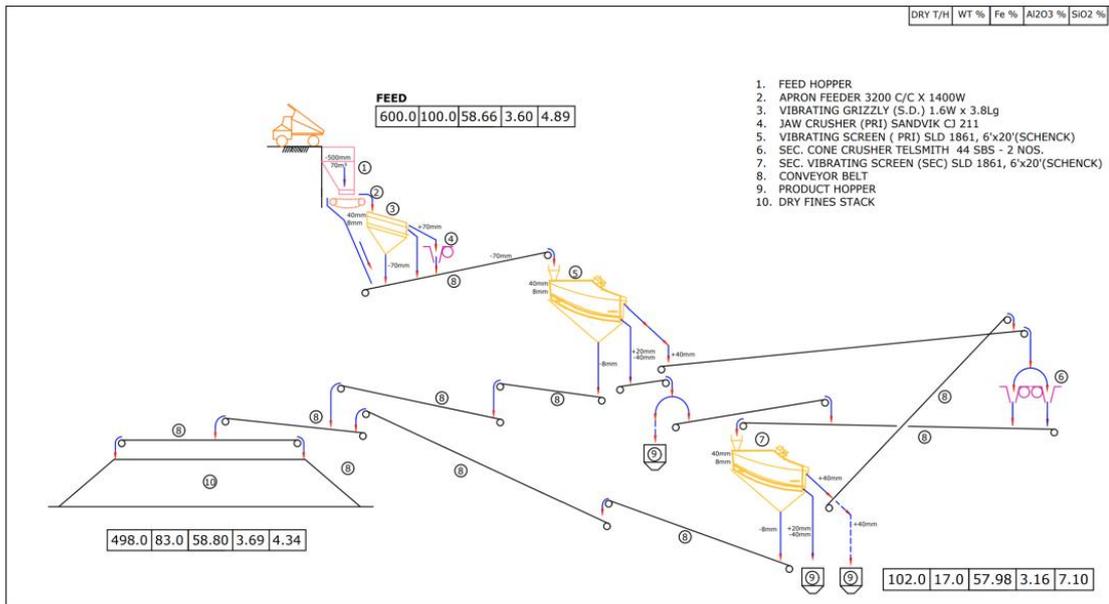


Figure 4 Flow Sheet of modify Crushing & Screening Unit

The Action plan & timeline to modify the crushing & screening units is given below:

Table – 5  
Action Plan & timeline to modify the Crushing & Screening Units

Activity	No of days	3	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	3
	Month	DEC'23			JAN'24				FEB'24				MARCH'24		
CIVIL WORKS (STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING STRUCTURE)	Week														
	EXCAVATION	█	█	█											
	RUBBLE SOLING		█	█	█										
	PCC		█	█	█	█									
	REINFORCEMENT PLACING		█	█	█	█	█								
	RAFT CONCRETING		█	█	█	█	█	█							
	SHUTTERING			█	█	█	█	█							
	FOUNDN. BOLTS FIXING			█	█	█	█	█	█						
	FOOTING CONCRETING			█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
	MECH & ELECT. WORKS	Month													
DISMANTLING OF CORRODED STRUCTURES		█	█	█											
FAB./MODIF. OF STRUCTURES			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
ERECTION OF STRUCTURES				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
ERECTION OF EQUIPMENTS					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		

## ADS Reply

	GUARD FAB N FIXING														
	ALLIGNMENT OF EQUIPT														
	ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS														
	TRIALS N COMMISSIONI NG														

**Table – 6**  
**Proposed Budget to modify the Crushing & Screening Units**

S. No.	Description	Cost (Rs. In Crore)
1	Civil works	0.4
2	Equipment	0.74
3	Structural	4.74
4	Electrical works	1.09
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>6.97</b>

**Point No. 8.** The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for developing their own nursery by mentioning the details of the area to be covered, species to be planted and budget proposed. Most of the standing vegetation in the lease area constitutes of *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Casuarina equisetifolia* and it is further invading the open areas through natural regeneration. The invasion may be checked through planting native species in the region.

**Reply:** The company undertakes to develop nursery adjacent to the mineral block (Survey no 72/4 in Bicholim Village). Around 1100 sq.m of area will be utilized for the nursery. A budget of Rs. 5 lakh is kept for the same.

The nursery will comprise of following:

1. A poly house/ nursery shed will be developed where in a root trainer nursery will be established.
2. Production area wherein various jobs like filling of root trainers/polybags will be undertaken store room wherein the nursery equipment's will be stored.

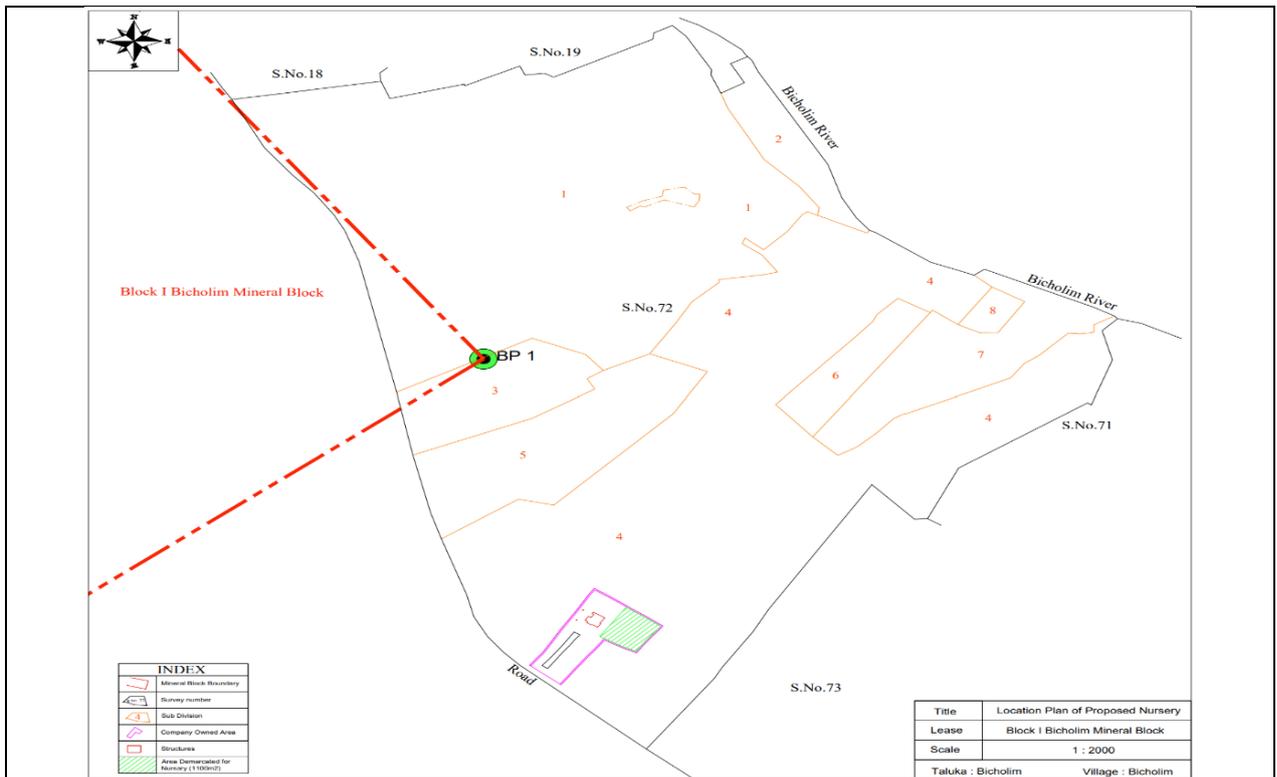


Figure 5 Location Plan of Proposed Nursery



Table – 7

Greenbelt/Plantation Plan for the Next 5 years

Year	7.5m safety, Buffer towards habitation, archaeological site, & river		Plantation on backfilled area		Total		Budget (Rs. In Lakh)
	Area (Ha)	No. of Plants	Area (Ha)	No. of Plants	Area (Ha)	No. of Plants	
1 <sup>st</sup>	4.0432	10108	0	0	4.0432	10108	6
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.1319	7830	0	0	3.1319	7830	4.7

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3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.5537	6384	1.5383	3846	4.092	10230	6.13
4 <sup>th</sup>	0	0	4.7443	11861	4.7443	11861	7.2
5 <sup>th</sup>	0	0	3.1609	7902	3.1609	7902	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.7288</b>	<b>24322</b>	<b>9.4435</b>	<b>23609</b>	<b>19.1723</b>	<b>47930</b>	<b>28.83</b>

**List of species proposed for Plantation**

Only native / local species of various horticultural and forest species will be grown in inhouse nursery or sourced from forest department nursery for planting in the finalised areas within the Mineral block. Necessary technical support will be taken from state forest department. Company also carries out collaborative mine reclamation projects in association with research institutes like NEERI, Goa university etc.

Horticultural species like Mango, Cashew, Ber, Aonla, Jambul, Tamarind, Jackfruit, citrus species, etc will be grown  
Forest species like various Terminalia tomentosa, Terminalia bellerica, Bauhinia species, Teak, Cassia fistula, Arjun, Assan, lagerstromia species, Shiwan, Ficus species, Pongamia pinnata, Reetha, Rain tree, Pangara, Peltoforum, Palas, Saton, Mahagony, bamboo species etc.

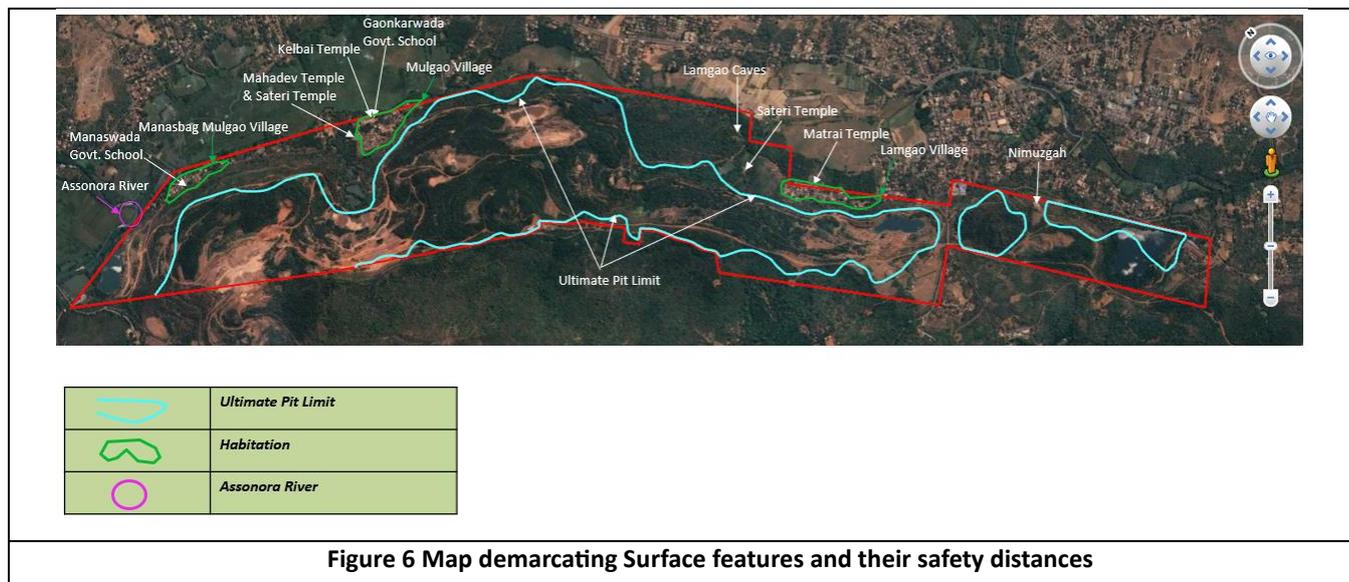
**Point No. 9. The Project Proponent needs to ensure that whether any other Schedule-I species has been added as per latest Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022 or not. Accordingly, the Project Proponent shall submit the revised authenticated Schedule-I species. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the breakup of the conservation activities proposed under Wildlife Conservation Plan.**

**Reply:** Authenticated list of Schedule I Species as per Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 as amended Gazette Notification of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 has been obtained from the Dy. Conservator of Forests Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North), Panji-Goa vide letter no. 1-576-WL&ET(N)/2023-2024/3312, dated 27.11.2023. According to this authenticated list 29 Schedule I Species have been recorded within 10 km study area. Copy of Authenticated list of Schedule I Species is enclosed as **Annexure V**.

As suggested by the Hon'ble EAC the company revised the break-up of conservation activities proposed under Wildlife Conservation Plan and same is enclosed as **Annexure VI**.

**Point No. 10. The Project Proponent needs to submit the map demarcating the surface features in the mine lease area and their safety distances left/maintained as per mines Acts and Rules.**

**Reply:** The surface features in the mine lease area and their safety distances left/maintained as per mines Acts and Rules has been prepared on KML file and same is given below.



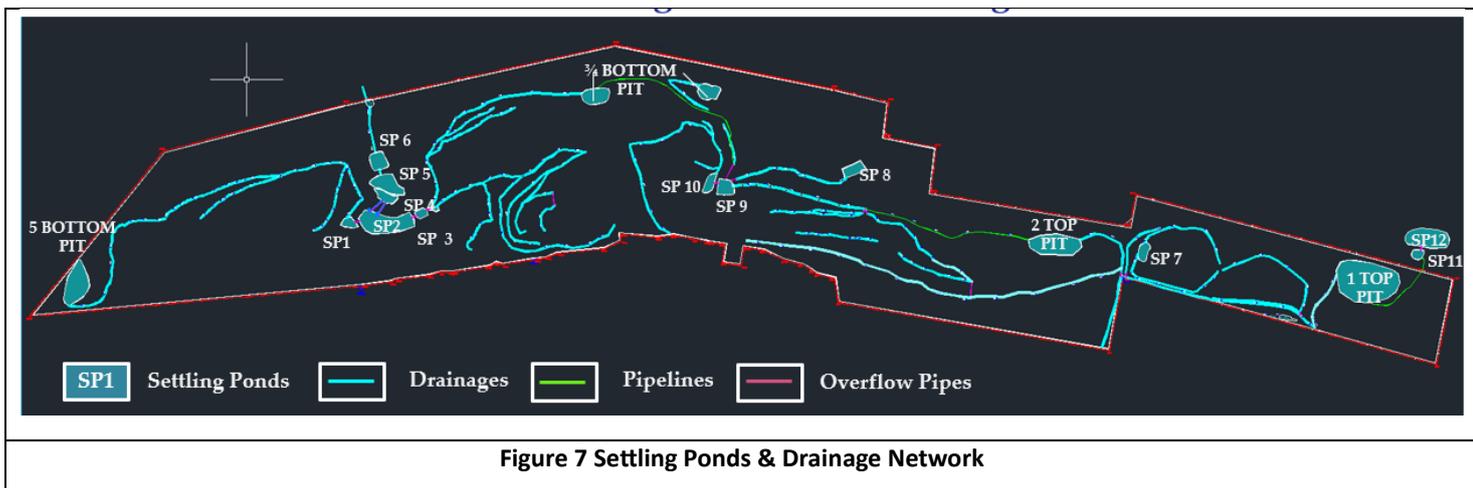
Details of surface features inside the mine lease area along with distance from the Ultimate Pit Limit is given in below table:

**Table – 8**  
**Surface Features Inside the ML Area along with distance from the UPL**

S. No.	Features inside lease	Distance from Ultimate Pit Limit UPL	Statutory Distances as per MMR
1.	Manasbag Mulgao village	120m	45 mts
2.	Mulgao village	58 m	
3.	Lamgao village	56 m	
4.	Manaswada Govt. School within habitation	138 m (12 Students)	45 mts
5.	Gaonkarwada Govt. School within habitation	190 m (not functional)	
6.	Old Lairai Temple	126m (From 5 Bottom Backfilling site)	45 mts
7.	Mahadev & Sateri Temple	280m	
8.	Kelbai Temple	205m	
9.	Sateri Temple	130m	
10.	Matrai Temple	150m	
11.	Nimuzgah	210m	
12.	Lamgao Caves	300 m	

**Point No. 11.** The Project Proponent needs to provide proper treatment of channels and nallas flowing in the lease area for soil and water conservation. Scientifically designed and placed check dams and other engineering structures at different places can help control the erosion and loss of productive soil. Necessary study from competent institution/individuals may be done for this purpose.

**Reply:** Location of settling ponds and drainage network is given below.



**Table – 9**  
**Details of 12 Settling Points Inside & Outside the ML**

Pit ID	Area in m <sup>2</sup>	Depth in mts	Volume in m <sup>3</sup>	Location
SP1	1824	1.8	3283.2	5 Top pit Area
SP2	1667	1.8	3000.6	
SP3	27879	8	223032	
SP4	5208	2	10416	5 Top Mulgao Area
SP5	8602	2	17204	
SP6	4661	2.5	11652.5	
SP7	3896	1.5	5844	1 Top Area (Sec 43)
SP8	5831	3	17493	2 top area
SP9	3753	1.5	5629.5	3 Top Sec 22
SP10	5564	1.5	8346	
SP11	2443	3	7329	Outside lease (Above 1 Top Area)
SP12	17130	4	68520	
<b>Total</b>			<b>381749.8</b>	

The drainage pattern is mainly dendritic to sub-dendritic in nature and sparse drainage network is seen. During monsoon, the area receives an average rainfall of about 3500mm. The surface run-off is channelized & collected through a network of drains & pipes into Pits and settling ponds. These surface run-off, as far as possible is directed in to the finalized / working Pits for harvesting the rain-water and using the same for various purposes like dust suppression, afforestation etc. Altogether, there are about 6 Pits in this lease and currently 3 Pits are such where there is retention of accumulated rainwater. In addition to this there are total 12 settling ponds (within and outside lease).

**1 Top Pit (Dhabdhaba Side)** - The rainwater is channelized through drains and collected in the Pit in between Section 53 to 55. The existing water storage capacity of this pit is estimated to be about 1.46 million m<sup>3</sup>. For the water management in this Pit during monsoon, 2-3 pumps of 120Hp capacity are used. The water is pumped into settling Pit (SP11, SP12) where it is allowed to settle and clear water is released into the natural drainage system.

**2 Top Pit** - The rainwater is channelized through drains and collected in the Pit in between Section 38 to 40. The existing water storage capacity of this pit is estimated to be about 0.98 million m<sup>3</sup>. For the water management in this Pit during monsoon, 1-2 pumps of 120Hp capacity are used. This water is pumped and released through a dedicated pipeline into the settling Pits (SP 9, SP10 and SP8) at Section 23. The water management is through

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overflow arrangement which is subsequently followed by passage through a series of filter beds and coco filters ensuring release of clear water.

**4 Bottom Pit** - The rainwater is channelized through drains and collected in the Pit in between Section 6 to 8. The existing water storage capacity of this pit is estimated to be about 0.52 million m<sup>3</sup>. The water management in this Pit is done through overflow pipe arrangement into Settling pits (SP9, SP8), thereby eliminating pumping of water.

**5 Top Pit** - The rainwater is channelized through drains and collected in the Pit in between Section 5 to 7. The existing water storage capacity of this pit is estimated to be about 1.40 million m<sup>3</sup>. The water management in this Pit is done through overflow pipe arrangement in settling pits (SP1, SP2, SP3) There are two overflow pipes (headers) installed, one at a higher level and another at a lower. As the water in the Pit rises, it overflows through the header pipes into a series of settling pits (SP4, SP5, SP6) where it is allowed to settle. Thus, pumping is eliminated by this arrangement.

**5 Top CB Pit** - This Pit has a common area of the adjoining Pit of Block III - Monte De Sirigao Mineral Block. The existing water storage capacity of this pit is estimated to be about 0.39 million m<sup>3</sup> which is channelized through drains and collected in the Pit in between Section -1 to 0.. For the water management in this Pit during monsoon, 1 pump of 75Hp capacity is used. This water is pumped to 5 Top Pit in Section 5 to 7.

**5 Bottom Pit** - The rainwater is channelized through drains and collected in the Pit in between Section -6 to -10 The existing water storage capacity of this pit is estimated to be about 0.50 million m<sup>3</sup> and the surplus quantum of water overflows through the channel to the settling area and eventually joining to the natural course.

Extract of Additional study of silt load calculation, de-siltation management and likelihood of seepage from Assonora river to 5 Bottom pits conducted Center for Advance studies department of geology, University of Delhi.

The garland drains are made such that from upstream to the downstream where the drains are meeting the settling ponds will show decrease in elevation, to maintain a free-flowing gradient of rainfall runoff.

The dimension of the drains is maintained to be 2m in width and 1.5m in depth at everywhere in the mine site. A proper height has been maintained on the sides of the garland drain so that water don't get over-flooded from the drain.

Total length of the Garland drain = 11313 m

Peak rainfall = 154 mm/day

Peak runoff in a day = 110590 m<sup>3</sup>

Capacity of garland drain = 33939 m<sup>3</sup>

"All the structures made for the settling of sediments are found to be more than sufficient to accommodate sediments even during peak rainfall".

# FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR INSTALLATION OF OVERLAND BELT CONVEYOR FOR TRANSPORTATION OF IRON ORE FROM BLOCK – I BICHOLIM MINERAL BLOCK TO SARMANAS JETTY



**VEDANTA LIMITED**

**AT TALUKA – BICHOLIM, DISTRICT – NORTH GOA, STATE – GOA**

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## Introduction:

The mining industry is the backbone of Goa's Economy. It is mainly due to the Iron ore bearing geology of Goa and its huge network of rivers that helps to transport the finished product to the port. Iron ore transportation in Goa is carried out with combination of road and waterways system. Ore is transported from mines / Mining to the nearest loading jetty's by road with the help of 10.5 Tonne tipper trucks. From jetty's to port or mother vessel ore is transported with the help of Barges.

Iron ore Mining in the Goa state came to halt as on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 as per Supreme Court Order. Till 2018 Vedanta Limited was the major producer of iron ore in the state. Vedanta Limited was declared as the preferred bidder for Block- I Bicholim Mineral Block which was the part of states 1<sup>st</sup> phase of mineral block auction.

Bicholim Mineral Block is spread over an area of 478.5206 Ha with total iron ore Reserves & Resource of 84.743 million Tonnes. Total proposed production capacity of ROM is 3 MTPA. A dry mineral processing plant exists within the mineral block area. The nearest jetty is at Sarmanas which is at a distance of 5.48km by road out of which 4.54km is dedicated transport road and 0.94km is MDR-20 public road. Earlier leasee used to transport finished ore from lease to Sarmanas jetty by road with the help of 10.5 Tonne tipper trucks.

## Description of the Project:

Vedanta believes in Environment friendly mining with zero harm culture. Therefore, it is proposed to study the feasibility of Over Land Belt Conveyor (OLBC) and Pipe Conveyor system with capacity of 3 MTPA from dry mineral processing plant (WML) to Sarmanas Jetty covering a length of 6 km (approx.). The current transportation route is selected as proposed route for OLBC. It is passing through Non-Forest Land and devoid of any habitations. Fig .1 shows the location plan of proposed OLBC and Fig.2 shows the location plan of Pipe Conveyor.



Fig.1 Location plan of proposed OLBC



Fig.2 Location plan of proposed Pipe Conveyor

### Need of the Project:

Safety and efficiency are paramount in the mining industry, where the movement of extracted materials is crucial. One invention that has transformed these sectors is the conveyor belt system. Conveyor belts have revolutionized mining operations by streamlining material transportation, enhancing productivity, and improving overall safety. Overland conveyor systems are used to transport large quantities of materials over long distances, connecting mining and Plant/Jetty/Port sites. This system minimizes environmental impact, enhances safety and it is energy efficient.

**Environmental Benefits:** Conveyor systems reduce carbon emissions associated with truck transportation, contributing to a greener and more sustainable mining industry.

**Enhanced Safety:** By automating material movement, conveyor belts minimize human contact with heavy machinery, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries. They also mitigate the dangers associated with truck haulage, such as vehicle collisions and road accidents.

**Increased Efficiency:** Conveyor belts in mining operations significantly improve material handling efficiency, enabling higher transportation rates, and reducing downtime associated with truck transportation.

**Cost Savings:** Conveyor belts reduce fuel consumption by replacing material transportation by truck haulage. Additionally, they minimize product loss and damage during handling, resulting in substantial cost savings.

### Technical Specifications:

Vedanta Limited has its own Project's team which consists of high potential professionals. The groundwork is conducted by our in-house team including route selection and preparation of designs for installation of OLBC and Pipe Conveyor. Fig.3 shows the layout of the proposed conveyor belt and Fig.4 shows the layout of proposed Pipe Conveyor. Flow sheets diagrams for OLBC and Pipe Conveyor are shown in Fig.5 and 6 respectively.



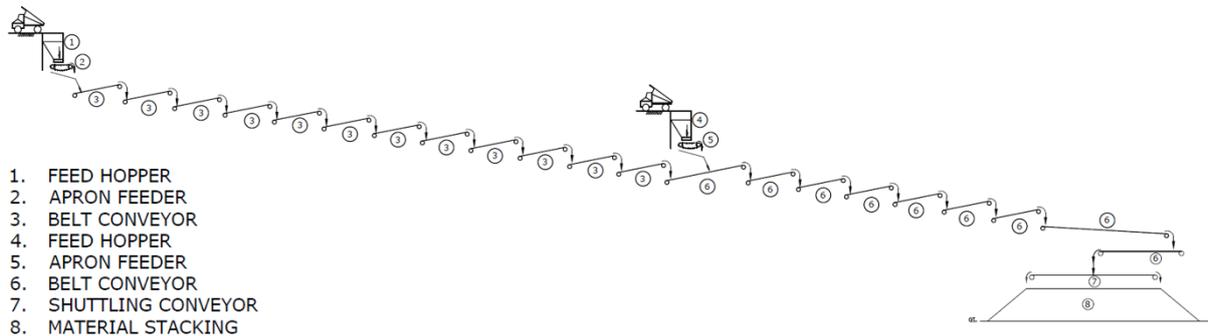


Fig.5 Flowsheet diagram of OLBC

**Belt Conveyor:-**After weighing, ore will be loaded with tipper trucks into the first stream feed hopper (100 Tons capacity) and same will be hauled through series of belt conveyor (total 12 nos of belt conveyor) up to NBP plant area. The first stream loaded material will be discharge into stream 2 belt conveyor and will hauled through series of conveyors (total 8 nos of belt conveyor). Second stream will also have feed hopper loading arrangements to accommodate product generating from NBP plant. At the end of stream 2 shuttling conveyor will be made available for proper stacking of the material on jetty area

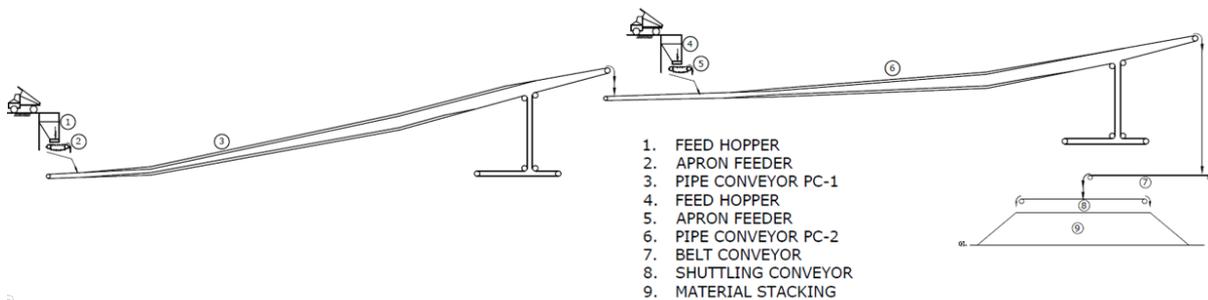


Fig.6 Flowsheet diagram of Pipe Conveyor

**Pipe Conveyor:-** After weighing, ore will be loaded with tipper trucks into the pipe conveyor 1 feed hopper (100 Tons capacity) and same will be hauled through pipe conveyor 1 (PC-1) up to NBP plant area. PC-1 loaded material will be discharge into pipe conveyor (PC-2). PC-2 will also have feed hopper loading arrangements to accommodate product generating from NBP plant. At the end of PC-2 shuttling conveyor will be made available for proper stacking of the material on jetty area

The surface terrain of the selected route exhibits moderate to low relief. Reduced level at start point is 53.50 mrl and 2.5 mrl at the end point at sarmanas jetty. It passes over a small hillock with 110 mrl where excavation would be required to maintain the level of the conveyor belt. Excavation would not be required in the case of Pipe conveyor. The route selected is parallel along the existing dedicated ore transportation route which is easily motorable with gentle slopes and devoid of any habitations. The last stretch of the conveyor route where currently

ore transportation is on public road is routed through company owned area which is parallel to the existing road. Along the entire stretch of 6km (approx.) conveyor system would be crossing public road at 4 locations. This is one of the most feasible routes for the proposed conveyor system. The technical specifications of the conveyor system are shown in Table.1.

DPR study will be conducted in future on the finalized route wherein detailed technical specifications will be defined including the exact corridor route, single flight vs multiple flight overland conveyor options, structural requirements, civil requirements, electrical requirements, power optimization, upgradation provisions, etc. After the completion of DPR study alignment of conveyor system and its technical specifications may vary to some extent.

TECHNICAL DATA	BELT CONVEYOR	PIPE CONVEYOR	UOM
Horizontal conveying length	5772	5480	m
Vertical conveying height	10-12	15-20	m
Maximum inclination	9	5	degrees
Hourly capacity	1000	1500	T/Hour
Maximum lump size	10	10	mm
Bulk density	2.6-2.8	2.6-2.8	T/m3
Belt speed	1.2	2.5	m/sec
Location of drive unit	Unloading station	Unloading station	
Power required	150-200	350-400	Kw
No of Belts	20	2	no
Belt type	500/4 C.D Grade – m24 (Nylon Belt)	500/4 C.D Grade – m24 (Nylon Belt)	
Belt width	1200	1400	mm
Belt utilization width	600	700	mm
Side wall height	150-200	300-400	mm
Total number of Pillar's	582	640	no
Loading station	2	2	no
Unloading station	1	1	no

Table.1: Technical specifications of conveyor System

### Local Stakeholder engagement:

As discussed in the Introduction para, transportation of finished product from mine to jetty's by earlier leasee was carried out by road with 10.5 Tonne tipper trucks. The local stakeholders were engaged in transportation which is their only livelihood. Across the entire Goa state transportation of ore from mines to plants/ jetty's is carried out by using 10.5 T trucks of local stakeholders which takes care of their livelihood. Along with the transportation business there are many other local businesses which are interdependent like garages, spare retailers, hotels, shops, etc. Though the installation of conveyor system would be environmentally friendly, it will affect livelihood of the local villagers.

### Technical aspects of Road Transportation:

The total road distance from dry screening plant to sarmanas jetty is 5.48km, out of which 4.54 km is dedicated road and 0.94 km is MDR-20 public road. Out of 4.54km of dedicated road, 3.31km has road width of 12-15m till Piligao junction and 1.23km from Piligao junction to Mathwada junction is with 7.0m of road width. Public road is with 7.0m of width. Fig 3 shows the ore transportation route.



Fig -3 Ore transportation route.

Ore transportation on public road can be carried out only 237 days / year i.e excluding rainy season. There for to transport 30,00,000 Tonnes/annum Vedanta needs to transport 12658 Tonnes per day to meet the EC limit. Table.2 shows the detailed break up of ore transportation along with transportation load and effective distance between two trucks.

Sr No	Particulars	10.5 Tonne Trucks	unit
1	The total distance of Road	5.48	Km
2	Width of public road (0.94km)	7	m
3	Transportation no. of days	237	days
4	Capacity of truck	10.5	Tonnes
5	Total ROM quantity	3000000	Tonnes
6	Total Handling per day	12658	Tonnes
7	effective transportation time	9.3	Hrs
8	Per Hour Handling/ Transportation	1332	Tonnes
9	No. of Vehicles per Hour	127	Trips
10	No. of Vehicles per Hour (to and fro)	254	nos
11	The Speed of vehicle	25	KPH
12	The time taken by each trip for 5.48 km ( $5.48/25*60$ )	13.152	min
13	loading time is 1min, weighment time at both source location is 2 min, Tarpaulin tying and untying time is 2 min, unloading time 1 min and waiting time 10 min	16	min
14	Each truck length	4.58	m
15	distance from truck to truck is 5 m Both side	10	m
16	Each vehicle occupies a min. distance	15	m
17	No. of vehicle which can travel on this road for one side= $5480/15$	365	nos
18	Transportation load from Mine to Jetty = $1332/10.5$	127	vehicles/hr
19	Effective distance between two vehicles per hour:	43	m

Table.2: Details of transportation load and effective distance between two trucks

Hot mixing of the 4.54km of dedicated transport road is also studied. Table – 4 shows the details of costing and timelines for completion of the work.

### Summary and Conclusion:

The feasibility study conducted on the introduction of conveyor systems, specifically evaluating OLBC and pipe conveyor installations, alongside traditional road transport, presents a comprehensive view of potential advancements in ore transportation. Table.4 shows the Techno- economical comparison with timelines for completion.

<b>COST &amp; TIMELINE COMPARISON FOR CONVEYOR SYSTEM AND DEDICATED ROAD</b>				
<b>Particulars</b>	<b>BELT CONVEYOR</b>	<b>PIPE CONVEYOR</b>	<b>DEDICATED ROAD</b>	<b>UOM</b>
<b>NO OF BELTS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>Nos</b>
<b>BELT WIDTH</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>mm</b>
<b>ROAD WIDTH</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>12-15</b>	<b>mtrs</b>
<b>TOTAL LEANGTH</b>	<b>5772</b>	<b>5480</b>	<b>5480</b>	<b>mtrs</b>
<b>AREA (hot mix)</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>48330</b>	<b>sq. mtrs</b>
<b>NO. OF PILLARS</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>nos</b>
<b>LAND ACQUISITION</b>	<b>34000</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>sq. mtrs</b>
<b>EXCAVATION</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>million tonnes</b>
<b>COST SUMMARY</b>				
<b>MECHANICAL WORK</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>Cr</b>
<b>CIVIL/HOT MIX WORK</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Cr</b>
<b>ELECTRICAL WORK</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>Cr</b>
<b>LAND ACQUISITION COST</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>Cr</b>
<b>EXCAVATION COST</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>Cr</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Cr</b>
<b>TIMELINE SUMMARY</b>				
<b>EXCAVATION</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>months</b>
<b>LAND ACQUISITION</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>months</b>
<b>NOC FROM PANCHAYAT</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>months</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>months</b>
<b>STATUTORY BODY PERMISSIONS FOR PUBLIC ROAD CROSSING</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>months</b>
<b>HOT MIXING</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>months</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>months</b>

Table.4 Techno- economical comparison with timelines for completion.

The comparison between OLBC, pipe conveyor and road transport in open-cast mines reveals distinct advantages for each system. Pipe conveyors offer superior material containment but require higher initial investment and specialized installation. Belt conveyors, though simpler to set up and more cost-effective initially, have slightly lower containment abilities. Both

conveyors show potential in enhancing efficiency and safety in ore transportation compared to traditional road transport, reducing traffic congestion and environmental impact while offering continuous material flow.

Despite these advantages, road transport still holds value for short-distance or intermittent needs due to engagement of local stakeholders, its flexibility and lower initial costs. Both conveyors present promising prospects for optimizing material transportation, yet a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis considering environmental impacts, initial investments, and operational costs is crucial to determine the most suitable transport mechanism.

Further detailed studies and rigorous assessments are recommended to identify the optimal system for implementation, considering specific mine conditions and long-term operational benefits.

### ECOLOGY RESTORATION PLAN FOR BLOCK I BICHOLIM MINERAL BLOCK

The Ecology Restoration or Mine Reclamation activities at Block I Bicholim Mineral block will be carried out concurrently with mining operations. The company has inhouse experienced team having experience of mine land reclamation. The company also proposes to collaborate and take support of various reputed institutes and consultancy firms in ecology restoration of the area more importantly the local stake holders will be consulted in the process of ecology restoration.

#### Plantation

The plantation will comprise of saplings of native species which are generally grown in the state of Goa. Fruit Trees like Cashew, Mango, Jamun, Amla which attract lot of birds and can generate revenue to the locals in future will be given preference. The plantation would be a mix of various forest and fruit tree species technical advice would be taken from state forest and agriculture departments. The saplings will be procured from various nurseries like forest department nursery, nurseries developed by locals and also from companies inhouse root trainer nursery.

#### Plantation along mining lease boundary

The Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block is already having a 7.5m wide green belt all along the mine block boundary except the areas where the mine block shares a common boundary with adjoining mine block. A 50m green belt exists towards the habitation within the lease and the same would be further strengthened and maintained. A dedicated 200m green belt would be developed and maintained towards the Idgah area. A density of 2500 saplings per ha will be maintained.

#### Plantation around Office Building & Road

Avenue Plantation is provided around the built-up areas and in open spaces. Extensive plantation would also be done along the sides of connecting roads.

#### Plantation on Dump Slopes/ Backfilled areas

The waste dump slopes will be covered with laterite material and then with biodegradable geotextile mats. The geotextile mats will prevent soil erosion of the dump slopes and thus will facilitate the growth of native species. The benches on the slopes should be sloped inward. Grass seeds should be sprinkled on the dump slopes so that the same germinate during rains. Pits should be dug on the geotextile laid slopes and Native species saplings should be planted in pit in the slopes.

**Table - 1**  
**Greenbelt Planning next 5 years**

Plan Period	Area (Ha)	No. of Sapling	Garland Drains (m)	Name of species
I	4.0432	10108	1600	Cashew, Mango, Jambul, Aonla etc.
II	3.1319	7830	2000	
III	4.092	10230	1700	
IV	4.7443	11861	300	
V	3.1609	7902	500	

Source: EIA/EMP Report

**Table - 2**  
**List of Species suggested for future Greenbelt development**

S. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Common Name	Habitat	Height
1.	Citrus limon	Rutaceae	Lemon	Shrub	3m
2.	Duranta repens	Verenaceae	Golden Dew Drop	Shrub	3m
3.	Hibiscus rosa sinensis	Malvaceae	China Rose/ DasavaLa	Shrub	3m
4.	Nerium indicum	Apocynaceae	Oleander/Chandaatha	Shrub	5m
5.	Acacia nilotica	Mimoseae	Gum Arabic/ Babli	Tree	8m
6.	Bauhinia varigata	Caesalpinaceae	Kachnar/ Arisinantige	Tree	5m
7.	Annona squamosa	Annonaceae	Setha palla	Tree	6m
8.	Butea monosperma	Fabaceae	Flame of the Forest/ Muttuga	Tree	10m
9.	Gardenia jasminoides	Rubiaceae	Cape jasmine/ Suvasane Malle	Tree	5m
10.	Moringa oleifera	Moringaceae	Drumstick Tree/Guggala	Tree	10m
11.	Pithecellobium dulce	Mimosaceae	Manilla Tamarind/Seeme hunase	Tree	8m
12.	Thevetia peruviana	Apocynaceae	Mexican oleander	Shrub	6m
13.	Phyllanthus emblica	Phyllanthaceae	Ambla	Shrub	7m
14.	Aegle marmelos	Rutaceae	Maredu / Bilva	Tree	12m
15.	Albizia lebeck	Mimoseae	Siris tree	Tree	20m
16.	Albizia procera	Mimoseae	White siris/Belari	Tree	20m
17.	Alstona scholaris	Apocynaceae	Devil Tree/ Aelele Haale	Tree	15m
18.	Azadirachta indica	Meliaceae	Neem/ Turakabevu	Tree	20m
19.	Bambusa vulgaris	Poaceae	Yellow Bamboo	Perennial grass	15m
20.	Cassia fistula	Caesalpinaceae	Golden Shower/ Kakke	Tree	12m
21.	Delonix regia	Caesalpinaceae	Flame Tree/ Kempu torai	Tree	15m
22.	Ficus benghalensis	Moraceae	Banyan tree/ Aaladamara	Tree	20m
23.	Ficus religiosa	Moraceae	Peepal/ Arali	Tree	20m
24.	Mangifera indica	Anacardiaceae	Mango/ Mavinamara	Tree	15m
25.	Polythia longifolia	Anonaceae	Ashok/Ubbina	Tree	15m
26.	Wrightia tinctoria	Apocynaceae	Alae mara	Shrub	12m
27.	Hardwickia binata	Fabaceae	Small leaves	Shrub	6m
28.	Syzygium cumini	Myrtaceae	Neredu/ Neereedu	Tree	20m
29.	Tectona grandis	Verbenaceae	Teak	Tree	20m

Source: EIA/EMP Report

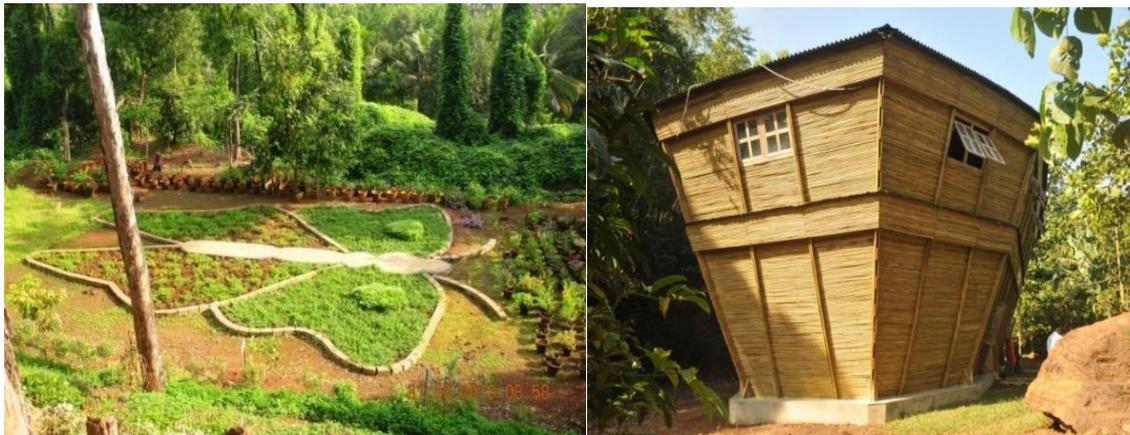
#### Theme based Biodiversity gardens

The top of dump areas / levelled areas will be properly planned and developed in to theme based gardens which can be a attraction for school students, tourist etc. Company has developed similar gardens in its other mines for example the Nakshatra Van, Charak Vatika, Bamboo Setum, Bamboo Pavillion at Sanquelim mine; Biodiversity plantation developed in association with NEERI at Codli mine. The company has also developed a microbial culture namely Ectomychorhiza culture in association with Goa University which is used to inoculate the root zone of the plants which help the plants to derive nutrients on the dump soil. Such native species gardens will be protected and provided with necessary aftercare and maintained as gardens.



Nakshatra Van

Charakvatika



Butterfly park

Bamboo Setum

**Figure 1 Theme based Biodiversity gardens****Water Reservoir/ Pisciculture**

Some of the mined-out pits will partially backfilled and retained as water bodies. For instance, 1 Top pit and 5 Bottom pits will be finalized by end of first mine plan period and will be taken up for ecology restoration initiatives. The benches and slope available at 1 top and 5 bottom pits will be covered with some laterite soil, levelled and landscaped. Garland drains and other erosion control measures will be provided to channelize the rain water in the water reservoir/ pit. Local horticultural plants will be planted near the water body so that it attracts birds.

The company will collaborate with state fisheries department to develop Pisciculture in the water body developed in the mine pits. Local youth will be provided training through the fisheries department so that they manage and maintain the Pisciculture project. Company has developed such projects in past namely Pisciculture pond in sanquelim mine which consist of fresh water fish like Rohu, Katla, Common carp. The company has also developed cage fishing project in Navelim in association with the State fisheries department. The project is now in second year and the local farmers are managing the same in commercial scale.



**Figure 2 Pisciculture pond in sanquelim mine Cage fishing project at Navelim**

The mining operations will change the land use of the area and will create pits, waste dumps etc. At the conceptual stage around 355.5659 ha of area will be degraded due to pits and excavation, around 6.8 ha due to dumping and material stacking and around 6.5 ha with mining infrastructure like plants and buildings. The entire block area at the end of mine life should be restored in such a way that it compliments with the surrounding areas and nature at large Vedanta Ltd has a lot of experience in scientific mining and mine reclamation. Company has developed and implemented a systematic mine eco-restoration work in one of its mine called Sanquelim iron ore mine in the State of Goa. The said mine is considered as one of the case studies for eco-restoration of mines and appreciated all over the country and also internationally. The company will adopt following practices for carrying out scientific and systematic ecology-restoration of the mines, namely:

1. Concurrent mining and mine reclamation activities
2. Use of latest software for mine planning
3. Associating with various research institutes like NEERI, ICAR, ICFRE and consultants for mine reclamation projects
4. Associating with various technical departments of state government like Forest department, Agriculture department, Fisheries department, Water Resource department etc.
5. Identifying all the stakeholders and engaging with them in a structured manner throughout the life of the mine. This will help to identify the issues, concerns of the stake holders and satisfying them in a systematic method. It will also help to take inputs form the stakeholders in eco-restoration in the mines.
6. Regular Biodiversity Assessment and preparing and implementing of Biodiversity Management Plan which help the company to achieve a No Net Loss w.r.t biodiversity.
7. Converting of mining pits into water reservoirs, pond with other ecotourism facilities like water sports, boating, fishing etc.
8. Develop Pisciculture in mine pits and also involving the community for cage fishing to make it a commercially viable venture.
9. Developing theme-based gardens like medicinal gardens, horticulture gardens, spice gardens
10. Developing garden near the Idgah which is within the mining block area and providing proper road for access of visitors and pilgrims.

11. Converting the mining infrastructure like office buildings, workshops etc. into public utility infrastructure like school, training center, medical center etc.

#### **Community Involvement and Eco-tourism Development**

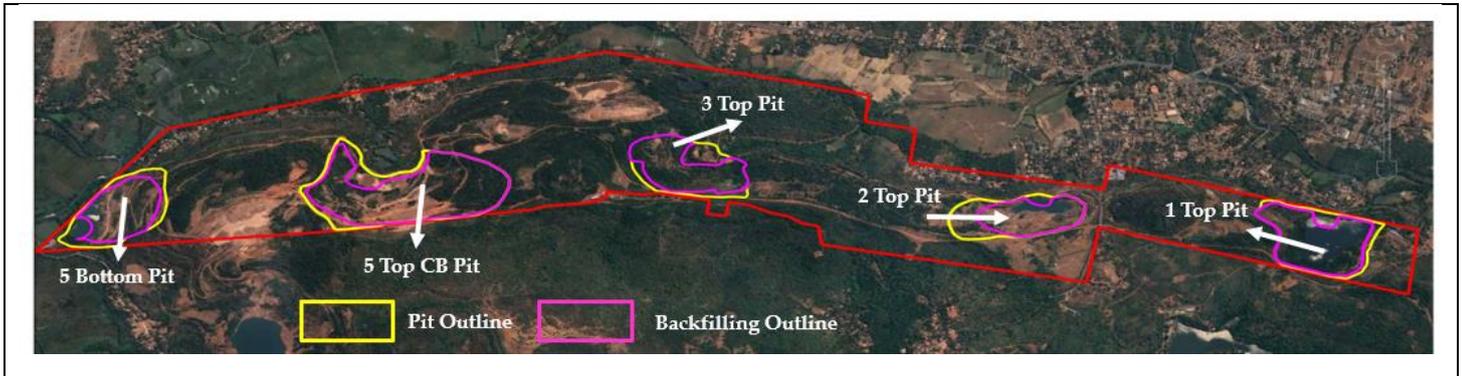
Engaging local communities in eco-tourism initiatives not only enhances their understanding and appreciation of the restored environment but also opens avenues for sustainable economic opportunities. By converting mined out areas into public utility structures like water bodies, roads, railways, electric lines, telephone lines, etc., for enduring impact on the local community.

#### **Conclusion**

The aim is to create an area that remains ecologically rich and economically vibrant even after the cessation of mining operations. This long-term vision aligns with the principles of sustainable development and community well-being.

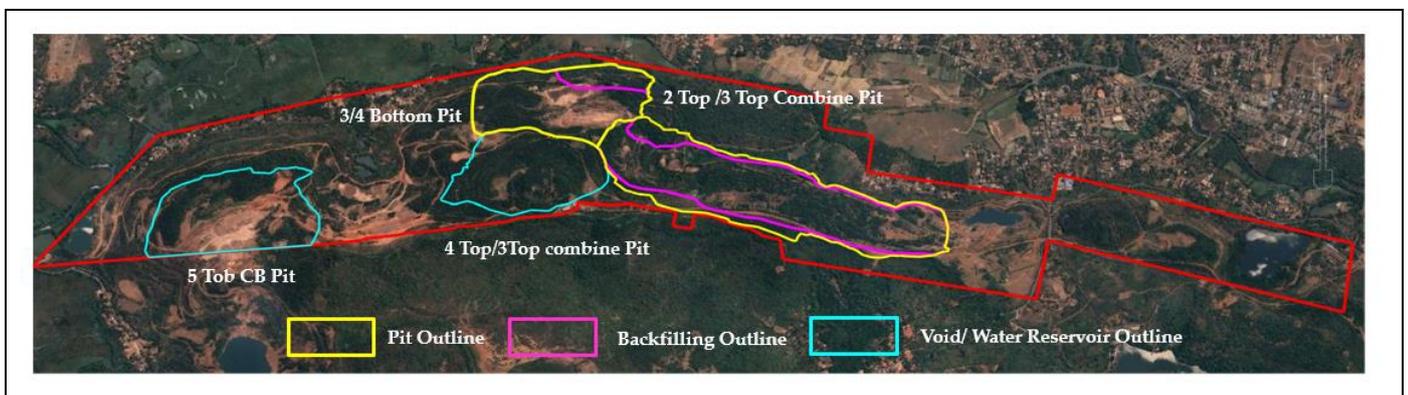
The objective of the Eco restoration would be to create a positive land scape which will help the community or the mining employees to generate revenue even after the mining operations close. Develop vast tracts of scientifically developed green belts, water bodies, and other infrastructure. Develop the place in to an ecotourism area which will attract lot of tourists.

At the conceptual stage around 105 ha of land will be brought under plantation and around 20ha under water bodies.

**EXISTING & PROPOSED PIT DETAILS AND SEQUENTIAL MINING & BACKFILLING PLAN****Existing Available Pits for Backfilling**

**Table - 1**  
**Existing Available Pits, Area, Depth & Volume for Backfilling**

S. No.	Mine Pit Location/ ID	Total Area of Pit in Ha	Area Available for Backfilling (Ha)	Depth (m)	Top RL (m)	Bot RL (m)	Vol (m <sup>3</sup> )
1	1 Top	22.4367	20.9942	99	62	-37	19356183
2	2 Top	13.0803	9.9465	60	60	0	2968920
3	3 Top	16.0596	13.1650	70	110	40	2240000
4	¾ Bottom	-	-	109	102	-7	-
5	5 Top	37.0242	35.7242	78	98	20	14213124
6	5 Top CB	-	-	77	124	47	-
7	5 Bottom	15.4196	12.0840	92	87	-5	7035240
<b>Total</b>		<b>104.0204</b>	<b>91.9139</b>				<b>45813467</b>

**Proposed pits for Backfilling**

**Table – 2**  
**Proposed Working Pits, Area, Depth & Volume will be available for Backfilling**

S. No.	Mine Pit Location/ ID	Total Area of Pit in Ha	Area Available for Backfilling (Ha)	Depth (m)	Top RL (m)	Bot RL (m)	Vol (m3)	Void availability for Backfilling
1	2 Top	43.1944	39.2331	116	91	-25	10518996	In 5 <sup>th</sup> year
2	¾ Bottom	39.4606	34.6140	169	102	-67	15412643	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
3	2 Top	68.52	65.6420	113	103	-10	47912000	In 6 <sup>th</sup> year to 10 <sup>th</sup> year
4	3 Top/ 2Top Combined	38.2545	36.6500	118	108	-10	38161200	In 11 <sup>th</sup> year to 13 <sup>th</sup> year
5	4 Top/3 Top Combined	-	-	84	73	-11	-	In 11 <sup>th</sup> year to 13 <sup>th</sup> year
6	5 Top CB Pit	-	-	168	94	-74	-	In 11 <sup>th</sup> year to 13 <sup>th</sup> year
<b>Total</b>		<b>189.4295</b>	<b>176.1391</b>				<b>112004839</b>	

**Table - 3**  
**Sequential Mining & Backfilling Plan**

Year	Sequence of Mining	Ore Production (In m3)	Ore Production (In Tonnes)	Waste Generation (m3)	Sequential Backfilling Pit / Location	Lead distance in Km	Capacity of Hauling equipment	Backfilling Plan
Year 1	5 Top CB	178571	500000	1244889	5 Bot	1.5	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in exhausted pit.
Year 1	3/4 Bottom	535714	1500000	2238957.25	5 Top	1.7	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
Year 1	3/4 Bottom			2238957.25	1 Top	5.5	25 Tonne Dumpers	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
Year 2	5 Top CB	214286	600000	732414	5 Bot	1.5	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in exhausted pit.
Year 2	3/4 Bottom	500000	1400000	1810240	5 Top	1.7	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
Year 2	3/4 Bottom			1810240	1 Top	5.5	25 Tonne Dumpers	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
Year 3	3/4 Bottom	714286	2000000	500000	5 Bot	3.75	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in exhausted pit.
Year 3	3/4 Bottom			2000000	5 Top	1.7	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
Year 3	3/4 Bottom			1502000	1 Top	5.5	25 Tonne Dumpers	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
Year 3	3/4 Bottom			1497433.5	3 Top	1	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Temporary backfilling and will be rehandled in the succeeding years.
Year 4	2 Top	714286	2000000	6768535	3/4 Bot	3.07	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in exhausted pit.
Year 5	2 Top	642857	1800000	2912828.5	3/4 Bot	3.07	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in exhausted pit.
Year 5	2 Top			6403650.5	2Top	0.5	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Concurrent backfilling while advancing in opposite direction
Year 5	3 Top	428571	1200000	1497433.5	3/4 Bot	0.725	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in exhausted pit.

Year 5	3 Top			1766971	2 Top	0.75	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Concurrent backfilling
From Year 6- Year 10	2 Top	1500000	4200000	14840000	2 Top	0.7	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Concurrent backfilling while advancing in opposite direction
	5 Top CB	3857143	10800000	32910000	2 Top	4	40 & 25 Tonne Dumpers	Primary hauling will be done with 40 Tonne Articulated Dumper to transfer point at a distance of 1.5 km and then with 25 Tonne Dumper from transfer point to the backfilling site in exhausted pit.
	5 Top CB			5250000	5 Top	0.8	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
From Year 11- Year 13	5 Top CB	1553571	4350000	26640000	3 Top & 2 Top	3.6	40 & 25 Tonne Dumpers	Primary hauling will be done with 40 Tonne Articulated Dumper to transfer point at a distance of 1.5 km and then with 25 Tonne Dumper from transfer point to the backfilling site in exhausted pit.
	4 Top/3 Top Combined	1660714	4650000	285000	3 Top & 2 Top	1.5	40 Tonne Articulated Dumper	Backfilling will be done in part of exhausted pit.
	4 Top/3 Top Combined			10075000	1 Top	4	40 & 25 Tonne Dumpers	Primary hauling will be done with 40 Tonne Articulated Dumper to transfer point at a distance of 1.5 km and then with 25 Tonne Dumper from transfer point to the backfilling site in exhausted pit.

**DETAILS & DESIGNS OF SETTLING PONDS AND ACTION PLAN OF WATER MONITORING**

06 numbers of earlier mined out abandoned pits and 12 nos of interlinked siltation ponds have been identified for collecting surface run off from respective catchment sub basins. The details of pits giving catchment and water holding capacity is as follows:

**Table – 1**  
**Details of Mine Pits within Lease Area**

Pit ID	Area Covered by Pit (Ha)	Pit Dimensions (L*W*D) in mts	Catchment Area (In Ha)	Water holding Capacity (Million m3)	Bottom RL
1 Top Pit	13.3	380x350x52	40	1.46	-37RL
2 Top Pit	9.12	380x240x33	28	0.98	-7RL
3/4 Bottom	8.28	380x215x80	20	0.52	-7RL
5 Top Pit	12	400x300x95	40	1.40	7RL
5 Top CB Pit	6.66	370x180x78	11	0.39	63.78RL
5 Bottom Pit	8.75	350x250x40	21	0.74	-31RL
<b>Total</b>			<b>160 Ha Catchment Area</b>	<b>5.49 Million M<sup>3</sup> water holding capacity in pits</b>	

It is evident from the above table that six number of earlier worked out pits have been identified for collecting surface run-off as depicted in above table. A total of 5.49 MM3 of void volume is available for surface run-off holding in six pits having a cumulative area of 58.11 Ha which have a total catchment area of 160 Ha. Map showing pit positions is as follows:

### *Bicholim Mineral Block Mine Pit Locations*



Further, the pit-wise water holding capacities at the end of each plan period up to conceptual stage is as follows:

**Table – 2**  
**Details of Mine Pits within Lease Area**

Pit ID	Water Holding Capacity (Million M <sup>3</sup> )			
	Existing Pits	Plan Period M1	Plan Period M2	Plan Period M3
1 Top Pit	1.46	0.63	0.63	0.63
2 Top Pit	0.98	1.19	1.51	0.48
3 Top pit	-	1.23	-	
3/4 Bottom	0.52	1.25	1.25	4.31
5 Top Pit	1.40	0.23	0.23	0.23
5 Top CB Pit	0.39	0.64	1.43	1.43
5 Bottom Pit	0.74	0.44	0.44	0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>7.50</b>

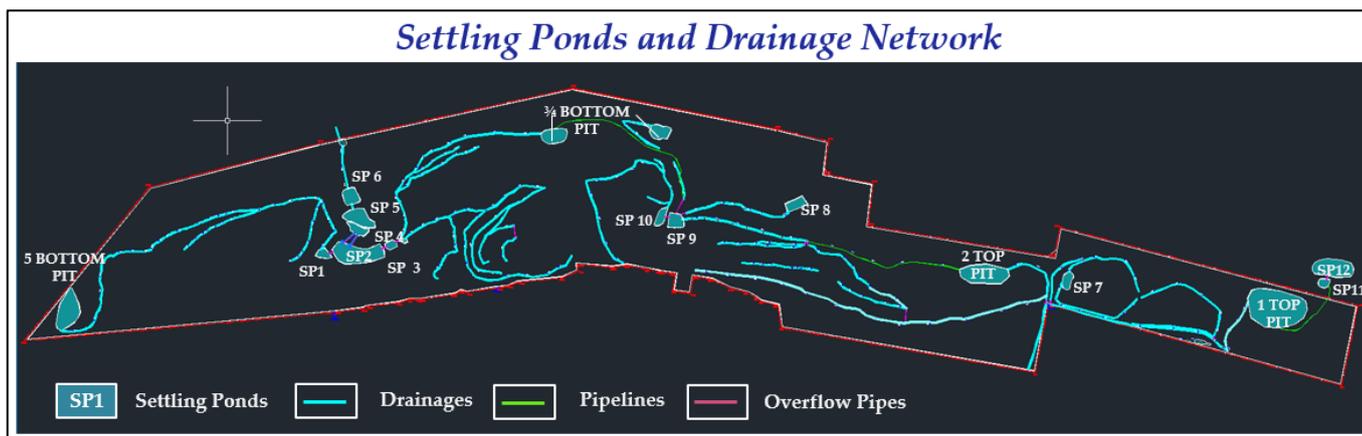
It is evident from the above table that during entire mine life water holding capacity of 5.49 or more than 5.49 Million CuM will be available at any time. Further, a total 12 nos of settling ponds have been earmarked within and outside the ML Area for collecting surface run off. The details of settling ponds are as follows:

**Table – 3**  
**Details of Settling Ponds within & outside the ML Area**

Pit ID	Area in m <sup>2</sup>	Depth in mts	Volume in m <sup>3</sup>	Location
SP1	1824	1.8	3283.2	5 Top Pit Area
SP2	1667	1.8	3000.6	
SP3	27879	8	223032	
SP4	5208	2	10416	5 Top Mulgao Area
SP5	8602	2	17204	
SP6	4661	2.5	11652.5	
SP7	3896	1.5	5844	1 Top Area (Sec 43)
SP8	5831	3	17493	2 Top Area
SP9	3753	1.5	5629.5	3 Top Sec 22
SP10	5564	1.5	8346	
SP11	2443	3	7329	Outside lease (Above 1 Top Area)
SP12	17130	4	68520	
<b>Total</b>			<b>381749.8</b>	

It is clear from the above table that a total of 0.38 Million M<sup>3</sup> of void volume is available for surface run-off holding in 12 nos settling ponds having a cumulative area of 8.84 Ha. Considering five fillings in a year, the gross volumes of settling ponds will be 1.90 Million M<sup>3</sup>.

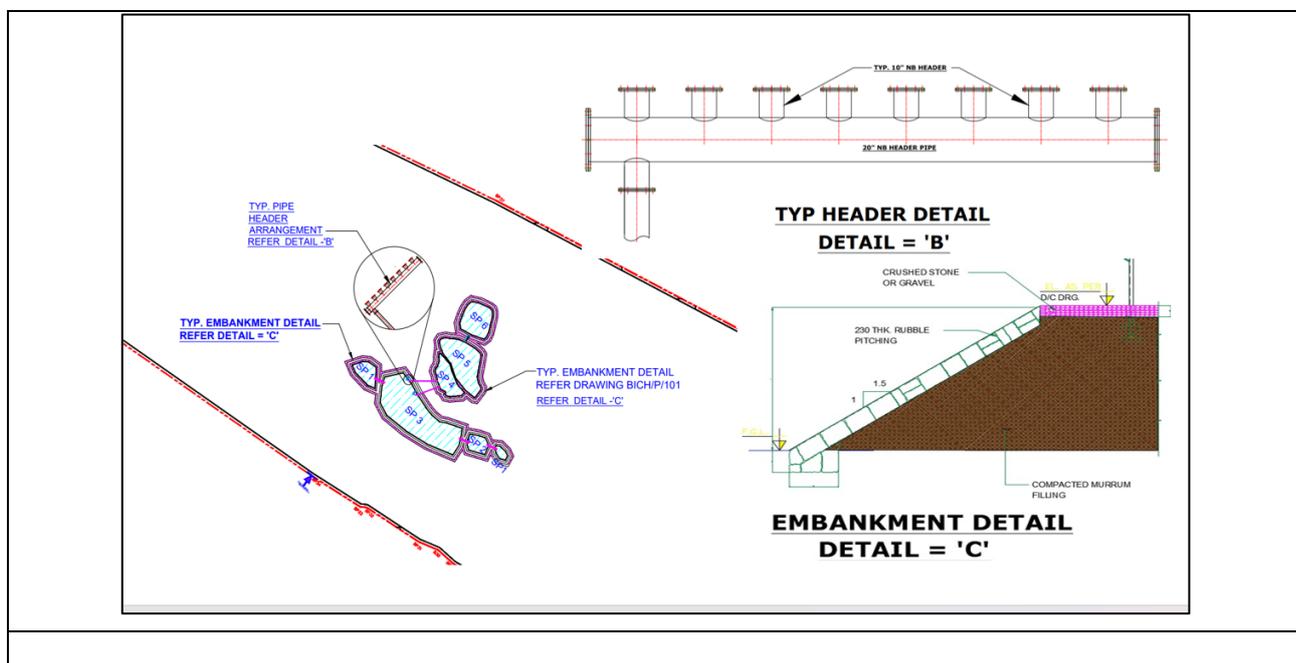
Layout of settling ponds and drainage network is as given below:

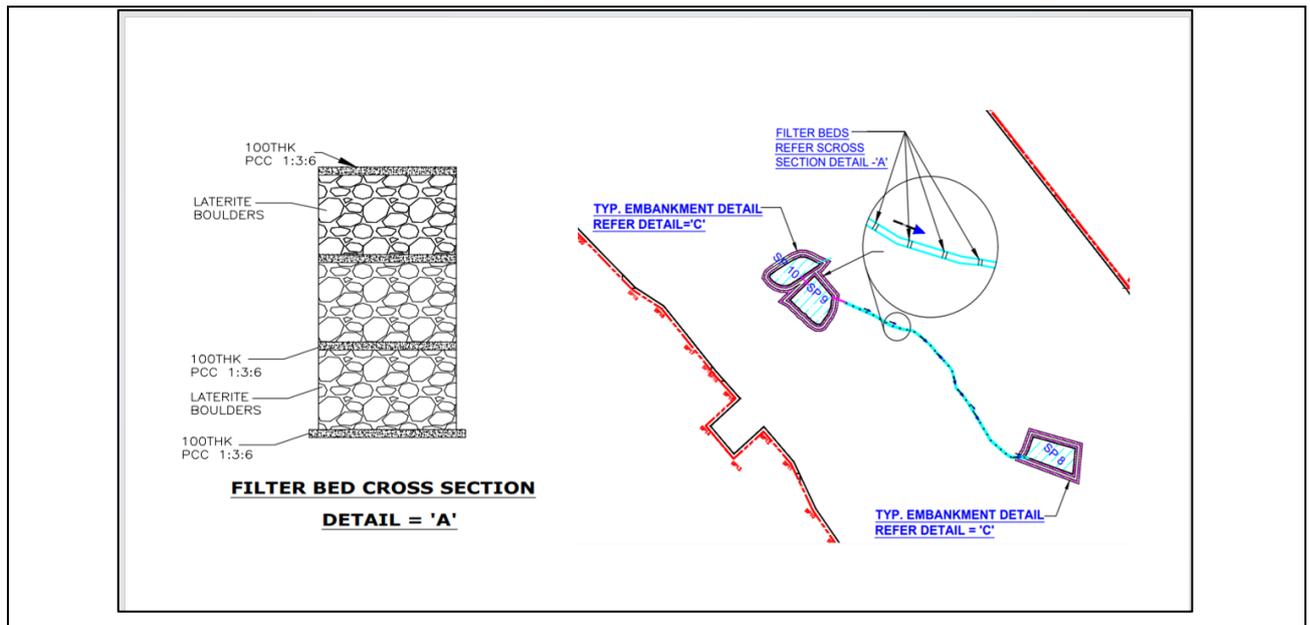


- Catchment area of Pits = 160 ha
  - Rainfall received = 160 ha x 3500 mm = 5.6 Million CuM
  - Pits water holding capacity = 5.49 Million CuM
  - Settling ponds capacity = 0.38 Million CuM
- Total = Pits + Settling Pond = 5.87 Million CuM > rainfall received of 5.6 Million CuM

Design of settling ponds is given below.

**Settling Ponds Designs**





**Table – 4  
Action Plan for Water Monitoring**

S. No.	Description	No's	Length	Width	Depth	Qty	Unit	Rate (In ₹)	Amount (In ₹)
1	P/filling of hard lateritic soil for bund construction	1	4000	3	5	54000	m <sup>3</sup>	170	9180000
		1	4000	3	3	36000	m <sup>3</sup>	170	6120000
2	Laterite pitching	1	4000	14		56000	m <sup>2</sup>	719.4	40286400
3	P/fixing of RCC fencing poles	1500				1500	no	1200	1800000
4	Excavation in soil	1500	1	1	1	188	m <sup>3</sup>	815	152873
5	Grouting of poles m10	1500	1	1	1	188	m <sup>3</sup>	6810	1276935
6	P/fixing of barbed wire	5	4000			20000	rm	34	687800
<b>Total</b>									<b>59504008</b>

**Table – 5**  
**Action Plan for Water Monitoring**

S. No.	Description	No's	Length	Width	Depth	Qty	Unit	Rate (In ₹)	Amount (In ₹)
1	Excavation	40	3	1.5	0.45	81	m <sup>3</sup>	815	66041
2	PCCm10	160	3	1.5	0.1	72	m <sup>3</sup>	6810	490343
3	Boulder wall without cement	40	3	1.5	1.05	189	m <sup>3</sup>	815	154111
		40	3	1.5	0.2	36	m <sup>3</sup>	815	29354
		80	3	1.5	1.8	648	m <sup>3</sup>	815	528379
<b>Total</b>									<b>1268228</b>



**AUTHENTICATED LIST OF FLORA AND FAUNA IN CORE AND BUFFER  
ZONE OF BLOCK I BICHOLIM MINERAL BLOCK OF VEDANTA LIMITED,  
BICHOLIM TALUKA, NORTH GOA**

**List of Scheduled I Wildlife species around 10 kms radius of Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block**

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific name	Family	IUCN / WPA schedule
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
1	Common leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	<i>Felidae</i>	I
2	Indian grey mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>	<i>Herpestidae</i>	LC/I
3	Indian porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>	<i>Hystricidae</i>	LC/I
4	Small Indian civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>	<i>Viverridae</i>	LC/I
5	Bonnet macaque	<i>Macaca radiate</i>	<i>Cercopithecidae</i>	VU/I
<b>BIRDS</b>				
6	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	R/I
7	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	<i>Phasianidae</i>	VU / I
8	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	LC / I
9	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	LC / I
10	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	LC / I
11	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	LC / I
12	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	LC / I
13	Grey Jungle fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	<i>Phasianidae</i>	LC / I
14	Nilgiri Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba elphinstonii</i>	<i>Columbidae</i>	LC / I
15	Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	<i>Strigidae</i>	LC / I
16	Crested Tree-swift	<i>Hemiprogne coronata</i>	<i>Hemiprocnidae</i>	LC / I
17	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	<i>Campephagidae</i>	LC / I
18	Common Hill-Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	<i>Sturnidae</i>	LC / I
19	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	<i>Ardeidae</i>	LC/I
20	Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	<i>Anatidae</i>	LC/I
21	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	R/I
22	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	<i>Accipitridae</i>	R/I
23	Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>	<i>Strigidae</i>	LC / I
24	Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	<i>Strigidae</i>	LC / I
<b>REPTILES</b>				
25	Cobra	<i>Genus Naja</i>	<i>Elapidae</i>	LC / I
26	Russell's Viper	<i>Daboia russelii</i>	<i>Viperidae</i>	LC/I
27	Bengal monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	<i>Varanidae</i>	VU/I
28	Checkered Keelback	<i>Fowlea piscator</i>	<i>Colubridae</i>	LC/I
29	Indian rat Snake	<i>Ptyas muscosa</i>	<i>Colubridae</i>	LC/I

**\* Note: As per Amended Gazette Notification of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022**

  
**Dy. Conservator of Forests**  
**Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North)**  
**Panaji-Goa**

**Break-up of the Conservation activities proposed under  
Wildlife Conservation Plan**

S. No.	Plan of Operations	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	4 <sup>th</sup> year	5 <sup>th</sup> year
1	Enrichment of forest areas with suitable indigenous species for wild life habitat improvement	12	12	12	12	12
2	Creation/ maintenance of habitat for herbivores/ avian fauna					
3	Management interventions for facilitating water availability to the wild life in forest areas/ Improvement of soil and water regime of forest areas					
4	Financial support to the department for conducting awareness campaigns for various stakeholders					
5	Financial support to the department for celebrating events like Wildlife week and sponsoring the prizes for the competitions					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60 lakhs</b>				

**GOA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD****गोंयराज्यप्रदूषणनियंत्रणमंडळ****(An ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018 Certified Board)**

Phone Nos: 0832- 2407700,  
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Member Secretary, GSPCB: [ms-gspcb.goa@nic.in](mailto:ms-gspcb.goa@nic.in)  
Office: [mail.gspcb@gov.in](mailto:mail.gspcb@gov.in)

No.12/2024-PCB/2088123/R00014708

Date: 04/03/2024

**Consent to Operate under Section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Authorization under Rule 6(i) of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundry Movement) Rules 2016, as amended thereafter**

[To be referred as Water Act, Air Act and HW (M & T) Rules respectively]

CONSENT TO OPERATE & AUTHORIZATION is hereby granted to

**BICHOLIM MINERAL BLOCK- BLOCK 1  
(AUCTION BLOCK), OF M/S VEDANTA LIMITED  
Mine Lease area of 478.5206 ha  
(Represented by: Mr. Dhiraj kumar Jagdish)  
(Red Category)**

**Bicholim, Bordem, Lamgao, Mulgoa,  
Mayem & Sirigao  
Villages of Bicholim- Goa.**

Located in the area declared under the provisions of the Water Act & Air Act, subject to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and the Orders that may be made further and subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. This Consent to operate & authorization is valid for a trial period of **Six months from the date of issue of this consent.**

2. This Consent to Operate is valid for the activity of:

Sr. No	Description	Quantity/ Capacity
1.	Production of Iron Ore	3.0 MTPA
2.	Dry Crushing and Screening Plant	4.0 MTPA

3. **CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO BE COMPLIED UNDER THE WATER ACT:**

(i) The daily quantity of industrial effluent from workshop of the mining block shall not exceed **8 KLD.**

- (ii) The daily quantity of domestic effluent from the various facilities within the mining block shall not exceed **28.8 KLD.**

(iii) **Effluent Treatment Plant:**

The mining unit shall provide comprehensive effluent treatment facility consisting of primary/secondary and/ or tertiary treatment as is warranted with reference to influent quality and operate and maintain the same continuously so as to achieve the quality of the treated effluent to the following standards:

pH	Between	6.0 & 8.5
Suspended Solids	Not to exceed	100 mg/l
BOD, 3 days, 27° C	Not to exceed	30 mg/l
COD	Not to exceed	250 mg/l
Oil & Grease	Not to exceed	10 mg/l

(iv) **Industrial Effluent Disposal:**

The treated effluent shall be recycled to the maximum extent and remaining shall be used on land for gardening. There shall not be any discharge outside the mining unit premises.

(v) **Domestic Effluent treatment and Disposal:-**

The domestic wastewater shall be treated in a properly designed sewage treatment facility/ system and treated water shall be reused.

(vi) **Sewage Treatment Plant:**

The mining unit shall provide comprehensive sewage treatment facility consisting of primary/secondary and/ or tertiary treatment as is warranted with reference to influent quality and operate and maintain the same continuously so as to achieve the quality of the treated effluent to the following standards:

Parameters	Discharge on land for irrigation	
	Between	5.5 & 9.0
pH	Between	5.5 & 9.0
Total Suspended Solids	Not to exceed	Not more than 20
BOD, 3 days, 27° C	Not to exceed	10 mg/l
COD	Not to exceed	50 mg/l
N-total	Not to exceed	10mg/l
Fecal Coliform	Less than	100MPN/100ml
Oil & Grease	Not to exceed	10mg/l

- (vii) The rain accumulated mining pit water if any should be routed through settling ponds and filter beds and meets the standards as below and results shall be submitted to the Board office in the event of discharge before the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month:

pH	Between	5.5 & 9.0
Suspended Solids (non-rainy day)	Not to exceed	50 mg/l
Suspended Solids (rainy day)	Not to exceed	100 mg/l
Iron	Not to exceed	3 mg / l
Manganese	Not to exceed	2 mg / l
Oil & Grease	Not to exceed	10g/l

- (viii) The mining unit shall provide with adequate size wheel washing station with tyre sprinkler.
- (ix) The mining unit shall provide and maintain Filter beds, checkdam, garland drains, arrestor wall, toe wall all the times around reject dumps for settlement of suspended particles and to prevent siltation.
- (x) Coursing of runoff water down the slope into the settling ponds/mining pits.
- (xi) To prevent siltation of rivers/ nallahs/ fields catch drains, toe wall, filter bed, check dam, garland drains, arrest wall and siltation/settling ponds shall be maintained.
- (xii) The mining unit should meet the water requirements of the nearby villages if required.
- (xiii) Water Quality Monitoring stations as stated in the table below shall be established in consultation with the Board Officials. Regular water quality monitoring of ground water & surface water level and quality should be carried out quarterly through NABL/MoEF&CC accredited laboratory in all seasons and the results have to be submitted to the Board office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Surface water monitoring locations</b>
1	1 Top(Bicholim Dhabdabha)
2	2 Top Discharge (Lamgao)
3	5 Top Discharge (Mulgao)
4	Upstream Bicholim River
5	Downstream Bicholim River
6	Upstream Assonora River
7	Downstream Assonora River
<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Ground water monitoring locations</b>
1	Well water Bicholim
2	Well water Lamgao village
3	Well water Mulgao village
4	Well water Pilgao village
5	Well water Mayem village

- (xiv) The mining unit should maintain the pumping schedule for pumping the rain accumulated water from the mining pit.
- (xv) The mining unit shall strive to implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources wherever possible in the area.
- (xvi) The mining unit shall install online water monitoring stations at final discharge points from the lease.

(xvii) The mining unit should maintain a pumping Log book in the following format:

Sr.	Capacity of the pump (litres/min)	Date	Start	End	Duration of pumping (in minutes)	Qty. of water pumped in KLD	Remarks

(xviii) The mining unit should stack their ore and ore over burden as per the approved mining plan.

(xix) The mining unit should install Reliable flow meter to maintain record of water consumption per day. The records so maintained shall be made available to the Board officials whenever required.

(xx) A good house-keeping shall be maintained within the mining lease area.

(xxi) **Non-Hazardous Solid Waste:**

All the Solid wastes arising in the premises shall be properly classified and disposed off to the satisfaction of the Board. The total quantity shall be segregated and treated as follows:

Sr. no.	Solid waste	Quantity & Disposal
1.	Overburden	As per IBM approved plan

#### 4. **CONDITIONS STIPULATED UNDER AIR ACT:**

(i) The mining unit shall maintain and operate air pollution control system of adequate capacity for the following equipments

Sr. No.	Name of Equipments/ Installation	No of Installation	Capacity	SO <sub>2</sub> Kg/Hr	NO <sub>x</sub>	HC	CO	PM
					(g/kw-hr)			
1.	D.G. set	01	500 KVA	4.68	9.2	1.3	3.5	0.3
2.	D.G. set	03	200 KVA	1.8	9.2	1.3	3.5	0.3

Sr. No.	Name of Equipments/ Installation	No of Installation	Capacity	SO <sub>2</sub> Kg/Hr	Particulate Matter mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>
1.	D.G. set	01	1000 KVA	8.64	75

(ii) The applicant shall observe the following standards for D. G. Sets  $\geq$  1000 KVA

Sr. No	Parameters	Limits
1.	NO <sub>x</sub> (as NO <sub>2</sub> )	1100 ppmv (as 15% O <sub>2</sub> ) Dry basis in ppmv
2.	NMHC(as C)	150 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> (at 15% O <sub>2</sub> )
3.	Particulate Matter	75 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> (at 15 % O <sub>2</sub> )
4.	CO	150 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> (at 15 % O <sub>2</sub> )
5.	Sulphur Content in Fuel	Less than 2%

- (iii) The mining unit shall erect the stack(s) of the following specifications:

Sr. No	Stack attached to	Height
1.	D.G. set (500 KVA)	25mtrs
2.	D.G. set (200 KVA)	19mtr (each)
3.	D.G. set (1000 KVA)	30mtrs

- (iv) The mining unit shall observe the following standards:-

Sr. No	Type of fuel	Quantity /hr
1.	H.S.D. (for D.G. set of 500 KVA)	65ltrs/hr
2.	H.S.D. (for D.G. set of 200 KVA)	25ltrs/hr (each)
3.	H.S.D. (for D.G. set of 1000 KVA)	120ltrs/hr

- (v) **The Stack Port Hole and Platform is to be designed as per CPCB guidelines Method 1 Part 1 of Stack Monitoring – Material & methodology for isokinetic sampling**

- (vi) The mining unit should comply with all the standards for D.G. Sets prescribed at Sr. no. 94, 95 and 96 of Schedule I of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.

- (vii) The unit should carry out emission monitoring from the stacks once every year from a laboratory recognized by Ministry of Environment and Forest under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the result shall be submitted to this Board by the 15<sup>th</sup> of subsequent month.

- (viii) Ambient Air Quality Monitoring stations as stated in the table below shall be established in consultation with the Board Officials in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for monitoring Particulate Matter, PM10, PM2.5, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>. Location of the ambient air quality stations and the frequency of monitoring should be twice a week for the core zone and the buffer zone from a laboratory recognized by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and results shall be submitted regularly to this Board.

Sr. No	Buffer zone monitoring locations
1	Lamgao village
2	Mulgao village
3	Pilgao village
4	Shirgao village
5	Transportation route

- (ix) Applicant shall achieve following quality fugitive emission standards in the core zone:

Fugitive Emission Standards	
Particulate matter	1200 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Fugitive emission shall be monitored in the predominant downwind direction at a distance 25.0±2.0 meters from the source of fugitive emission as per following:	
Area	Monitoring location
Mine face/ benches	Drilling, excavation and loading applicable for operating benches above water table
Haul roads/ service roads	Haul roads to ore processing plant, waste dumps and loading areas and service road

Crushing plant	Run-off mine unloading at hopper, crushing areas, screens and transfer points
Screening plant	Screens, conveying and transportation of ore discharge points
Ore storage & loading	Intermediate stock bin/ pile areas, ore stock bin/ pile areas, wagon/ truck loading areas
Waste dump	Active waste/ reject dumps

The monitoring standards in Buffer zone would be as per the table below:

SO <sub>2</sub>	Not to Exceed (Annual Average)	50 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
	Not to Exceed (24 hours)	80 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
NO <sub>x</sub>	Not to Exceed (Annual Average)	40 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
	Not to Exceed (24 hours)	80 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
PM <sub>10</sub>	Not to Exceed (Annual Average)	60 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
	Not to Exceed (24 hours)	100 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Not to Exceed (Annual Average)	40 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>
	Not to Exceed (24 hours)	60 µg/ m <sup>3</sup>

All other parameters should meet the standards specified in NAAQS notification dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009 for the relevant industry.

- (x) The unit needs to install the permanent water sprinklers along 3.40 km haul road within the ML area and 2.80 km length outside the ML area on either side of the road in phased manner
- (xi) The Project Proponent shall install a minimum of 3 (three) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations in consultation with CPCB/SPCB with 1 (one) in upwind and 2 (two) in downwind direction based on long term climatological data about wind direction such that an angle of 120° is made between the monitoring locations to monitor critical parameters, relevant for mining operations, of air pollution viz. PM10, PM2.5, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO and SO<sub>2</sub> etc. as per the methodology mentioned in NAAQS Notification No. B-29016/20/90/PCI/I, dated 18.11.2009 covering the aspects of transportation and use of heavy machinery in the impact zone. The real time data so generated should be displayed digitally at entry and exit gate of mine lease area for public display and shall be linked to server of CPCB/SPCB.
- (xii) The ambient air quality shall also be monitored at prominent places like office building, canteen etc. as per the site condition to ascertain the exposure characteristics at specific places. The above data shall be digitally displayed within 03 months in front of the main Gate of the mine site.
- (xiii) **The mining unit shall install online noise monitoring and dust monitoring station approved by USEPA, TUV or CPCB, CSR or MCERTs at the transportation route near sarmanas in consultation with the Board and connect the same to the Board server within one month of receipt of this Consent and submit compliance report to the Board**
- (xiv) The mining unit shall install CCTV Camera at exit gate from mine towards the jetty to monitor if the trucks are properly covered with tarpaulin before exit and should be connected online to GSPCB, within one month of receipt of this Consent to Operate.
- (xv) The project proponent should hot mix the dedicated road outside the mine lease which is used for transportation of ore in phased manner.

- (xvi) The trucks/tippers engaged in transportation of ore shall have with atleast six inches free board after filling the cargo box to avoid spillage.
- (xvii) All trucks/ tippers engaged in the transportation of ore shall be covered with tarpaulin and the tarpaulin shall be properly fastened to the cargo box to ensure the ore does not get air borne or spill on the road.
- (xviii) In case of breakdown of loaded trucks / tippers, unloading of ore at the road side shall be strictly avoided.
- (xix) The roads in mining areas shall be sprinkled with water to suppress dust pollution.
- (xx) The mining unit shall provide wheel washing facility for the ore transport vehicles shall be provided at the exit point of the mine.
- (xxi) The mining unit should take afforestation in abandoned mining areas and on reject dumps located within lease area.
- (xxii) Spillage of ore on the public roads shall be removed immediately on occurrence.
- (xxiii) The mining company should submit details regarding transportation of ore in the following format every month

Sr.	Source	Destination	Qty.	No. of trips (tipper trucks)	Route (names of villages through which transportation takes place)	Remarks

- (xxiv) The mining unit should provide mechanical sweeping arrangements for sweeping of roads affected due to transportation of iron ore.
- (xxv) The mining unit shall take adequate measures for control of noise levels from its own sources within the premises in respect of noise. The limits are as follows:

Category of Area/ Zone	Limits in dB (A) Leq	
	Day time	Night time
Industrial Area	75	70
Commercial Area	65	55
Residential Area	55	45
Silence Zone	50	40

Day time is reckoned between 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and night time is reckoned between 10 p.m. to 6 a.m

**5. CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO BE COMPLIED UNDER THE HAZARDOUS AND OTHER WASTES (MANAGEMENT AND TRANSBOUNDRY MOVEMENT) RULES 2016, AS AMENDED THEREAFTER**

- (i) The unit is hereby granted authorization to operate a facility for collection, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes as specified below:

Sr. No.	Category	Type of waste	Quantity	Mode of disposal
1.	5.1	Used /Spent Oil	60 tons/annum	To recycler registered with SPCB and having valid authorization of SPCB
2.	5.2	Oil soaked Cotton waste	9 tons/annum	To be sent to M/s Vedanta Ltd. Met Coke Division, Amona for incineration
3.	3.3	Contaminated filters	5 tons/annum	To be sent to CHWTSDF operated M/s. Ponda Envocare Ltd. at Pissurlem IDC for incineration
4.	33.1	Empty Paint Tins	3000 nos/annum	To be sent to CHWTSDF operated M/s. Ponda Envocare Ltd. at Pissurlem IDC for incineration

- (i) ***The authorization shall comply with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rule made there under.***
- (ii) The person authorized shall not rent, lend, sell or transfer or otherwise transport the hazardous waste without obtaining prior permission of the Goa State pollution Control Board.
- (iii) Any unauthorized change in personnel, equipment or working conditions as mentioned in the hotel unit by the person authorized shall constitute a breach of his authorization.
- (iv) It is a duty of the authorized person to take permission of the Goa State Pollution Control Board to close down the facility.
- (v) The inner bottom surfaces of the tank shall be impervious enough to prevent leakage or seepage of these wastes into the sub surface soil or ground water.
- (vi) The occupier shall maintain a manifest system as per Rule 19 for disposal of hazardous wastes to ensure that these wastes are delivered to the designated facility preventing pilferage and clandestine disposal due to unforeseen events that may occur during transit.
- (vii) The manifest shall be endorsed by the dispatcher, transporter and receiver of hazardous wastes. The endorsed copy shall be furnished to the Goa State Pollution Control Board.
- (viii) Under any circumstances the hazardous waste shall not be disposed to unauthorized facilities.
- (ix) The occupier shall maintain the records for collection, storage and disposal of hazardous waste in Form 3 of as per Hazardous And Other Waste (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules 2016 as amended thereafter.
- (x) The occupier shall furnish monthly returns for collection, storage and disposal of hazardous waste through online OCCMS systems.
- (xi) The unit shall put up an online board (minimum size 6x4 Feet) at prominent location near the main gate providing details as follows in English and Konkani languages:-
- Hazardous Waste category number.
  - Hazardous Waste quantity number.
  - Treatment facility for each category.
  - Mode of disposal for each category.
  - Hazardous Waste Authorization number, date and validity period.
  - Water Consent number, date and validity period.

- Air Consent number, date and validity period.
  - Quantity and Nature of Hazardous Chemicals being used.
- (xii) The occupier shall ensure that the Hazardous Wastes are not allowed to be stored for more than 90 days.
- (xiii) The unit shall submit online annual returns in prescribed format on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June of every year.

**6. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

- (i) The unit shall not change or alter the quantity, quality of discharge, temperature or the mode of the effluent/ emission or hazardous wastes or control equipments provided for without previous permission of the Board.
- (ii) The unit shall provide facility for collection of samples of effluent, air emissions and hazardous wastes to the Board staff.
- (iii) An application in prescribed form along with the prescribed fees for renewal of Consent shall be submitted at least 60 days before the expiry of validity of this Consent. An application for renewal of Consent submitted after expiry of the validity shall accompany with penalty of 50% of the Consent fees in addition to the prescribed consent fees.
- (iv) The Board shall be forthwith informed of any accident or unforeseen event involving discharge of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter into a stream or well or on land or into the atmosphere, as result of such discharge water/ air is being polluted.
- (v) This Consent to Operate is granted without any prejudice to any other permissions(s) required under any laws, by – laws and regulations in force. This Consent to Operate is confined to matters arising out of the Air Act and Water Act only.
- (vi) The Board reserves the right to amend or add any conditions in this consent and the same shall be binding on the applicant.
- (vii) The unit shall submit to this office, the Environmental Statement Report in Form V for the Financial Year ending April to March by 30<sup>th</sup> September of the succeeding year as per the provisions of the rule 14 of the Environment (Protection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1992.
- (viii) This Consent does not entitle the party to commence activities until and unless all the other Permissions as required under the relevant statutes are obtained by the party and this Consent to Operate is confined to matters arising out of the Air Act and Water Act only.
- (ix) The unit shall bear the cost of analysis / monitoring in case of complaints received by the Board / re-inspections due to non compliances observed by the Board & monitoring carried by the Board.
- (x) The unit shall submit the details of the Public Liability Insurance Policy under the PLI Act 1991, to the Board office as applicable.
- (xi) The unit shall submit returns for disposal of batteries under the Battery Waste Management Rules 2022, if applicable.

- (xii) The unit shall submit returns for disposal of e - waste under the E- Waste Management Rules 2022, as amended thereafter, if applicable.
- (xiii) The unit shall submit returns for disposal of plastic waste under the Plastic Waste Management Amended Rules 2016, as amended thereafter, if applicable.
- (xiv) **The unit shall comply with the Guidelines and DUST Mitigation measures in handling Construction material and C & D waste issued by central Pollution Control Board and are placed on Board website goaspcb.gov.in.**
- (xv) **The mining unit has to obtain no objection certificate from the Central Ground water Authority, or the concerned state authority for any ground water abstraction, if applicable.**
- (xvi) **The waste dump slopes shall be covered with biodegradable geotextile mats.**
- (xvii) **The mining firm should manage the daily trips in staggered manner in consultation with GSPCB so that traffic congestion is avoided at major junctions.**
- (xviii) **The mining activity shall be strictly in accordance to the mining plan approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines.**
- (xix) **Those mines having part forest and part non-forest areas and have not obtained forest clearance, consent to operate should be limited to non-forest area**
- (xx) **Mining lease with common transport route should carry out Ambient Air Quality Monitoring along the transport route in consultation with the Board before the commencement of mining operation.**
- (xxi) **Other related permissions as applicable in the EC has to be obtained from the competent authorities before the commencement of the mining operations**
- (xxii) **The mining unit shall submit the year wise production & developmental plan duly approved by the IBM before the commencement of the mining operations**
- (xxiii) **The lease holder has to obtain no objection certificate from the Central Ground Water Authority or the concerned State Authority for any ground water abstraction, if applicable.**
- (xxiv) **The lease holder shall comply to the Guidelines and DUST Mitigation measures in handling Construction material and C & D waste issued by central Pollution Control Board and are placed on Board website goaspcb.gov.in.**
- (xxv) **The mining unit shall submit existing plan and proposed modification as per EC condition no. 23.1**
- (xxvi) **The mining unit should provide online real time approved methodology of Ambient air and water monitoring systems on transportation routes and at water discharge points in water bodies respectively with connectivity to Board.**
- (xxvii) **There should be shoulders/small pillars on both side of the road so that the running trucks so not ply over the soil lying on the road side.**

- (xxviii) **The ore transportation trucks should be checked for emission to have a control on vehicular emissions on the road side.**
- (xxix) **Old trucks manufactured before a particular date may not be allowed for ore transportation.**
- (xxx) **Permanent haul road should be provided with water sprinklers and logging to be maintained.**
- (xxxi) **For dry crushing system suitable dust extractors may be provided as the Government Polytechnic School Mayem is situated nearby**
- (xxxii) **Air misting / fogging system should be used during dry seasons near the ore handling places/points.**
- (xxxiii) **Proper spillage control mechanism should be done for the plying trucks. Also Proper garland drains should be maintained to prevent direct runoff from the mine to the nearby agricultural field and river.**
- (xxxiv) **Qualified Environmental engineers/personnel should be deputed in mines to conduct the mining operations in environmental benign manners. The duties of these personnel will be to control overloading & spillage, reduce haul road emissions, haul road maintenance, mine traffic control, water sprinkling, identification of polluting vehicles, effluent management, enhance green belts, reclamation, erosion control, monitoring, training and awareness, etc.**
- (xxxv) **The mining unit shall submit plan/proposal for decarbonisation as per COP 26 resolution.**
- (xxxvi) **The mining unit needs to comply with the pre-requisites prior to start actual mining operations such as execution of mining lease , installation of air quality and water quality monitoring facilities in the core zone/buffer zone, transportation route as applicable.**
- (xxxvii) **The mining unit shall take utmost care, so that Mayem and other water bodies in vicinity of mining activity are not affected.**
- (xxxviii) **As much as possible refilling of mining pits should not be resorted to, especially which are filled with water and care should be taken while refilling to ensure that aquifer strata is not visited.**
- (xxxix) **The unit has to obtain registration / membership with the CHWTSDF operated by the M/s. Ponda Envocare at Pissurlem for the disposal of hazardous waste within 30 days of receipt of this consent.**
- (xl) **The mining unit has to register with the GIEMA (Goa industries Environment Management Association) within 30 days of receipt of this consent, if applicable.**
- (xli) **The lease holder shall obtain the valid Environmental Clearance, Lease from DMG and the permission from any other related authority all the time during its operation.**
- (xlii) **The lease-holder is mandated to comply with all the conditions referred in the Environmental Clearance (EC) issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide its EC file no-IA-J-11015/3/2023-IA-II(NCM) dated 23/01/2024.**

(xlili) **The Project Proponent shall submit six monthly compliance reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the MOEFCC & its concerned Regional Office, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board.**

To,

**VEDANTA LIMITED**

**(MINING UNIT: BLOCK I- BICHOLIM MINERAL BLOCK)**

**Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji- Goa**

Copy to: -

1. Directorate of Mines & Geology, Ground Floor, Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, IA Division, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, JorBagh, New Delhi- 110003
3. Accounts Section
4. Concerned File
5. Guard File

Received Consent fee of: **The Capital Investment of the mining unit is Rs. 250.00Crores**

Challan no.	Amount	Date
3914721723	18,40,800.00/-	09/02/2024

(Sanjeev Joglekar)  
Member Secretary (I/c)  
Goa State Pollution Control Board

Goa State Pollution Control Board

QEHS-CIE-F(06-03)

**CUSTOMER FEEDBACK**

Dear Citizen / Customer,

We appreciate you for sparing a few minutes for giving us your valuable feedback on our services

Name : .....

Contact : .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: ..... Date: .....

Name of the service availed: .....

Are you aware that service standards are included in the Citizen's Charter as available on Board's website : [www.goaspcb.gov.in](http://www.goaspcb.gov.in)?

Yes  No

If yes, is the Citizen Charter simple and easy to understand?

Yes  No

Description of service delivery parameters (Consents/Authorisation/RTI's/Complaints etc.)	Excellent	Good	Fair	Average	Poor	Reason for grading
Time taken to deliver service in comparison to service standards mentioned in Citizen's Charter						
Quality of service (accuracy, completeness)						
Knowledge of dealing hand / staff regarding services/schemes						
Courtesy of staff						
Board's response in view of your query/requirement is to your satisfaction						
Date of your visit to the office and your overall experience						

Suggestions for improvement, if any

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signature &amp; date

To,  
The Member Secretary,  
Goa State Pollution Control Board,  
Near Pilerne Industrial Estate,  
Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa. 403511

- ❖ Please note that your feedback is considered essential for overall improvement and development of Board functions in service of environment.



Andreza

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA**

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

**WITH**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 199 OF 2024**

**WITH**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 215 OF 2024**

**IN**

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

**WITH**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 239 OF 2024**

**IN**

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

**WITH**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1216 & 1217 OF 2024 (F)**

**IN**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 239 OF 2024**

**AND**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1416 OF 2024 (F)**

**IN**

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

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**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

1. The Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, with office at Haldanwadi, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa – 403504, through its Secretary, Mr. Sakharam Anant Pednekar, age 58 years, H. No. 766, Gaonkarwada, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa – 403504, Approx. Annual Income – Rs. 1,20,000/-. Aadhar No. 439600055987, Mobile – 9767050503.

2. The Goa Foundation, through its Secretary Dr. Claude Alvares, age 75 years, having Regd. Office at Room No. 7, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa, Goa – 403507, PAN No.AAAAG0249C, Income : Rs – 10 – 15,00,000/- p.a. (approx.) Registration No. - 23/Goa/86, Email id: goafoundation@gmail.com.

... Petitioners

**WITH**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 199 OF 2024**  
**IN**  
**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WP NO. 6 OF 2024**

Surakshit Distributors Pvt. Ltd., a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, having its office at Unit No. 306, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Gera Imperium Grand, EDC Complex, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa, and represented herein by its Authorised signatory, Mr. Sushil Khandelwal.

... Applicant

IN

1. The Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, with office at Haldanwadi, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa – 403504, through its Secretary, Mr. Sakharam Anant Pednekar, age 58 years, H. No. 766, Gaonkarwada, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa – 403504, Approx. Annual Income – Rs. 1,20,000/-. Aadhar No. 439600055987, Mobile – 9767050503.

2. The Goa Foundation, through its Secretary Dr. Claude Alvares, age 75 years, having Regd. Office at Room No. 7, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa, Goa – 403507, PAN No.AAAAG0249C, Income : Rs – 10 – 15,00,000/- p.a. (approx.) Registration No. - 23/Goa/86, Email id: goafoundation@gmail.com.

*V e r s u s*

1. The Director of Mines and Geology, through its Director, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001.

2. The State of Goa, through its Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa, 403 521.

3. The Deputy Collector and SDO Bicholim, Bicholim, Goa – 403 504.

4. The Mamlatdar Bicholim, Office of the Mamlatdar, Bicholim, Goa – 403 504.

5. The Bicholim Police Station, through its Police Inspector, Bicholim, Goa – 403 504.

6. The Goa State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, near Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa, 403 511.

7. M/s. Blueglobe Exports Private Limited, B-3, F-1, Prudential Paradise, Peddem, Mapusa, Goa – 403 507.

... Respondents.

**WITH**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NOS. 215 AND 239 OF 2024**

**IN**

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

Vedanta Limited, A public company duly incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, C wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East) NA Mumbai , Mumbai City MH 400093 IN. Having local office at Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, Goa, 403 001, Represented in this petition through its authorised signatory, Mr. Benecio Menezes, 56 years of age, Indian National, Having residence at St. Roque Waddo, Colvale, Bardez, Goa.

**IN**

1. The Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, through its Secretary Sakharam Anant Pednekar, H. No. 776, Gaonkarwada, Mayem, Bicholim, Goa – 403504.

... Applicant

2. The Goa Foundation, through its Secretary Dr. Claude Alvares, having Regd. Office at Room No. 7, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa,

Goa – 403507.

*V e r s u s*

1. The Director of Mines and Geology, through its Director, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001.
2. The State of Goa, through its Chief Secretary, having office at the Secretariat Complex, Porvorim, Bardez, Goa.
3. The Deputy Collector and SDO Bicholim, Office of the Deputy Collector and SDO, Bicholim, Bicholim, Goa.
4. The Mamlatdar, Office of the Mamlatdar, Bicholim, Goa.
5. The Bicholim Police Station, through its Police Inspector, Bicholim, Goa.
6. The Goa State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, near Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Goa, 403 511.
7. Blueglobe Exports Private Limited, through its Director, B-3, F-1 Prudential Paradise, Peddem, Mapusa, North Goa, GA – 403 507 In.
8. The Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi, 110 003. ... Respondents.

**WITH  
MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1216 OF 2024 (F)  
IN**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 239 OF 2024**  
**IN**  
**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

Vedanta Limited, A public company duly incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, C wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East) NA Mumbai , Mumbai City MH 400093 IN. Having local office at Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, Goa, 403 001, Represented in this petition through its authorised signatory, Mr. Benecio Menezes, 56 years of age, Indian National, Having residence at St. Roque Waddo, Colvale, Bardez, Goa.

IN

1. The Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, through its Secretary Sakharam Anant Pednekar.
2. The Goa Foundation, through its Secretary Dr. Claude Alvares, having Regd. Office at Room No. 7, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa, Goa – 403507.

... Applicant

*V e r s u s*

1. The Director of Mines and Geology, through its Director, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001.
2. The State of Goa, through its Chief Secretary, having office at the Secretariat Complex, Porvorim, Bardez, Goa.
3. The Deputy Collector and SDO Bicholim, Office of the Deputy Collector and SDO, Bicholim, Bicholim, Goa.

4. The Mamlatdar, Office of the Mamlatdar, Bicholim, Goa.

5. The Bicholim Police Station, through its Police Inspector, Bicholim, Goa.

6. The Goa State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, near Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Goa, 403 511.

7. Blueglobe Exports Private Limited, through its Director, B-3, F-1 Prudential Paradise, Peddem, Mapusa, North Goa, GA – 403 507 In.

8. The Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi, 110 003.

... Respondents.

AND

Shri Narendra Vinayak P. Gaoncar, aged about 50 years, Son of late Vinayak P. Gaoncar, R/o. Pilgao, Bicholim, Goa.

...Applicant/  
Intervener

**WITH**  
**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1217 OF 2024 (F)**  
**IN**  
**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 239 OF 2024**  
**IN**  
**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

Vedanta Limited, A public company duly incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, C wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East) NA Mumbai , Mumbai City

MH 400093 IN. Having local office at Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, Goa, 403 001, Represented in this petition through its authorised signatory, Mr. Benecio Menezes, 56 years of age, Indian National, Having residence at St. Roque Waddo, Colvale, Bardez, Goa.

IN

1. The Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, through its Secretary Sakharam Anant Pednekar. ... Applicant
2. The Goa Foundation, through its Secretary Dr. Claude Alvares, having Regd. Office at Room No. 7, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa, Goa – 403507.

*V e r s u s*

1. The Director of Mines and Geology, through its Director, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001.
2. The State of Goa, through its Chief Secretary, having office at the Secretariat Complex, Porvorim, Bardez, Goa.
3. The Deputy Collector and SDO Bicholim, Office of the Deputy Collector and SDO, Bicholim, Bicholim, Goa.
4. The Mamlatdar, Office of the Mamlatdar, Bicholim, Goa.
5. The Bicholim Police Station, through its Police Inspector, Bicholim, Goa.
6. The Goa State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, near Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Goa, 403 511.

7. Blueglobe Exports Private Limited, through its Director, B-3, F-1 Prudential Paradise, Peddem, Mapusa, North Goa, GA – 403 507 In.

8. The Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi, 110 003.

... Respondents.

AND

Shri Trivikram Govind Prabhu Gaunkar alias Prabhugaonkar, aged about 47 years, son of Govind Vasudev Prabhu Gaunkar, R/o. H. No. 76, Pilgao, Bicholim, Goa 403 504

...Applicant/  
Intervener

AND

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1416 OF 2024  
IN  
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WRIT PETITION NO. 6 OF 2024**

Vedanta Limited, A public company duly incorporated under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, C wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East) NA Mumbai , Mumbai City MH 400093 IN. Having local office at Sesa Ghor, 20 EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, Goa, 403 001, Represented in this petition through its authorised signatory, Mr. Benecio Menezes, 56 years of age, Indian National, Having residence at St. Roque Waddo, Colvale, Bardez, Goa.

IN

1. The Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, through its Secretary Sakharam Anant

... Applicant

Pednekar.

2. The Goa Foundation, through its Secretary Dr. Claude Alvares, having Regd. Office at Room No. 7, Above Mapusa Clinic, Mapusa, Goa – 403507.

*V e r s u s*

1. The Director of Mines and Geology, through its Director, Ground Floor of Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001.

2. The State of Goa, through its Chief Secretary, having office at the Secretariat Complex, Porvorim, Bardez, Goa.

3. The Deputy Collector and SDO Bicholim, Office of the Deputy Collector and SDO, Bicholim, Bicholim, Goa.

4. The Mamlatdar, Office of the Mamlatdar, Bicholim, Goa.

5. The Bicholim Police Station, through its Police Inspector, Bicholim, Goa.

6. The Goa State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, near Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Goa, 403 511.

7. Blueglobe Exports Private Limited, through its Director, B-3, F-1 Prudential Paradise, Peddem, Mapusa, North Goa, GA – 403 507 In.

8. The Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road,

Aliganj, New Delhi, 110 003.

... Respondents.

AND

1. Shankar Chandrakant Jalmi, aged 25.
2. Savlo Raghu Kavlekar, aged 49, both major, residents of H. No. ...., Bagwada, Pilgao, Bicholim, Goa.
3. Sudhakar Vasudev Vaignkar, Age 43, major, resident of H. No. 65, Bagwadao, Bicholim, Goa.
4. Govind Shankar Kavlekar, age 62, major, resident of H. No. 23, Gaonkar Wada, Pilgao, Bicholim, Goa.

...Applicant/  
Interveners

-----  
**Ms. Norma Alvares, Advocate with Mr. Om D'Costa, Advocate for the Petitioners.**

**Mr Y. V. Nadkarni, Advocate with Mr Nilay Naik and Ms. Simran S. Khadilkar, Advocate for the Applicant in MCA No. 199/2024.**

**Mr. D. Pangam, Advocate General with Mr. Deep Shirodkar, Additional Government Advocate for Respondent nos. 1 to 5.**

**Mr. Manish Salkar, Government Advocate for Respondent no.6-GSPCB.**

**Mr. Raviraj Chodankar, Central Government Standing Counsel for the Union of India-Respondent No.8.**

**Mr. A. D. Bhohe, Advocate with Ms. A. Fernandes Advocate for Respondent No. 9.**

**Mr. Janak Dwarkadas, Senior Advocate** (*Through V.C.*) with Mr. Shivan Desai, Mr. A. Gosavi, Advocate with Ms. Krupa Naik and Mr. Guruprasad Naik, Advocates for the Interveners-Applicants in MCA No. 215/2024 and MCA No. 239/2024.

**Mr. H. D. Naik, Advocate** for the Applicant in MCA No. 1216/2024(F) and MCA No. 1217/2024(F).

**Mr. Nigel Da Costa Frias, Advocate** with Ms. Sonadevi Nishad and Mr. Shane Coutinho, Advocates for the Applicants-Interveners in MCA No.1416/2024(F)

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**CORAM: M. S. KARNIK &  
VALMIKI MENEZES, JJ.**

**RESERVED ON : 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024  
PRONOUNCED ON : 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**JUDGMENT** (*Per M. S. Karnik, J.*)

1. We have taken up this petition for final disposal in view of the earlier order passed and with the consent of all parties.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that the otherwise tranquil situation in the village will be jeopardised as a result of the large scale transportation of mineral ore. The safety of the villagers, and that of the school going children will be endangered with the sudden increase in the traffic of trucks/tippers carrying the ore. The resultant noise pollution as well as the environmental pollution resulting from such unwarranted intrusion in the serene and peaceful environs of the village is in complete conflict with the cherished principles of

fundamental right enshrined by Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The submission is that this massive invasion will completely disturb the equilibrium of the village which serves only the business interests of the project proponent to the detriment of the villagers. The villagers say that they do not deserve such intrusion.

**3.** The concern expressed by the villagers is genuine. On one hand are the fundamental rights of villagers and on the other are the economic interests of the State as well as the rights of the project proponent. These are competing interests in conflict with each other.

**4.** It goes without saying that it is the foremost duty of the State to work towards achieving and maintaining a fine balance between competing interests taking into account various myriad considerations. Present is a case where there is an apparent conflict between the fundamental rights of the villagers and that of the State. The State finds mining and as a consequence transportation necessary to further its economic interest for the development of the State. A conflict in the present case has arisen between the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India on one hand and Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India on the other. The villagers claim a right to a dignified existence in a safe pollution free environment. The State asserts its economic right necessitating such transportation which villagers submit amounts to bulldozing the otherwise peaceful life

which they are accustomed to for a long time. The task of achieving this fine balance is surely a difficult one as observed by His Lordship in **K. S. Puttaswamy (Aadhaar-5J) vs. Union of India**<sup>1</sup>. The observations which form a part of a dissenting opinion in **K. S. Puttaswamy** (supra) are significant. An ideal situation would be one which would preserve the core of the right for both sets of citizens whose entitlements to freedom appears to be in conflict. Realistically, drawing balances is not a simple task. Balances involve sacrifices and the foregoing of entitlements.

5. While forming an opinion, we have extensively sought guidance from the aforementioned decision of the Supreme Court and the observations in **Rajeev Suri vs. Delhi Development Authority & Ors.**<sup>2</sup>, which we have referred to in the later part of our order.

6. Let us now consider the facts of the present case. Our attention is invited to the interim order dated 17.01.2024 and the subsequent orders passed during the pendency of the petition. This petition raises an important issue in the public interest about the transportation of mineral ore by road through the village of Mayem. The petition as filed was limited to the problems to be faced by village 'Mayem'

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1 (2019) 1 SCC 1

2 (2022) 11 SCC 1

7. By subsequent orders, the scope of the petition was expanded to the transportation of ore through the villages in Goa. The State of Goa and the project proponents opposed restrictions in the transportation of ore through the village roads asserting their rights on the basis of valid permissions and right to carry on business. Examination of such conflicting interests is surely not an easy task. How do we achieve the right balance while considering competing interests in the present case; does such transportation pass the muster of the relevant legislations; what should be the safeguards; are the measures to mitigate the perils of transportation through village roads adequate, are questions which arise for our consideration. Please show compassion to those living in the villages is the fervent plea of Ms. Norma Alvares, learned counsel for the petitioner.

8. The petitioners contended that the permissions granted by the Goa State Pollution Control Board ('GSPCB', for short), and the Director of Mines and Geology ('DMG', for short), were without any application of mind to several relevant considerations, including, but not restricted to the conditions referred to in the Office Memorandum (OM) dated 29.10.2014, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (Annexures to the petition at pages 40 and 42 of the paper book) and the ground conditions at the Mayem village. Pursuant to the filing of the petition, the GSPCB and DMG

have by way of SOPs, proposed several safeguards and measures for safe transport and as fairly submitted by Ms. Norma Alvares, these measures are positive. Such submission is made by the learned Counsel for the petitioners with a caveat that the concern of the villagers must be more adequately addressed in the best manner possible. She submits that though several safeguards are put in place, the environmental concerns affecting the safety and health of the villagers must be monitored effectively and addressed from time to time with the aid of real time monitoring of pollution with modern sophisticated equipment.

9. Learned Advocate General has serious objection to the course adopted by us in expanding the scope of the PIL as according to him there are no pleadings to justify such a course. We strongly feel that the concern of transportation through village roads needs to be addressed. We cannot ignore the larger issue of such large scale transportation through the village roads. Do we overlook the concerns of those residing in these villages through which roads the transporting operations are to take place only on some technical objections raised? We do appreciate the submission that the concerns may differ from village to village. It is the duty of the State and the statutory authorities to conduct a scientific exercise in evaluating what requirements are best suited on a village to village basis to ensure the

safety of the life and limb of its subjects. Howsoever small the population may be, the basic aspiration of their right to live should not be bulldozed on some technical considerations. The Court is not expected to shut its eyes and not even question the State as to what the measures proposed for the safety of the villagers are. There is not the slightest doubt in our mind that such a course is necessary. The petition was filed specific to village Mayem. During the course of hearing, learned Advocate General submits a decision is taken that there is to be no transportation through village 'Mayem'.

10. Let us examine what are the measures in place to regulate transportation through such villages in the first place. The problems cited of transportation of ore through the villages will have to be addressed in the context of two scenarios which are :-

(i) Transportation of the ore which was already extracted in the course of the decisions in **Goa Foundation vs. Union of India & Ors.**<sup>3</sup> (referred to as *Goa Foundation-I*) and **Goa Foundation vs. Sesa Sterlite Limited & Ors.**<sup>4</sup> (referred to as *Goa Foundation-II*), which we refer to as 'e-auction ore'; and

(ii) Transportation of ore by the project proponent i.e. Vedanta, who has intervened in the present case in whose favour there exists a 50-year lease having been granted Environmental Clearance (EC, for short) under the

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<sup>3</sup> (2014) 6 SCC 590

<sup>4</sup> (2018) 4 SCC 218

Environment Protection Act. This aspect pertains to transportation pursuant to the EC granted as a result of fresh leases executed.

**11.** The second aspect i.e. in respect of EC granted to Vedanta, need not detain us much. This petition does not challenge the EC granted to Vedanta. We make it clear that though learned Senior Advocate Shri Janak Dwarkadas was at pains to point out that the EC has been granted pursuant to a detailed examination by an expert body constituted under the EP Act, we do not express any opinion on such submission in this petition. The limited issue that we are examining is transportation of ore through the villages which allegedly creates disharmony in the fundamental right to life of the villagers. We make it clear that it is open for the aggrieved persons to lay a challenge to the EC on its own merits and in accordance with law before the forum competent to entertain such a challenge. It must be noted that the measures and safeguards recommended and which are part of the EC are accepted by Vedanta.

**12.** The first aspect of transportation of ‘e-auction ore’ is something we need to examine in some detail. Ms. Alvares alleged that the conditions imposed by the GSPCB and DMG were not complied with by the transporters during the earlier regime. It was pointed out that there was incessant transportation of ore through trucks right from 4.30 a.m. in the morning till 6.30 p.m. in the evening. It is submitted

that such transportation is a source of pollution that has affected the entire village and the villagers.

13. On the basis of the submission of learned Counsel appearing for the petitioners and hearing the respondents, this Court was of the *prima facie* opinion that there was not much application of mind by either the GSPCB and DMG before the clearances or transit permits were issued in the context of the route now proposed by the project proponent, i.e. the seventh respondent. This Court *prima facie* observed that the authorities, without adverting to several relevant considerations, not to mention the Ministry's OM dated 29.10.2014, mechanically issued the clearance or the transit pass. It was noticed that there was confusion about the roles the GSPCB and the DMG was expected to play in such matters affecting the lives and properties of the villagers. After referring to the provisions of OM dated 29.10.2014, this Court was of the opinion that some measures had to be put in place which would safeguard the life and properties of the Villagers. The relevant directions issued from paragraph 26 onwards which form part of the interim Order dated 17.01.2024 read thus :

“26. We direct the DMG and GSPCB to file detailed affidavits on the issue of grant of permissions, etc., for transportation of ore through villages in the State of Goa. The affidavits, as far as possible, should state the procedure that is

presently followed and the procedure that the authorities would like to follow in the future in case there are any shortcomings in the existing procedure. We think that the DMG and GSPCB should act in tandem and coordinate with each other so that proper procedures are evolved. For this, if possible, the authorities should hold a meeting. Other stakeholders, like the representatives of the mining industry, transportation industry, environmentalists, representatives of the Panchayat, etc., could also be invited to such meetings so that some policy which takes care of the interests of all stakeholders could be evolved.

27. The affidavits must also deal with an action plan for implementation or enforcement of the conditions included in the permissions. There is no point in imposing conditions to prevent pollution and hardships to villagers if there is no will or proper mechanism for effective implementation. It is not uncommon that considerable police forces are deployed when villagers raise their voices against ore transportation through villages. While it is improper for the villagers to take the law into their own hands, the Authorities must be vigilant in the enforcement of the conditions imposed for the benefit of such villagers. If the transporters disregard such conditions with impunity, strict action must be taken.

28. Since there is no clarity on the procedures for granting permissions for transportation or ores through villages, and at least prima facie, we get the

impression that DMG and GSPCB are passing the buck on each other without each of them assuming any responsibility, we direct that until the next date, no permissions shall be granted for transportation of ore by private parties through villages, without the leave of this Court. Such a direction is necessary to avoid a repetition of what has happened in the present case. Besides, we propose to dispose of this Petition at an early date.

29. We stand over this matter to 20.02.2024. The affidavits should be filed by 12.02.2024 by giving advance copies to the learned counsel for the petitioners. If the petitioners wish to file any rejoinder, they may do so on or before 20.02.2024 by giving advance copies to the learned counsel for the respondents. We also direct the Petitioners to implead and serve the Union of India through the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

30. The matter is posted for final disposal at the admission stage.”

14. Learned Counsel for the petitioners submitted that having regard to the measures and safeguards provided and placed on record by the GSPCB and DMG pursuant to the filing of the petition so far as transportation of ‘e-auction ore’ is concerned, the spirit of the conditions which are set out in the OM of 2014 has been imbibed in the Standard Operating Procedure (‘SOP’ for short). At one stage, learned Advocate General did proceed to canvas that the OM of 2014

does not bind the GSPCB or the DMG as the said OM is only an executive instruction which does not pass muster of Section 3 of ‘The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (herein after referred to as the *EP Act* for short). In view of the aforesaid submission of the learned Counsel for the petitioners, we refrain from expressing any opinion on such contention of learned Advocate General in this petition.

15. It needs to be considered whether there should be a complete ban on transport of the ore through village routes or providing safeguards and measures for mitigating the concerns of the villagers while permitting transportation can be a solution. For a better understanding, it would be apposite to refer to the decisions of the Supreme Court in **Goa Foundation vs. Union of India & Ors.**<sup>5</sup> (*supra*) and **Goa Foundation vs. Sesa Sterlite Limited & Ors.**<sup>6</sup> (*supra*). The facts related to mining in Goa is set out by Their Lordships in Goa Foundation-I, which reads thus :

“2. Prior to 19-12-1961 when Goa was a Portuguese territory, its Portuguese Government had granted mining concessions in perpetuity to concessionaires. On 19-12-1961, Goa was liberated and became part of the Indian Union and on 1-10-1963, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (for short "the MMDR Act") was made applicable to the State of Goa. On 10-3-1975, the

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<sup>5</sup> (2014) 6 SCC 590

<sup>6</sup> (2018) 4 SCC 218

Controller of Mining Leases issued a Notification calling upon every lessee and sub-lessee to file returns under Rule 5 of the Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules, 1956 and sent copies of the notification to the concessionaires in Goa. Aggrieved, the concessionaires moved the Bombay High Court, Goa Bench, and by judgment dated 29-9-1983, in *Vassudeva Madeva Salgaocar v. Union of India*, the Bombay High Court restrained the Union of India from treating the concessions as mining leases and from enforcing the notification against the concessionaires.

3. Parliament thereafter passed the Goa, Daman and Diu Mining Concessions (Abolition and Declaration as Mining Leases) Act, 1987 (for short "the Abolition Act") which received the assent of the President on 23-5-1987. Section 4 of the Abolition Act abolished the mining concessions and declared that with effect from the 20th day of December, 1961, every mining concession will be deemed to be a mining lease granted under the MMDR Act and that the provisions of the MMDR Act will apply to such mining lease. Section 5 of the Abolition Act further provided that the concession holder shall be deemed to have become a holder of the mining lease under the MMDR Act in relation to the mines in which the concession relates and the period of such lease was to extend up to six months from the date when the Abolition Act received President's assent i.e. up to 22-11-1987. On 14-10-1987, sub-rules (8) and (9) were inserted in Rule 24-A of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (for short "the MC Rules")

which deal with renewal of mining leases in Goa, Daman and Diu.

4. The Abolition Act was challenged by the lessees before the Bombay High Court in a writ petition. The High Court passed an interim order permitting the lessees to carry on mining operations and the mining business in the concessions for which renewal applications had been filed under Rule 24-A of the MC Rules. Subsequently, the High Court held in its judgment dated 20-6-1997 that the Abolition Act was valid but Section 22(1)(a) of the Abolition Act would operate prospectively and not retrospectively. The concessionaires filed special leave petition against the judgment dated 20-6-1997 before this Court. On 2-3-1998, this Court passed an interim order permitting the concessionaires to carry on mining operations and mining business in the mining areas for which renewal applications have been made on the condition that the lessee pays to the Government dead rent from the date of commencement of the Abolition Act. Subsequently, this Court granted leave in the special leave petition and continued the aforesaid interim order.

***The Justice Shah Commission and its Report***

5. As reports were received from various State Governments of widespread mining of iron ore and manganese ore in contravention of the provisions of the MMDR Act, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other rules and guidelines issued thereunder, the Central Government appointed the Justice Shah Commission under Section 3 of the Commissions of

Inquiry Act, 1952 by Notification dated 22-11-2010. Paras 2 and 3 of the Notification, which are relevant, are extracted hereinbelow:

"2. The terms of reference of the Commission shall be-

(i) to inquire into and determine the nature and extent of mining and trade and transportation, done illegally or without lawful authority, of iron ore and manganese ore, and the losses therefrom; and to identify, as far as possible, the persons, firms, companies and others that are engaged in such mining, trade and transportation of iron ore and manganese ore, done illegally or without lawful authority;

(ii) to inquire into and determine the extent to which the management, regulatory and monitoring systems have failed to deter, prevent, detect and punish offences relating to mining, storage, transportation, trade and export of such ore, done illegally or without lawful authority, and the persons responsible for the same;

(iii) to inquire into the tampering of official records, including records relating to land and boundaries, to facilitate illegal mining and identify, as far as possible, the persons responsible for such tampering; and

(iv) to inquire into the overall impact of such mining, trade transportation and export done illegally or without lawful authority, in terms of destruction of forest wealth, damage

to the environment, prejudice to the livelihood and other rights of tribal people, forest dwellers and other persons in the mined areas, and the financial losses caused to the Central and State Governments.

3. The Commission shall also recommend remedial measures to prevent such mining, trade, transportation and export done illegally or without lawful authority."

6. The Justice Shah Commission visited Goa and issued notices under Section 4 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 calling for information from the authorities concerned and the lessees and submitted its interim report on 15-3-2012 to the Ministry of Mines, Union of India. On 7-9-2012, the Justice Shah Commission Report on Goa was tabled in Parliament along with an Action Taken Report of the Ministry of Mines and on 10-9-2012 the State Government of Goa passed an Order suspending all mining operations in the State of Goa with effect from 11-9-2012. Pursuant to this Order of the State Government, on 11-9-2012 and 12-9-2012 the District Magistrates of the State of Goa banned transportation of iron ore in their respective districts and the Director of Mines and Geology ordered for verification of mineral ore which was already extracted. On 13-9-2012, the Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa issued show-cause notices to 40 mining leases. On 14-9-2012, the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Union of India also directed that all

environmental clearances granted to mines in the State of Goa be kept in abeyance.

7. On the basis of findings in the Report of the Justice Shah Commission on illegal mining in the State of Goa, Goa Foundation has filed Writ Petition (C) No. 435 of 2012 as public interest litigation praying for directions to the Union of India and the State of Goa to take steps for termination of the mining leases of lessees involved in mining in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Mineral Concessions Rules, 1960, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as well as the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Goa Foundation has prayed that a direction be issued to the respondents to prosecute all those who have committed offences under the different laws and are involved in the pilferage of State revenue through illegal mining activities in the State of Goa including the public servants who have aided and abetted the offences. Goa Foundation has also sought for appointment of an independent authority with full powers to take control, supervise and regulate mining operations in the State of Goa and to ensure the implementation of the laws. Besides, the aforesaid main reliefs, Goa Foundation has also prayed for some incidental and consequential reliefs.

8. On 5-10-2012, this Court issued notice in Goa Foundation v. Union of India to the respondents and

directed the Central Empowered Committee (for short "CEC") to submit its report on the writ petition and also directed that till further orders, all mining operations in the leases identified in the report of the Justice Shah Commission and transportation of iron ore and manganese ore from those leases, whether lying at the mine-head or stockyards, shall remain suspended, as recommended in the report of the Justice Shah Commission.

9. Different mining lessees of the State of Goa and the Goa Mining Association also filed writ petitions in the Bombay High Court, Goa Bench for a declaration that the report of the Shah Commission is illegal and for quashing the findings in the Report of the Justice Shah Commission and also for quashing the Order dated 10-9-2012 of the Government of Goa suspending mining operations in the State of Goa and the Order dated 14-9-2012 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, directing that the environmental clearances granted to the mines in the State of Goa be kept in abeyance. These writ petitions have been transferred to this Court for hearing along with the hearing of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 435 of 2012 filed by Goa Foundation.

10. The writ petitions and the transferred cases were heard during September, October and November 2013. On 11-11-2013 an order was passed by this Court directing that the inventory of the excavated mineral lying ores in different mines/stockyards/jetties/ports in the State of Goa made by the Department of Mines and Geology of

the Government of Goa be verified and thereafter the whole of the inventoried mineral ores be sold by e-auction and the sale proceeds (less taxes and royalty) be retained in separate fixed deposits (leasewise) by the State of Goa till the Court delivers the judgment in these matters on the legality of the leases from which the mineral ores were extracted. The Court has also directed that this entire process of verification of the inventory, e-auction and deposit of sale proceeds be monitored by a Monitoring Committee appointed by the Court. By the said order dated 11-11-2013, this Court also constituted an Expert Committee to conduct a macro-EIA study on what should be the ceiling of annual excavation of iron ore from the State of Goa considering its iron ore resources and its carrying capacity, keeping in mind the principles of sustainable development and intergenerational equity and all other relevant factors. On 11-11-2013 the case was also reserved for judgment.”

**16.** Upon considering the submissions, Their Lordships in Goa Foundation-I held thus :

“87. In the result, we declare that:

87.1. The deemed mining leases of the lessees in Goa expired on 22-11-1987 and the maximum of 20 years renewal period of the deemed mining leases in Goa expired on 22-11-2007 and consequently mining by the lessees after 22-11-2007 was illegal and hence the impugned Order dated 10-9-2012 of Government of Goa and the impugned Order dated

14-9-2012 of MoEF, Government of India are not liable to be quashed.

87.2. Dumping of minerals outside the leased area of the mining lessees is not permissible under the MMDR Act and the Rules made thereunder.

87.3. Until the order dated 4-8-2006 of this Court is modified by this Court in IA No. 1000 in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India*, there can be no mining activities within one kilometre from the boundaries of national parks and sanctuaries in Goa.

87.4. By the order dated 4-12-2006 in *Goa Foundation v. Union of India*, this Court has not prohibited mining activities within 10 kilometres' distance from the boundaries of the national parks or wildlife sanctuaries.

87.5. It is for the State Government to decide as a matter of policy in what manner mining leases are to be granted in future but the constitutionality or legality of the decision of the State Government can be examined by the Court in exercise of its power of judicial review."

17. After the declaration and directions in Goa Foundation-I, some controversy arose as the State of Goa granted second renewals to the mining lease holders. It was one of the contention of the petitioners in Goa Foundation-II that the State of Goa was obliged to grant fresh mining leases in accordance with law and not second renewals to the mining lease holders. The observations of Their Lordships in Goa

Foundation-II which also contains reference to the observations in Goa Foundation-I are significant, which read thus :

“1. Rapacious and rampant exploitation of our natural resources is the hallmark of our iron ore mining sector coupled with a total lack of concern for the environment and the health and well-being of the denizens in the vicinity of the mines. The sole motive of mining leaseholders seems to be to make profits (no matter how) and the attitude seems to be that if the rule of law is required to be put on the backburner, so be it. Unfortunately, the State is unable to firmly stop violations of the law and other illegalities, perhaps with a view to maximise revenue, but without appreciating the long- term impact of this indifference. Another excuse generally put forth by the State is that of development, conveniently forgetting that development must be sustainable and equitable development and not otherwise.

2. Effective implementation and in some instances circumvention of the mining and environment related laws is a tragedy in itself. Laxity and sheer apathy to the rule of law gives mining leaseholders a field day, being the primary beneficiaries, with the State being left with some crumbs in the form of royalty. For the State to generate adequate revenue through the mining sector and yet have sustainable and equitable development, the implementation machinery needs a tremendous amount of strengthening while the law enforcement machinery needs strict vigilance.

Unless the two marry, we will continue to be mute witnesses to the plunder of our natural resources and left wondering how to retrieve an irretrievable situation.

3. The Government of India appears to have received information of large-scale illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in different States in contravention of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the MMDR Act); the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other rules and guidelines issued on the subject from time to time.

4. Acting on this information, the Government of India appointed Justice M. B. Shah, a former Judge of this Court as a Commission of Inquiry under Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 by a Notification dated 22-11-2010. The terms of reference of the Commission for the State of Goa were as follows:

"2. The terms of reference of the Commission shall be-

(i) to inquire into and determine the nature and extent of mining and trade and transportation, done illegally or without lawful authority, of iron ore and manganese ore, and the losses therefrom; and to identify, as far as possible, the persons, firms, companies and others that are engaged in such mining, trade and transportation of iron ore and manganese ore, done illegally or without lawful authority;

(ii) to inquire into and determine the extent to which the management, regulatory transportation, trade and export of such

ore, done illegally or without lawful authority, and the persons responsible for the same;

(iii) to inquire into the tampering of official records, including records relating to land and boundaries, to facilitate illegal mining and identify, as far as possible, the persons responsible for such tampering; and

(iv) to inquire into the overall impact of such mining, trade, transportation and export, done illegally or without lawful authority, in terms of destruction of forest wealth, damage to the environment, prejudice to the livelihood and other rights of tribal people, forest dwellers and other persons in the mined areas, and the financial losses caused to the Central and State Governments.

3. The Commission shall also recommend remedial measures to prevent such mining, trade, transportation and export done illegally or without lawful authority."

5. Justice Shah visited Goa and after calling for and receiving information from the authorities concerned as well as the mining leaseholders, he submitted a report on 15-3-2012 and another on 25-4-2012 to the Ministry of Mines in the Government of India. The reports were tabled in Parliament on 7-9-2012 along with an Action-Taken Report and as a result, the Government of Goa passed an order dated 10-9-2012 suspending all mining operations in the State with effect from 11-9-2012. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) of the Government of India acted similarly and kept in abeyance the environmental clearances granted to 139 mines (actually 137 mines - there is some duplication) in the State of Goa by an order dated 14-9-2012.

6. Subsequent to the reports given by Justice Shah, a writ petition was filed by Goa Foundation in this Court being WP (C) No. 435 of 2012. The writ petition was a public interest litigation praying, inter alia, for directions to the Union of India and the State of Goa to take steps to terminate the mining leases where mining was carried out in violation of various statutes.

7. Similarly, several mining leaseholders preferred writ petitions in the Bombay High Court for a declaration that the reports given by Justice Shah are illegal and also for quashing the orders dated 10-9-2012 and 14-9-2012 whereby mining operations were suspended and environmental clearances were kept in abeyance. The writ petitions filed in the High Court were transferred to this Court for hearing along with WP (C) No.435 of 2012.

8. This Court heard all these matters and rendered its decision in Goa Foundation v. Union of India on 21-4-2014. Among other conclusions arrived at, it was held by the Court that all the iron ore and manganese ore leases had expired on 22-11-2007. Consequently, any mining operation carried out by the mining leaseholders after that date was illegal. It was also held that all the mining leaseholders had enjoyed a first deemed renewal of the mining lease and for a second renewal an express order was required to be passed in view of and in terms of Section 8(3) of the MMDR Act. For a second renewal of the mining lease, it was held that the State Government must apply its mind and record reasons for renewal being in the interest of mineral

development and the necessity to renew the mining lease. Any decision taken by the State Government should also be in conformity with the constitutional provisions. The decision taken by the State of Goa to grant a mining lease in a particular manner or to a particular party could be examined by way of judicial review. It was also held that the orders dated 10-9-2012 and 14-9-2012 are not liable to be quashed and that they would continue till decisions are taken to grant fresh leases and fresh environmental clearances for mining projects.” (emphasis supplied)

**18.** The Supreme Court in Goa Foundation-II concluded thus :

“154 - In view of our discussion, we arrive at the following conclusions:

154.1. As a result of the decision, declaration and directions of this Court in Goa Foundation, the State of Goa was obliged to grant fresh mining leases in accordance with law and not second renewals to the mining lease holders.

154.2. The State of Goa was not under any constitutional obligation to grant fresh mining leases through the process of competitive bidding or auction.

154.3. The second renewal of the mining leases granted by the State of Goa was unduly hasty, without taking all relevant material into consideration and ignoring available relevant material and therefore not in the interests of mineral development. The decision was taken only to

augment the revenues of the State which is outside the purview of Section 8(3) of the MMDR Act. The second renewal of the mining leases granted by the State of Goa is liable to be set aside and is quashed.

154.4. The Ministry of Environment and Forest was obliged to grant fresh environmental clearances in respect of fresh grant of mining leases in accordance with law and the decision of this Court in Goa Foundation and not merely lift the abeyance order of 14th September, 2012.

154.5. The decision of the Bombay High Court in Lithoferro v. State of Goa (and batch) (2014 SCC Online Bom 997) giving directions different from those given by this Court in Goa Foundation is set aside.

154.6. 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.

154.7. The State of Goa should take all necessary steps to grant fresh mining leases in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals(Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. 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. The exercise should be completed by the State of Goa and the Ministry of Environment and Forest as early as reasonably practicable.

154.8. The State of Goa will take all necessary steps to ensure that the Special Investigating Team and the Team of Chartered Accountants constituted pursuant to the Goa Grant of Mining Leases Policy, 2014 give their reports at the earliest and the State of Goa should implement the reports at the earliest, unless there are very good reasons for rejecting them.

154.9. The State of Goa will take all necessary steps to expedite recovery of the amounts said to be due from the mining lease holders pursuant to the show cause notices issued to them and pursuant to other reports available with the State of Goa including the report of Special Investigating Team and the Team of Chartered Accountants.

155. The writ petitions and SLPs are disposed of in accordance with the above conclusions and directions.”

**19.** The State of Goa, therefore, now had to proceed with the auction of the ore (‘e-auction ore’), which was already extracted; and secondly, initiate the process of issuing fresh mining leases (allotment of blocks) in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court as per law.

20. What is in issue in this PIL are the problems caused by bulk transport of minerals (iron ore) through mining villages in the mining zone of Goa that have plagued village communities in the past. The petitioner expects the Government to accept their rights to a clean, healthy and pollution free environment as the primary consideration which should guide them while granting transport permissions to the mining companies/transporters of the minerals, rather than the commercial interests of the project proponent/transporters. The grievance is that though statutory provisions are in place to regulate such operations, they are grossly inadequate and worse still poorly implemented. The submission is that poor implementation of norms lead to road deaths, insufferable dust pollution, destruction of roads and water delivery infrastructure, occupation of the road by heavy vehicles from dawn to dusk resulting in the degeneration of quality of life in the villages. It is submitted that with a fresh regime of mining now commencing, it was necessary that the transportation Rules ought to have been comprehensively re-examined especially in the context of findings of the two-year study of environmental impacts of mining done by the Dhanbad Institute of Mines, by the Ministry of Environment. According to the petitioners there is no scientific study of the village routes for sustainable transport before granting the permissions. Thus, it is vehemently urged that the transportation of the ore by means of trucks/tippers will not only disturb the peace and

tranquillity of the villages but seriously affect the safety of the villagers apart from increased pollution which will have an adverse effect on the health of the villagers.

**21.** As indicated earlier, learned Advocate General submitted that so far as village Mayem is concerned, the grievance is worked out as no transportation will be permitted from this village. It is further submitted that there are adequate safeguards in place in the form of rules, notifications, under the EP Act and also SOPs have been issued pursuant to the interim orders passed by this Court providing for adequate safety measures for safeguarding life and property of the villagers apart from addressing environmental concerns expressed.

**22.** We completely agree with learned Counsel for the petitioners, that there is bound to be heavy increase of transportation through the village roads as the materials on record indicate. However, in balancing the conflicting rights, we must bear in mind the observations of the Supreme Court in the matter in **Rajeev Suri vs. Delhi Development Authority & Ors.**(supra). Their Lordships made significant observations for striking a just balance between two competing environmental and development concerns. Paragraph 519 to paragraph 528 reads thus :

“519. Indubitably, environment and development are not sworn enemies of each other. It would be an anomalous approach to consider environment as a hurdle in development and vice versa. The entities like EAC and NGT are created to strike a just balance between two competing interests and a time-tested principle of striking this balance is timely invocation of mitigating environmental measures amidst a development activity. True that mere application of certain mitigating measures may not alleviate environmental concerns in all matters and in some circumstances, the project is simply incomprehensible with the environment. But as long as a legitimate development activity can be carried on in harmony with the idea of environmental protection and preservation including sustainable development, the Courts as well as expert bodies should make their best endeavour to ensure that harmony is upheld and hurdles are minimised by resorting to active mitigating measures.

520. The principle of sustainable development and precautionary principle need to be understood in a proper context. The expression “sustainable development” incorporates a wide meaning within its fold. It contemplates that development ought to be sustainable with the idea of preservation of natural environment for present and future generations. It would not be without significance to note that sustainable development is indeed a principle of development, it posits controlled development. The primary requirement underlying this principle is to ensure that every development work is *sustainable*;

and this requirement of sustainability demands that the first attempt of every agency enforcing environmental rule of law in the country ought to be to alleviate environmental concerns by proper mitigating measures. The future generations have an equal stake in the environment and development. They are as much entitled to a developed society as they are to an environmentally secure society.

521. By the Declaration on the Right to Development, 1986, the United Nations has given express recognition to a right to development. Article 1 of the Declaration defines this right as:

“ i. The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.”

522. The right to development, thus, is intrinsically connected to the preservice of a dignified life. It is not limited to the idea of infrastructural development, rather, it entails human development as the basis of all development. The jurisprudence in environmental matters must acknowledge that there is immense interdependence between the right to development and the right to natural environment.

523. In *International Law and Sustainable Development*, Arjun Sengupta in the chapter “*Implementing the Right to Development* [International Law and Sustainable Development

— *Principles and Practice* (Publisher : Martinus Nijhoff, Edn. 2004) p. 354.] ” notes thus:

“... Two rights are interdependent if the level of enjoyment of one is dependent on the level of enjoyment of the other...”

The concern of the regulatory agencies is to weed out the unsustainable from the development plan and to parallelly ensure that the right to development is not trumping upon any other right. Sengupta further notes:

“... There is an improvement in the right to development only if at least one of the constituent rights improves and no other right deteriorates or is violated, which means the right to development conforms to the principle of the indivisibility of human rights...  
[*International Law and Sustainable Development — Principles and Practice* ”

524. The precautionary principle duly mandates that all agencies of the State, including Courts, must make their best endeavour to ensure that precaution is instilled in the process of development. The very requirement of prior EC is born out of this need for precaution. It is a manifestation of the precautionary principle in India and if development work is carried out in furtherance of prior EC and such EC is not vitiated by illegality, it would be a case of proper adherence with the precautionary principle.

525. In matters of balancing between competing environmental and development concerns, the Court has to be project-specific. In environmental matters, even one fact here or there may have the effect of attributing a totally distinct character to the project and accordingly, the scope of judicial review may vary. This sentiment is best reflected in the following words of Professor Schotland [ D.C. Circuit Judicial

Conference, *Environmental Protection : Law and Policy*, 2nd Edn. (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2007) p. 122.] who proposed ranking of standards of judicial review according to strictness:

“3. ... I have always thought of scope of review as a spectrum, with de novo at one end, with unconstitutionality at the other end, and in between a number of what I will call “mood-points” or degrees of judicial aggressiveness or restraint, such as preponderance of the evidence, clearly erroneous, substantial evidence on the whole record, scintilla of evidence, abuse of discretion and last, right next to or even into unconstitutionality, arbitrary and capricious. And since these are only “mood-points”, there is considerable room within each for difference.”

526. The proper balance of judicial review in environmental matters in a constantly developing society is a matter of great debate across all jurisdictions. In *Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency* [*Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 426 US 941 (1976). Ed. : Cert. denied in *Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 426 US 941 (1976) against *Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 541 F 2d 1 (DC Cir 1976).] , the observations of Wright, J. present a just balance. He observed thus:

“There is no inconsistency between the deferential standard of review and the requirement that the reviewing court involve itself in even the most complex evidentiary matters; rather, the two indicia of arbitrary and capricious review stand in careful balance. The close scrutiny of the evidence is intended to educate the court. It must understand enough about the problem confronting the agency to comprehend the meaning of the evidence relied upon and the evidence discarded; the questions

addressed by the agency and those bypassed; the choices open to the agency and those made. The more technical the case, the more intensive the court's effort to understand the evidence, for without an appropriate understanding of the case before it the court cannot properly perform its appellate function. ...”

527. Wright, J. in *Ethyl Corporation* [*Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 426 US 941 (1976). **Ed.** : Cert. denied in *Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 426 US 941 (1976) against *Ethyl Corpn. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 541 F 2d 1 (DC Cir 1976).] then notes the need for realising the limits of judicial function thus:

*“But the function must be performed with conscientious awareness of its limited nature. The enforced education into the intricacies of the problem before the agency is not designed to enable the court to become a superagency that can supplant the agency's expert decision-maker. To the contrary, the court must give due deference to the agency's ability to rely on its own developed expertise. The immersion in the evidence is designed solely to enable the court to determine whether the agency decision was rational and based on consideration of the relevant factors. It is settled that we must affirm decisions with which we disagree so long as this test is met...”*  
(emphasis supplied)

528. They must always look for a careful balance when two equally relevant interests compete with each other. The task may not be easy, but is the only reasonable recourse. For the proper application of these principles, the first and foremost thing to be kept in mind is the nature of the project. In the present case, the subject project is an independent building and construction project wherein one-time

construction activity is to be carried out. It is not a perpetual or continuous activity like a running industry. It is absolutely incomprehensible to accept that a project of this nature would be unsustainable with the needs and aspirations of future generations. Furthermore, the increase in footprint is not shown to be substantial and the inclusion of new Members of Parliament after the delimitation exercise is anyway going to lead to an inevitable increase in footprint (floating though) that cannot be countenanced as a concern here.”

23. We have therefore to look for a careful balance when two equally relevant interests compete with each other. At this juncture itself, we may refer to the MCA No. 239 of 2024 filed by Vedanta Limited. Shri Janak Dwarkadas submitted that Vedanta Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project for Block – I, Bicholim Mineral Block and Block VII-Cudnem Mineral Block. It is submitted that the EC is granted after following a detailed procedure laid down under the EP Act and the Rules framed thereunder. Our attention is invited to the Notification dated 14.09.2012 published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which provides for requirements of prior environmental clearances for matters falling under category 'A' of the Schedule. Shri Dwarkadas submitted that the Expert Appraisal Committee comprises of domain experts. It is submitted that rigorous conditions are imposed in the EC. It is further submitted that transportation is a mechanism

provided under the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) regime. It is submitted that the EAC comprises of persons who are outstanding environmental policy experts with wide expertise in the relevant development sector. It consists of only professionals and experts fulfilling the qualifying criteria provided by the notification. It is submitted that a detailed procedure is prescribed for appraisal. A procedure is conducted for public hearing. It is thus submitted that before granting EC, it has to pass the muster of the stringent provisions of the EP Act and the Rules framed therein.

24. It is already indicated by us that we are not examining the challenge to the EC hence we refrain from expressing any opinion to the legality or otherwise of the EC. In appropriate proceedings, such challenge can be gone into. We also make it clear that what is being recorded by us are the assurances accepted by Vedanta in the matter of transportation. We may not be understood to mean that we have examined the legality and propriety of the conditions for transport in the EC and the Consent to Operate ('CTO' for short). The challenge to these conditions in the EC and the CTO regarding the transport and the measures incorporated is kept open for consideration in appropriate proceedings before the appropriate forum as and when a proper challenge to the EC as well as the CTO is made.

**25.** Shri Dwarkadas was at pains to point out that Vedanta's consent to operate incorporates all the safeguards necessary to ensure that the competing rights of the villagers regarding their safety and environmental concern are properly balanced with that of the right of the project proponent to carry mining operations pursuant to the valid EC. Shri Dwarkadas submitted that Vedanta's affidavit dated 17.06.2024 provides for measures of safeguards to prevent pollution under CTO. On instructions, Shri Dwarkadas submits that Vedanta shall be strictly complying with all conditions of transportation mentioned at serial nos. 13 to 24 of the CTO.

**26.** The CTO has been granted by the GSPCB under Section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Authorization under Rule 6(i) of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2016, as amended thereafter. In the EC granted to Vedanta Limited, we find that during the site inspection, certain observations were made by the sub-committee. The observations at item 4 and the reply of the project proponent thereon are relevant, reading thus :

“4. The Project Proponent needs to bypass the public road and also to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of the truck so as to reduce the no. of trips. The EAC opined that the Project

Proponent needs to revisit the traffic load by considering the cycle time and waiting time. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for strengthening the road and for converting the unpaved road into concrete road.

The Project Proponent submitted the map showing the transportation route comprising of dedicated road corridor and public road. The total travel distance upto Jetty is 5.48 kms (4.54 km dedicated road and 0.94 km MDR-20 Public Road). Traffic load and effective distance between two trucks are as follows :-

S.No.	Transportation working days	Quantity (In TPA)	Tonnes/Day	Trips per day	Mode of transport
1	237	30,00,000	12658	1205	Road
Total trips per day				1205	

The road width details for various segments are as follows :

Dedicated Road corridor	
3.31 km	1.23 km
12-15 mts wide Road	7 mts wide Road

Further, the Project Proponent submitted the following details :

- i. Capacity of truck is 10.5 tons as per directives of Dept. Of Mines & Geology, Goa.

- ii. Total Handling per day is 12658 tons/day
- iii. Transportation timings are 6.00 a.m. to 7.00 am, 8.00 a.m. to 12.45 pm and 2.00 p,m to 5.45 pm. Therefore, the effective transportation time is 9.30 hrs.
- iv. Per Hour Handling is : 1332 tons/hour
- v. No. of vehicles per Hour (One Way): 127 vehicles
- vi. No. of Vehicles per Hour (to and fro) : 254 vehicles
- vii. The Speed of vehicle is 25 KMPH and the lead distance is 5.48 kms.
- viii. The time taken for 5.48 km is 13.15 mins for each truck and loading time is 1 min, weighment time at both source location is 2 min, Tarpaulin tying and untying time is 2 min, unloading time 1 min and waiting time 10 min.
- ix. Each truck length is 15'.5" (4.58 m)
- x. Distance from truck to truck is 5 m both side – 10 m
- xi. Each vehicle occupies a min. distance of 14.58 m = ~ 15 m
- xii. The length of road is 5.48 Km = 5480
- xiii. No. of vehicle which can travel on this road for one side =  $5480/15=365$ , However we would be plying only 127 trucks hence effective distance between two vehicles is 43 m.

The Project Proponent submitted the following mitigation measures for transportation :

- i. Public road is hot mixed and same will be maintained.
- ii. Dedicated road is proposed to be hot mixed in phased manner.
- iii. Entire Dedicated transportation route is surrounded by thick Green Belt

- iv. Transportation vehicles shall be properly maintained to minimize the exhaust emission.
- v. Regular tests shall be carried out to check exhaust emission and PUC certification of transportation vehicles at prescribed interval.
- vi. Transportation trucks will be loaded with prescribed capacity and covered with tarpaulin before leaving mines premises.
- vii. Overloading of the material will be avoided.
- viii. Regular monitoring of the emission levels.
- ix. Over speeding of Vehicle will not be allowed.
- x. Traffic Marshalls shall be provided for regulating movement of vehicles as well as for safety of persons.
- xi. Training will be given to all drivers about safe driving.
- xii. Regular water sprinkling by means five hired water tanker of 10kL capacity on haul road and loading points will be carried out.
- xiii. Used of fixed dust suppression system on haul roads
- xiv. Installation of two wheel washed system (one each at the exit of the dedicated road and jetty exit respectively).
- xv. Manual and mechanised machines for road sweeping.
- xvi. Washing of mine exit points/Junctions (Mayem, Pilgao and Jetty exit area) after transportation hours/at night with water tanker having pipe arrangements
- xvii. Underpass proposed at Mayem junction to prevent interface with public.”

27. By way of a note submitted at the time of hearing, a summary of major compliances ensured by Vedanta are as under:

CTO CONDITION	COMPLIANCE	STATUS
13	The mining unit shall install online noise monitoring station approved by USEPA, TUV or CPCB, CSR or MCERTs at the transportation route near sarmanas in consultation with the Board and connect the same to the Board server within one month of receipt of this Consent and submit compliance report to the Board.	24 x 7 real time online monitoring station connected with GSPCB has been set-up
14	The mining unit shall install CCTV Camera at exit gate from mine towards the jetty to monitor if the trucks are properly covered with tarpaulin before exit and should	Installed Camera shall give the status of compliance by Trucks to GSPCB

	be connected online to GSPCB, within one month of receipt of this Consent to Operate	
16	The trucks/tippers engaged in transportation of ore shall have with atleast six inches free board after filling the cargo box to avoid spillage	This shall be complied with
17	All trucks/tippers engaged in the transportation of ore shall be covered with tarpaulin and the tarpaulin shall be properly fastened to the cargo box ensure the ore does not get air borne or spill on the road.	
20	The mining unit shall provide wheel washing facility for the ore transport vehicles shall be provided at the	Wheel Washing System already set-up

	exit point of the mine	
23	The mining company should submit details regarding transportation of ore mentioning Source, Destination, Qty., No. Of trips (tipper trucks), Route (names of villages through which transportation takes place), Remarks	This shall be complied with

**28.** Shri Dwarkadas submitted, on instructions, that Vedanta is bound by the aforesaid conditions and the mitigating measures provided for transportation. Furthermore, even the CTO has provided for conditions for transportation mentioned at serial nos. 13 to 24. In the affidavit dated 17.06.2024 filed by Vedanta, it is assured that all the conditions pertaining therein will be strictly adhered to. Statements in the affidavit and the assurances aforementioned are accepted as an undertaking to this Court.

**29.** This Court by an Order dated 22.04.2024, directed the GSPCB to file an affidavit pursuant to the inspection carried out and place a status report on record. So far as Vedanta is concerned, the route applied for permission was NSP-1, Top-NBP Junction-NBP-Matwada Junction-Sarmanas jetty. As directed by DMG, the Board officials inspected the site along with unit representative on 03.05.2024. Following were the recommendations for pollution control safeguard:

**“Recommendations for pollution control safeguard**

- The truck/tippers engaged in transportation of ore shall have sufficient free board after filling the cargo box to avoid spillage.
- All trucks/tippers engaged in the transportation of ore shall be covered with tarpaulin and the tarpaulin shall be properly fastened to the cargo box to ensure the ore does not get air borne or spill on the road.
- In case of break down of loaded trucks/tippers unloading of ore at the road side shall be strictly avoided.
- The roads within mining lease areas shall be sprinkled with water to suppress dust pollution.
- Spillage of ore on the public roads shall be removed immediately on occurrence.
- The mining company should make suitable arrangement for sweeping of roads affected due to transportation of iron ore.
- The mining firm should manage the daily trips in staggered manner in consultation with DMG, so that traffic congestion is avoided at major junctions.
- The Board shall carry out monitoring along the route through the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate

Change approved lab and monitoring charges shall be recovered from the transporters/mining firms as per actual. The Transportation/mining firms shall pay an advances of Rupees Three lakhs towards the monitoring charges.

- The Department of Mines to provide the transportation route for enabling the Board to identify suitable monitoring locations. The Department may also ensure power supply for the monitoring stations.
- Speed of ore carrying trucks should be controlled by online GPS monitoring done by DMG through its authorized agency.
- Road sweeping machines may be jointly/severally developed in hotspot areas/ stretches.
- The shoulders of the mining transport roads may be tarred whenever needed.
- DMG may ensure maintenance of public road in the mining area with respect to repair of potholes/widening of roads whenever necessary.
- The Operator is required to carry out manual wheel washing in order to clean the wheels of the trucks and subdue dust arising out of it whenever wheel washing stations are not installed.
- In case the air quality standards are breached the transport frequency should be reduced and the transporters to be levied polluter pays penalty.

Permission can be granted to above mentioned route.”

**30.** Shri Dwarkadas submitted that the Project Proponent-Vedanta is accepting all these safeguards and assures this Court on instructions that the conditions will be strictly followed and implemented. The learned Advocate General as well as learned Counsel for the implementing agencies assures that the monitoring will be strict and

effective and not an eye wash. We accept these assurances as undertaking to this Court.

**31.** It is submitted by Shri Dwarkadas that in any case the transportation of Vedanta is through a dedicated corridor and not through village roads. The stretch of 0.9 kms though not a part of dedicated corridor is not a village road. Learned Senior Advocate submitted that they are even willing to provide for additional safeguards for this non-village/Major District Road of 0.9 kms by deployment of traffic marshals to avoid congestion and inconvenience to the public at large on arrival of the ferry. Whether to accept these additional safeguards is something which the DMG and transport authorities shall look into and take an informed decision depending on the ground conditions.

**32.** MCA No.1416/2024, is an intervention filed by Shri Shankar Chandrakant Jalmi and others in Vedanta's application. Upon hearing Mr. Frias, learned Counsel for the interveners, we are satisfied that the grievance about the road being illegally constructed through the lands of the interveners cannot be made a subject matter of this PIL Petition as and by way of an intervention application. It is for the Applicant-intervener to resort to appropriate remedies available in law. If any authority is required in support of this view, we may refer to the decision of the Supreme Court in **Saraswati Industrial Syndicate**

**Ltd. vs. Commissioner of Income Tax, Haryana, Rohtak**<sup>7</sup>. In paragraph 12, Their Lordships held that the only purpose of granting an intervention application is to entitle the intervener to address arguments in support of one or the other side. Keeping all contentions open with liberty to avail of appropriate remedies in accordance with law, the intervention application is disposed of.

**33.** Let us now examine the measures and safeguards provided for transportation of 'e-auction ore'. A meeting was convened by DMG along with the Officials of GSPCB, Transport Department, Police Department, Stakeholders, Transporters, Panchayat Representatives on 29.01.2024 at 3.30 p.m. It was decided that the DMG and GSPCB should mutually devise a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for grant of route approvals for transportation of ore through village roads. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for grant of route approvals for transportation of ore through village roads, reads thus :

“1. The transporter will first approach the Directorate of Mines and Geology for approval of the route of transportation. In their application they shall indicate the approximate width of the road and facts about number of houses along the route and availability of alternate route. The Directorate of Mines and Geology will examine the applications and decide upon the route to be allowed for transportation. Upon such approval, the transporter

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<sup>7</sup> (1999) 3 SCC 141

will apply to the GSPCB for setting up monitoring stations on the route. After the GSPCB sets up the stations, the transporter will then apply to the DMG for transit permits, which shall be accordingly decided by DMG.

2. The transporter upon receiving transit permit shall ensure that all conditions of transportation are adhered and complied. All trucks shall be registered with the Department and fitted with GPS.

3. GEL shall continuously monitor Vehicle speed and any Violation (above 40 km/hr) shall entail penalty i.e. Trucks shall be blocked for 3 days and further as per the Order dated 26/04/2016.

4. On the Bhumija Potal GEL through VTS System shall ensure that the total number of trips shall be restricted per Operator on the route to min 20 and maximum 40 per hour.

5. The road congestion shall be monitored by GEL on Bhumija Ore Monitoring System on a real time basis and accordingly trips shall be restricted.

6. Intimation about permitted transport shall be made to SP. North, SP. South and SP Traffic informing them that transporter has to strictly follow the Goa (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Storage and Transportation of Minerals) Rules, 2013, Order of the Directorate of Mines & Geology dated 26/04/2016, check whether the above conditions are followed by the Transporters and monitor the same.

7. The timing of the Ore Transportation along the designated route should be from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm

with a break from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm and then transportation can continue from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm from the source location.

8. GEL should ensure that no trip sheets are generated beyond the prescribed time so that transportation of Ore happens only within the specified time.”

**34.** Apart from the aforesaid, there are in place “The Goa (Prevention of Illegal Mining Storage and Transportation of Minerals) Rules 2013, published in the Official Gazette, of the Government of Goa, dated 17.10.2013. Rule 17 under Chapter V deals with Regulation of Transport and Extraction. The Regulation provides for various stipulations regarding transporting the ore. These Rules shall be scrupulously followed and measures provided effectively monitored. Rule 23 provides for reasonable restrictions on transport reading thus :

“23. Reasonable Restriction on Transport.- The Government shall have power to impose reasonable restrictions, such as, restricting the number of carriers to be permitted for transport of mineral, fixing the maximum number of years for using carriers for mining transport, deciding a cut off date after which the carrier registered with Transport Department shall not be registered for transportation of the mining ore or any other similar restriction that may be necessary to ensure smooth

flow of traffic in the State, to counter congestion on State roads, for public safety, to regulate damage to ecology and environment of the State due to haphazard movement of trucks or vehicles or due to any other mode of transport authorized to carry ore including barges.”

**35.** Our attention is also invited to the instructions containing route safety in the matters concerning transportation on road issued by the DMG on 26.04.2016. The instructions are for strict compliance by the truck owners, machinery owners, leaseholders, traders, end users, etc. These instructions are issued in exercise of powers under the Goa (Prevention of illegal Mining, Storage and Transportation of Minerals) Rules, 2013 and all other powers enabling in this behalf. The instructions are thus :

“INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING ROAD SAFETY  
IN MATTERS CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION  
ON ROAD

Following instructions are issued to all Truck Owners, Machinery Owners, Leaseholders, Traders, Endusers, etc. for strict compliance in exercise of powers under the Goa (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Storage and Transportation of Minerals) Rules, 2013 and all other powers enabling in this behalf:

1. Since Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition No. 435/2012 in order dated 21/04/2014 directed the State Government to strictly enforce the Goa (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Storage and Transportation of Minerals) Rules, 2013, as such in exercise of power under Rule 17(10) of Goa (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Storage and

Transportation of Minerals) Rules, 2013, the speed limit for vehicles used for transportation of minerals is fixed at 40 km/hr.

2. The upper speed limit is applicable to the trucks registered with department irrespective of the facts whether it is involved in transportation of minerals or is driven for any other purpose. The speed limit shall be applicable to all such registered vehicles throughout the State of Goa and throughout the year so that confidence is reposed in the citizen that such vehicles shall not endanger the lives of other commuters on road.

3. The software with the help of VTS device fitted on transportation vehicles shall automatically debar all the trucks found to be exceeding the speed limit for the period mentioned as under:

- (1) 1<sup>st</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 1 day
- (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 3 days
- (3) 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 7 Days
- (4) 4<sup>th</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 10 days
- (5) 5<sup>th</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 15 days
- (6) 6<sup>th</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 30 days
- (7) 7<sup>th</sup> Violation: Debarred upto 60 days
- (8) 8<sup>th</sup> Violation: Debarred upto full season

4. If in exigency situation if the truck exceeds limit beyond 40 km/hr. upto 50 km/hr., it shall not be treated as wilful violation of the speed limit. For this purpose any increase in speed of vehicle above 40 km/hr. up to 60 second at a time shall be presumed to be such exigency and shall not be treated as wilful violation of speed limit.

5. The list of violators shall be displayed on the website in the late evening of the same day or on next day.

6. It shall be the duty of the Leaseholder/Trader/end User, Transportation Contractors etc. not to employ such debarred vehicles' for any activities concerning Major Minerals like using such vehicles for internal movements within lease or jetty or storage points.

7. If the debarred vehicle is used for transportation of the minor minerals like sand, laterite stones, rubbles, murram etc. during when it was debarred, such vehicle may be made liable for exorbitant fines' so also person who employed such vehicles.

8. Since debarring of trucks is done by use of software, the Social Status, Political Status or Economical Status either of the truck owner or driver shall not influence either monitoring or process of debarring trucks.

9. The registration of vehicles with the department is voluntary, as such once registered with the department, the owner and driver of the truck or machinery shall be governed by provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and rules made therein, so also administrative instructions issued by Department from time to time.

10. Irrespective of financial arrangements or other commercial decision with regards to employing of vehicle between Lease Holders, traders and endusers etc. and owner of vehicles or machinery, the department shall take serious note if any attempt by owner of vehicle or through others' to illegal stop the transport. The department reserves the right to take stern action against such person if they are found to have stopped or abated legal transportation in accordance with law which is authorised by this department.

11. The department shall monitor all the vehicles registered with it throughout the year, as such VTS device of all the vehicles registered with department shall be active throughout the year irrespective of the fact whether it is mining season or otherwise.

12. The choice of vehicles to be used for transportation concerning the particular lease holder, traders or end users shall be exclusively left to the choice of lease holders, traders or end users. As such mere registration of vehicle with department shall not give any rights to any of the vehicle owner

to get business of transportation as a matter of right from the department/lease holder, end user etc.

13. The vehicle engaged for one lease hold area/end user shall be expressly barred for undertaking transportation or other allied activities for other lease holder/end user on the same day.

14. The time for transportation of minerals though starts from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. the same may be modified from time to time at different locations' taking into accounts the usage of infrastructure facilities by members of public, so also all school going children etc.

15. To decongest the roads it is hereby ordered that there shall be equal way bridges at loading and unloading points.

16. Proper care shall be taken by the owner and driver of the vehicle to cover the minerals with turpentine etc. so that no wastage of mineral takes place at the same time dust pollution is avoided.

17. The Lease Holders or transportation contractors, end users shall ensure that before vehicles leaves their premises, the tyres of the vehicles are washed properly so that dust pollution on the road due to tyres 'can be avoided.

18. The trucks owners shall ensure that speedometer of vehicles are in good condition so as to enable the driver to control the speed of the vehicle and drive within the speed limit.

19. When any violation shall be noticed, the message of debarring of the truck shall be sent to all the owners/drivers on mobile numbers provided by them to department for over speeding. The duration for which they are debarred shall be intimated by auto generated SMS and when such message is received, it shall be the duty of such owner/driver not to use vehicle for any mining related activity during such period, any wilful defines of such instruction shall be solely attributed to such owner/driver and

employing of such debarred vehicle shall be liable for further grievous action both monetary and otherwise.

20. In case when vehicle registered with the department meets with an accident, it shall be presumed to be at fault and strict action shall be initiated against such vehicle. It shall be the duty of the vehicle owner to prove his innocence.

21. It is hereby clarified that whenever the old vehicles shall be replaced, they shall be replaced with new vehicles of capacity of at least 15 tons.

The above instructions are issued not only for implementation of the Goa (Prevention of illegal Mining, Storage and Transportation of Minerals) Rules, 2013 but also for honouring directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The said action is initiated so that confidence is reposed in the minds of general public that the transportation of ore is not only in compliance with legal requirements but also keeping in mind safety of the general public, which is of paramount importance.

Since actions are initiated by the help of software with electronics monitoring devices there is no scope of human intervention for favouring any person or against any person as such should be taken into right spirit so that necessary corrective majors are taken.

Place: Panaji

sd/-  
(Prasanna A.

Acharya)

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. Director of Mines & Geology

(emphasis supplied)

36. The underlined portion of the instructions is significant. DMG is conscious of the directions of the Supreme Court. It also has in mind safety of the general public. As far as back as in 2016, the need

was felt to use software to do away with the scope for any human intervention. As experts concerned with the safety of citizens, adopting modern technology, upgrading software should be routine. To this end, we expect the DMG and GSPCB to be proactive. The suggestions of learned Counsel for the petitioners which we have dealt with in the later part of this judgment assumes relevance and need to be seriously looked into. As an expert body, we expect the DMG and GSPCB to examine these suggestions and depending on the scientific study enforce them if found useful.

37. In respect of transportation of 'e-auction ore', vide Corrigendum dated 06.06.2023, the DMG has imposed the following restrictions on traffic movement on different transportation routes. Such restrictions read thus:

### **CORRIGENDUM**

#### **Subject: Transportation of Ore**

This Department vide Memorandum No.03/66/2023/Major/Mines/194 dated 05/04/2023 had put restriction on number of trips per hour to avoid traffic congestion on village roads. This restriction stands amended to the extent given below:

The traffic movement on different transportation routes will be monitored by Goa Electronics Limited on real time basis and the number of trips will be staggered between

20 trips to 40 trips per hour depending on the traffic congestion on the roads.

Sd/-

(Dr. S. Shanbhogue)  
Director & Ex-officio Joint Secretary

**38.** Now we come to OM dated 29.10.2014 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, as regards the impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining Projects wherein habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area. The said OM provides thus :

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area- Regarding.

The Ministry has been receiving mining proposals wherein the habitations and villages are part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area.

2. To discuss the impact of mining activities on habitations and to develop a code of practice on these issues, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Nagar, Chairman EAC (Non Coal Mining Sector) on 23.06.2014. After detailed deliberations by the Experts, the following suggestions were made as part of mitigation

measures to avoid adverse impact of mining operations in the case of such habitations/villages:-

- a) The Project Authority shall adopt Best Mining Practice for the given mining conditions. In the mining area, adequate number of check dams, retaining walls/structures, garland drains and settling ponds should be provided to arrest the wash-off with rain water in catchment area.
- b) The natural water bodies and or streams which are flowing in and around the village should not be disturbed. The Water Table should be nurtured so as not to go down below the pre-mining period. In case of any water scarcity in the area, the Project Authorities have to provide water to the villagers for their use. A provision for regular monitoring of water table in open dug well located in village should be incorporated to ascertain the impact of mining over ground water table.
- c) The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. The Project Proponents (PPs) must ensure that the

biological clock of the villagers is not disturbed by orienting the floodlights/masks away from the villages and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day/night hours.

d) The Project Authority shall make necessary alternative arrangements, where required, in consultation with the State Government to provide alternate arrangements for livestock grazing. In this context, Project Authority should implement the directions areas for the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land. The sparse trees on such grazing ground, which provide mid-day shelter from the scorching sun should be scrupulously guarded against felling, lest the cattle abandon the grazing ground or return home by noon.

e) Where ever blasting is undertaken as part of mining activity, the Project Authority shall carry out vibration studies well before approaching any such habitats or other buildings to evaluate the zone of influence and impact of blasting on the neighbourhood. Within 500 meters of such sites vulnerable to blasting vibrations, avoidance of use of explosives and adoption of alternative means of mineral extraction, such as ripper/dozer combination/rock breakers/surface miners etc. should be seriously considered and practiced

wherever practicable. A provision for monitoring of each blast should be made so that the impact of blasting on nearby habitation and dwelling units could be ascertained. The covenant of lease deed under Rule 31 of MCR 1960 provides that no mining operations shall be carried out within 50 meters of public works such as public roads and buildings or inhabited sites except with the prior permission from the Competent Authority.

f) Main haulage road in the mine should be provided with permanent water sprinklers and other roads should be regularly wetted with water tankers fitted with sprinklers. Crusher and material transfer points should invariably be provided with Bag filters and or dry fogging system. Belt- conveyors should be fully covered to avoid air borne dust.

g) The Project Authority shall ensure that the productivity of agricultural crops is not affected due to mining operations. Crop Liability Insurance Policy has to be taken by the PP as a precaution to compensate for any crop loss. The impact zone shall be 5km from the boundary of mine lease area for such insurance policy. In case, several mines are located in a cluster, the Associations of owners of the cluster mines, formed inter-alia, to sub-serve such an

objective, shall take responsibility for securing such Crop Liability Policy.

h) In case any village is located within the mining leasehold which is not likely to be affected due to mining activities during the life of mine, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) should consider the proposal of Environmental Clearance (EC) for reduced mining area. The Mining lease may be executed for the area for which EC is accorded. The mining plan may also be accordingly revised and required stipulations under the MMDR Act, 1957 and MCR, 1960 met.

i) Transportation of the minerals by road passing through the village shall not be allowed. A 'bypass' road should be constructed (say, leaving a gap of at least 200 meters) for the purpose of transportation of the minerals so that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be mitigated. The PP shall bear the cost towards the widening and strengthening of existing public road network in case the same is proposed to be used for the Project. No road movement should be allowed on existing village road network without appropriately increasing the carrying capacity of such roads.

j) Likewise, alteration or re-routing of foot paths, pagdandies, cart roads, and village infrastructure/public utilities or

roads (for purposes of land acquisition for mining) shall be avoided to the extent possible and in case such acquisition is inevitable, alternative arrangements shall be made first and then only the area acquired. In these types of cases, Inspection Reports by site visit by experts may be insisted upon which should be done through reputed Institutes.

k) As CSR activities by Companies including the Mining Establishments has become mandatory up to 2% of their financial turn-over, Socio Economic Development of the neighborhood Habitats could also be planned and executed by the PPs more systematically based on the 'Need based door to door survey' by established Social Institutes/Workers on the lines as required under TOR. "R&R Plan/compensation details for the Project Affected People (PAP) should be furnished. While preparing the R&R Plan, the relevant State/National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy should be kept in view. In respect of SCs/STs and other weaker sections of the society in the study area, a need based sample survey, family-wise, should be undertaken to assess their requirements, and action programmes prepared and submitted accordingly, integrating the sectoral programmes of line departments of the State Government. It may be clearly brought out whether the

village located in the mine lease area will be shifted or not. The issues relating to shifting of Village including their R&R and socio-economic aspects should be discussed in the EIA report."

3. The matter was examined in the Ministry and accordingly, it has been decided that the above mentioned conditions at para-2 (a-k) may be included as a condition of Environmental Clearance letter to mitigate the adverse impact of mining operations in the case of such habitations/villages.

4. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority." (emphasis supplied)

**39.** It is therefore not as if transportation of the ore through village roads is completely prohibited as fairly submitted by the learned Counsel for the petitioner. Moreover, the aforesaid SOPs/measures are put in place to mitigate the adverse impact of mining operations in the case of such habitations/villages. Learned Counsel for the petitioners fairly submitted that the spirit of the OM dated 29.10.2014 is imbibed in the SOPs issued by the authorities from time to time. The safeguards imposed by way of SOPs, instructions, Rules and Regulations before and after filing of the PIL accords with the spirit of the OM dated 29.10.2014. These measures be strictly implemented.

40. Learned Counsel for the petitioners made a fervent plea that the number of trips per hour be reduced and that there should be real time monitoring about the impact of pollution caused as a result of such transport. Learned counsel submitted that so far as transport is concerned, as a result of this Court's intervention, the SOP was evolved jointly by the DMG and the GSPCB. Learned Counsel submitted that the timing of ore transportation should be from 9.00 a.m. instead of 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. as per the SOP condition no.7. It is submitted that time period of 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. is the peak time for people travelling, large number of children going to school, etc. It is submitted that heavy truck movement is dangerous for human safety and it would seriously impede and inconvenience the day to day travel of a large number of people during this period from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. It is then submitted that the total number of trips be restricted to the minimum or less than 20 trucks per hour and not the upper cap of 40 trucks per hour. It is submitted that no technical study has been carried out for the capacity of village roads and the figure proposed in the SOP is an adhoc figure not backed by data. The constant movement of the trucks would be hazardous for the locals. It is requested that the total number of trips ought not to be higher than 20 (load) trips per hour.

41. So far as monitoring of ore transportation operation by GSPCB and DMG is concerned, learned Counsel for the petitioners submitted that the monitoring of ore transportation is proposed to be done under the new regime i.e. installation of monitoring stations along the ore transportation route, readings of air quality taken twice a week and averaged out for 24 hours and results obtained after six days. She submits that the use of 24-hour ambient air quality monitoring data for truck transport of ore is wholly inappropriate since the truck transport does not happen over a 24-hour period as is the case with an industrial unit working three shifts. Thus, while the actual transportation period in which air pollution levels are higher are approximately 8 hours only, these air pollution readings are merged into the readings captured over the period of 24 hours, which results in the air pollution levels being averaged out and almost always being within permissible limits on account of no major activity taking place in the balance 16 hours (i.e. of non transportation). According to learned Counsel, the average pollution level readings are thus deemed to be within the norms (Ambient Air Quality for Residential Areas). Learned Counsel for the petitioners suggested that, (a) the monitoring of air pollution needs to be done daily and exclusively within the ore transportation timings and (b) monitoring should be in the nature of real time, online monitoring, with the equipment linked with the PCB servers and Panchayat. Learned Counsel submitted that at present the

monitoring system neither indicates the true picture of dust pollution levels during ore transportation nor does it enable the Board to respond quickly by reducing the transport or shutting it down temporarily and more focused method is required to achieve proof of air pollution and most importantly, enable the Board to conduct what is actually “point source” monitoring. It is further submitted that while the movement and timing of trucks is already subject to real time monitoring online by the DMG, the measurement of pollution levels (in terms of PM10 and PM2.5) is available only six days after the actual events, due to outdated technology. Learned Counsel submitted that with the outdated system, the chance of policy intervention and quick action being taken against excessive pollution is ruled out.

42. Learned Counsel for the petitioners urged that the need of the hour is to ensure the updation of pollution monitoring technology to keep up with scientific advancements. According to her, Real Time monitoring of air pollution levels will enable the Pollution Control Board to swiftly take action in the event air pollution levels are breached on a particular day. The petitioner wants this Court to recommend to the Board to invest in and use low-cost air quality monitoring for dust pollution in village settlements and crowded roads in the forthcoming season itself, commencing September 2024. It is

submitted that the costs may be recovered from the transporter. It is submitted that the transportation of 'e-auction ore, which is actually never ending process will always be an ongoing phenomenon. Learned Counsel urged that the Board must take a proactive approach while entering a new phase of mining. It is submitted that trials of the new, low-cost electronic sensor-based air quality technologies (also used by Govt. Pollution Control Boards in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and - Karnataka) should be started during the monsoon itself, so that the difference between pure air and polluted air will be obvious, if pollution is generated by this activity. The low-cost systems suggested (or any other sensible equivalent) would enable the person at the monitoring station /P.C.B. officer to immediately shut down the activity or warn the transporter (and connected leaseholder), if the PM standards (100 for PM10 and 60 for PM 2.5) are breached. This according to the learned Counsel would be similar to the real time action that the D.M.G. states it will take if the number of trucks deployed is in violation of the number permitted, or if stipulated speed levels are exceeded. The petitioners have provided details about some of the low cost air quality monitoring device which has been deployed in various cities. Learned Counsel suggested that 'ATMOS' real time Air Quality Monitoring Device, developed by the research team at IIT Kanpur is useful. The features of this device are :

- It enables real time monitoring of PM 1, PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels.
- The average cost per unit is Rs,30,000/-
- It has an inbuilt GPRS module and does not require additional WIFI/network setups.
- Monitoring data is transmitted real time and is accessible on an online dashboard.
- On a full charge, the device can monitor air levels for a period of 8 hours.

43. Pursuant to the orders passed by this Court, we find that the DMG and the GSPCB have suggested measures and put SOPs in place which are mitigating measures. We have no manner of doubt that the GSPCB and DMG will adopt a proactive approach in embracing modern technology which will go a long way in striking a just balance between two competing interests as the time tested principle of striking this balance is primary invocation of mitigating measures amidst such activity. We have no manner of doubt that the suggestions made by the learned Counsel for the petitioners which we find worth considering will be given due weightage. The GSPCB as an expert body should make best possible endeavor to ensure that harmony is upheld and hurdles for the citizens are minimised by resorting to active mitigating measures. The suggestions of the learned Counsel for the petitioners be given serious consideration by

the authorities. It is the primary duty of the expert agencies to ensure a right balance and we expect that a proactive approach be adopted in the best interest of the villagers.

**44.** The DMG and GSPCB to ensure that the measures aforesaid are strictly monitored and implemented in its true letter and spirit. Any violation be dealt with firmly.

**45.** We thus find from the materials that the expert bodies like GSPCB and the DMG have issued the SOPs and imposed necessary safeguards in the transportation of the 'e-auction ore'. It is not possible for us to substitute our opinion for that of the expert body like the GSPCB and DMG. The recommendations and decision of the DMG and GSPCB cannot be undermined in a light manner and due deference must be accorded to expert agencies when the decisions do not attract the taint of legal unjustness/infirmary. We, however, feel the need to record that the mitigating measures must be strictly observed by the project proponent/transport operators in letter and spirit during the transportation of the ore. They shall ensure regular monitoring. Any infraction be dealt with seriously. The suggestions made by the petitioners be given due weightage by the GSPCB and DMG. The GSPCB and the DMG should make every possible endeavour to strike a just balance in the conflict of competing interests by resorting to modern techniques amidst the transportation activity.

46. We find it necessary to direct that a proper study be carried out by preparing a report specific to each route permitted by DMG and GSPCB for transportation of ore through the villages on the basis of carrying capacity of each road. The DMG and GSPCB undoubtedly will have to consider the length of the route, number of houses/hamlets, situated on the route with the study of the population enroute, the details of schools or other such activities that may exist along the route apart from other factors while taking a decision on granting transport permission based on the carrying capacity set down for each route. This will accord with the spirit of the OM issued by the Ministry of Environment. The DMG and GSPCB shall, as far as possible, monitor the trucks on each route on Real Time basis, install CCTV cameras connected to DVR devices at Panchayat Ghars and/or public schools and/or the office of the GSPCB and DMG to enable the DMG/GSPCB and/or Panchayat officials or other designated officials to monitor and observe the movement of trucks carrying such ore along the route.

47. The DMG and GSPCB shall as far as possible install pollution monitoring devices of the nature that may upload information/data to the server of the DMG and GSPCB in Real Time to enable the Departments to monitor the air quality along the designated routes in Real Time and to arrest the movement of trucks, if required to bring air pollution to within permissible norms.

**48.** We reserve the liberty of the petitioners/any of the affected person or in public interest to approach this Court in case of difficulty in the implementation of the aforesaid measures, breach of any conditions or for any other genuine cause concerning the transport activity at any stage when necessary.

**49.** The PIL Writ Petition is disposed of in the above terms. No order as to costs.

**VALMIKI MENEZES, J.**

**M. S. KARNIK, J.**

Letter No. VL/MIN/Block I/23-24/006

Date: 28/08/2023

To,  
Member Secretary,  
Goa State Pollution Control Board  
Near Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opp Saligao Seminary,  
Saligao - Goa - 403511

Subject: Regarding clarification against the Environmental Public Hearing held on 11/08/2023

Madam,

Please find attached herewith the point wise clarification w.r.t the points raised by the speakers. We have also included the responses w.r.t some of the letters which were shared by your good office.

We request you to kindly forward our responses to MoEF &CC and share the copy with us for further necessary online submissions to MoEF &CC from our end .

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully  
For Vedanta Limited



Jagdish Desai  
Head Environment- Sesa Goa  
Authorized Signatory

VEDANTA LIMITED

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CIN: L13209MH1965PLC291394

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**Clarification against the Environmental Public Hearing  
held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023, w.r.t. Block-I, Bicholim Mineral Block**

Sr No	NAME & COMMENTS	RESPONSE	BUDGET
1	<p><b>Deepak Popkar</b> He is the resident of Bicholim. He stated that he stands here on behalf of resident of Bicholim. He stated that dust can cause pollution in villages which affects children and old people, which causes cold and other diseases. He stated that fields, houses get destroyed. Because of this EC should not be granted, He stated that he had filed RTI in Municipality. The agencies were hired to conduct monitoring. The agency if approved then the report is correct or else it is faulty</p>	<p>Various air pollution control activities will be undertaken during the mining operations, details are provided in chapter 10. A sufficient buffer of 50m will be maintained from habitation, Drilling and blasting activities are not proposed and hence there are no chances of damage to houses etc. All the necessary erosion control, monsoon preparedness activities will be carried out to prevent flow of silt outside the mining area. The details of the same are mentioned in chapter 10 of EIA document. The Baseline monitoring is carried out during March to May 2023 by NABET accredited consultants.</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring and Air pollution control measures: 408 Lakhs The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>
2	<p><b>Siddesh Parab, Bicholim</b> He is the resident of Bicholim.</p>	<p>Thank you for the support.</p>	

	<p>He stated that the mine was closed and now reopening.</p> <p>He stated that all the truck owners etc. are thankful that the mine is reopening as they depend on it.</p>		
3	<p><b>Nilesh Dhabolkar, R/o of Mayem</b></p> <p>He strongly objects to the operation of the mine, No EC to be granted to the mine.</p> <p>He stated that he stays 1 km away from the mining lease area.</p> <p>He stated that the houses in the villages are one and half kilometre away from the mine, water bodies are located within the lease area, however it is not shown in the EIA report. EIA report is false and fabricated.</p> <p>He stated that the earlier mining activities have impacted our full village.</p>	<p>There is habitation within the mineral block at Mulgao and Lamgao villages, the same is mentioned in the EIA document. A buffer of minimum 50m. would be maintained form the habitation. The allegations made regarding fabrication of EIA are false and baseless. Details of water bodies are provided in EIA report. The habitations, water bodies, places of worship near the mines will not be affected. The EIA document is prepared by Mineral Engineering Services (accredited by QCI-NABET) and based on the Terms of reference issued by MOEF&amp;CC</p>	
4	<p><b>Bhimakar H. Pal, r/o Bordem, Bicholim</b></p> <p>He stated that he is from Bordem. He is a farmer.</p> <p>His parents were also farmers. He stated the land which is inherited from ancestors is destroyed. Governments Subsidies and funds are provided for farmers. Bordem village is a land of farmers.</p> <p>He requested to conduct a joint survey to see how the land is destroyed.</p>	<p>The speaker has made generalised statement which cannot be ascertained. He has requested the government authorities for inspection. Agriculture development is one of the key aspect of companies CSR. The company will engage with the farmers and with help of state agriculture dept will help the interested farmers to cultivate their fields. A minimum buffer of 50 m. would be maintained towards all the habitations which are located inside the mineral block. Budget will be provided as part of CER towards agriculture development in the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control</p>

	<p>Tractors cannot be used in the fields as the fields are filled with water.</p> <p>He stated that he does not get to see the farmers and cannot see the fields.</p> <p>He stated that there is a Devasthan but it is also submerged in water.</p> <p>He requested the officials to visit the site and see the problems faced by the villagers of Bordem.</p> <p>He stated that as he can see the photo of his father, but he cannot see him in the same way, he can see his fields in Form I and XIV and not his land.</p> <p>He stated that he cannot do any agricultural activity because of mining.</p>		<p>measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>
5	<p><b>Naresh Naik</b></p> <p>He is a resident of Kelbaiwada Mayem.</p> <p>He stated that in ward no.1 and ward no.2 that there are several lakes, Kulagars, springs, water bodies, ponds which are not mentioned in the EIA Report.</p> <p>There are many ponds in the village which are destroyed due to mining, He stated that he was an employee of Sesa and Vedanta and he has proof of it, but he has been retrenched.</p> <p>He sought to know how the company retrenched him when it is still in operation.</p>	<p>A 50m buffer will be maintained from the habitation. The land use of study area is provided in Chapter 3 of EIA. All the necessary environment protective measures would be adopted to safeguard the water bodies from surrounding villages. The speaker (Nagesh Naik) was employee of erst while mine owner i.e., Sesa Mining Corporation limited (SMCL) and was retrenched by SMCL company. The project proponent has provided opportunity to join the work force for all such retrenched employees and many of the employees took benefit of the opportunity and joined the company. State government has auctioned the mine as fresh mineral block and Vedanta ltd is selected as preferred bidder. Total 716 no of employment opportunities would be generated and preference will be given to locals.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>

6	<p><b>Prashant Dhargalkar</b></p> <p>He states that he is supporting mining.</p> <p>He states that Divkar village is totally dependent on the mining company, our all fate is dependent on mining.</p> <p>He states that because we don't have any other source of income.</p> <p>He states that if I am unemployed, how will I take care of my children, their studies and their needs, etc.</p> <p>He further state that Sesa Company has promised many things, it is we people should be united and get it done</p>	Thank you for the support.	
7	<p><b>Pritibha Dhargalkar</b></p> <p>She states that she lives in Bicholim.</p> <p>She states that since 2012 mining is shut/ closed.</p> <p>Many people suffered, due to unemployment and shortage of money, etc.</p> <p>She states that since we don't have income, we cannot put our children for higher studies.</p> <p>So, I am totally supporting the mining wants mining activities to resume as soon as possible and youngsters should get employment</p>	Thank you for the support.	
8	<p><b>Shrikant Dhargalkar</b></p>	Thank you for the support.	

	<p>He states that He is resident of Lamgao, Bicholim.</p> <p>He requested to start the Bicholim block.</p> <p>So, he is totally supporting the mining</p>		
9	<p><b>Sanjay Parab</b></p> <p>He stated that he fully supports the mining activities. He requests the mining company to provide employment to all the nearby villagers.</p>	Thank you for the support., Preference will be given to locals for employment	
10	<p><b>Shailesh Navelkar</b></p> <p>He stated that he fully supports the mining activities as all the people in the villages will get employment.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
11	<p><b>Sanjay Mandrekar , R/o Lamgaon</b></p> <p>He stated that he supports the mining activities.</p> <p>He stated that he is stays right next to the mine lease area and that there are no bad effects of the mine to the water bodies or residential houses.</p> <p>He stated that if the mines start there will be a lot of employment opportunities in the villages as trucks drivers, canteen facilities etc will get employment.</p> <p>He stated that around 1000 people are dependent on mining activities.</p> <p>He requests to start the mine and give employment to all.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
12	<p><b>Kustulo Pal</b></p>		

	<p>He states that he strongly objects to the operations of the mine.</p>	<p>The company will have detailed environmental management plan in place. and will take all the necessary measures to prevent flow of silt outside the mine. The details of EMP are provided in Chapter 10. Company as part of its CSR activities conducts lot of agriculture development programme in association with Agriculture department and any farmer who is interested in cultivating his field will be provided support by the company. Budget for the same will be provided in CER. We would also like to highlight that the person is a retrenched worker by earlier mine owner.</p>	
	<p>He stated that from 2003 a lot of mud has come into his field and destroyed the field</p>		<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>
13	<p><b>Kamlesh Teli Ex Councillor Bicholim</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine.</p> <p>He stated that employment opportunities will be generated, and the truck owners will be benefited</p>	<p>Thank you for the support.</p>	
14	<p><b>Anand Naik</b></p> <p>He stated that he is happy for the commencement of mining.</p> <p>He has requested that mining should be started.</p> <p>He states that if mining has to start some criteria has to be followed. In Karnataka the mines are 25 to 30 km away from the residential area.</p> <p>Mining has to start as it provides employment opportunities</p> <p>He states that he strongly supports to the operations of the <b>mine</b>.</p>	<p>Thank you for the support., Preference will be given to locals for employment. A buffer of 50m will be maintained from habitations. Necessary environment protective measures will be adopted during mining operations.</p>	<p>Budget towards environment management plan: 693 lakhs</p>

	He stated that he was working in the mine and is unemployed now. Hence mining has to start.		
	But he states if the mining starts no temple, no water bodies, no villages should be destroyed.		
	· He stated that that not only the other people but the people living in the area near the mining lease have to be given employment.		
	· He requests the company that if the employers were taken out of the company, they should hold talks with the ex-workers and come to a solution and take them back in the company as employees.		
	· He stated that the company has to start 100% but nothing should be destroyed or affected by the mining operation.		
15	<b>Sandeep Gaokar- not present</b>		
16	<b>Shailesh Gaonkar</b>	Thank you for the support.	
	· He is a resident of Bicholim.		
	· He stated that there is a mine around his house.		
	· He sought to know whether pollution is caused due to mining industry only?		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that that mining company has been taking all the precautions to curb pollution.</li> <li>· He sought to know whether any survey is conducted to know how many people are dependent on mining.</li> <li>· He stated that mining is required in Goa. He supports the project.</li> </ul>		
17	<p><b>Milind Bharve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He supports the project.</li> <li>· He requested to grant the EC as soon as possible.</li> <li>· For the last 10-12 years the people dependent on mining are waiting for it to be started.</li> <li>· He stated that if there are any small issues, they can be sought it up.</li> <li>· People can sit together and support mining and solve the problem.</li> <li>· He stated that the State of Goa should be sustainable where ore is available within the State than why it should be imported.</li> <li>· He stated that there will be social benefits due to the mining.</li> <li>· He stated that the EC should be granted to the project proponent.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
18	<p><b>Sadashiv Falkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Pilgao.</li> <li>· He supports the project.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He requested to grant EC to the project.</li> </ul>		
19	<p><b>Franco Sequeira</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He requested for sustainable mining by proper discussion as it will provide employment to the youth. He supported the project.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
20	<p><b>Sudan Govekar, r/o Lamgaon, councillor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities as soon as possible.</li> <li>· He states that there are 200 truck owners, garage, shop which were depending on mining operation which have been stopped now. However, he requests to save the temples, village boundaries and water bodies and start the operation.</li> <li>· He thanks the CM for taking a led in the start of mine</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support, 50m buffer would be maintained from habitation.	Budget towards environment management plan : 693 lakhs
21	<p><b>Shailendra Natekar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Bicholim.</li> <li>· He supports the project.</li> <li>· He requested to grant EC to the project.</li> <li>· He stated that the workers, villagers and the Government should come together and solve the issues.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
22	<p><b>Dinesh Divekar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mining should start as soon as possible</li> <li>· Mining is shut for 10 years</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Favour of mining as thousand lost their jobs</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mining is backbone of small state like Goa</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· It is required for development</li> </ul>		
23	<p><b>Manuel Fernandes Bicholim</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he and his family are fully dependent on the mine, and he supports the operations of the mine activities.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
24	<p><b>Pradeep Revodkar Mulgao</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that He strongly objects to the operation of the mine.</li> <li>· He states that last 50 years he has seen the people cultivating the fields the Mining operations have destroyed the fields, temples, houses and the water bodies and other plantations in the nearby villages.</li> <li>· He strongly opposes the grant of EC.</li> <li>· He states that this is dictatorship and not democracy.</li> </ul>	All the Necessary environment protective measures will be adopted during mining operations as detailed in Chapter 10. A buffer of minimum 50m will be maintained from the habitation and the fields, houses, temples, water bodies within the habitation will be protected.	The budget for environment management plan is 693 lakhs
25	<p><b>Kashinath Shivram Parab</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Barazan Wado Bicholim.</li> <li>· He stated that his house is located near the mining pit.</li> <li>· He stated that cracks are developed for his house.</li> <li>· His stated that his company was informed about this for the past 12 years.</li> </ul>	There is no drilling and blasting involved in the project. Also, a buffer of 50m would be maintained from the habitation. A proper stake holder engagement and grievance redressal mechanism would be followed in case of any stake holders facing issues due to mining. It is understood that the speaker is in discussion with the erst while company (SMCL)for compensation and till then the monthly house rent is paid by the earlier mining company to him.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that he is going to the company to get compensation.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that the company asked him to submit the Form I &amp; XIV. He stated that he has spent Rs. 50,000/ towards his mutation.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that the slab of his house is leaking.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He requested to company to give a plot whether the company stated that they have taken the loan on that plot, but we will give you compensation however till date no compensation is paid, i have been given the flat in rental bases. I have remained the company to give the payment.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He requested the company to give him tarpaulin, but the company did not give him tarpaulin. He stated that the company gives lots, but they don't get anything.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He requested the Collector, GSPCB to solve the problems of other workers.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that he wants the company to restart only after these problems are resolved.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that his application may be considered.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He had asked for the plot however the company stated that they have taken loan in that plot. Hence the company can't give the plot, but the company stated that they will give compensation even after 13 months no compensation is paid.</li> <li>· He stated that he had asked for simple tarpaulin, but the company didn't give the same.</li> <li>· He stated that the company gave him a rental flat and every time he had to remind the company to pay his rent.</li> </ul>		
26	<p><b>Nikhil Jan Naik</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mining will affect natural water bodies/ springs /lakes</li> </ul>	<p>Necessary environment protective measures will be implemented to safeguard the surrounding areas. A buffer zone of 50 m will be maintained along the habitation. The EIA also addresses the measures taken w.r.t Assnora river. The EIA also comprises of detailed hydrogeology report based on CGWA guidelines which concludes that there won't be any adverse impact of mining on surrounding ground water regime. The water bodies/springs /lakes in surrounding areas will not be affected.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will invite disease-cardiovascular/health issues</li> </ul>	<p>Proper dust control measures will be implemented during the operations of mine. The employees will be provided with necessary PPE's. The details of various air pollution control measures are provided in chapter 10 of EIA. Company will provide budget for health-related facilities in surrounding villages as part of CER. It will maintain medical records of all the people visiting the facility. health camps also will be conducted in the villages.</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring, Air pollution control measures and PPE's: 423 Lakhs</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farms are destroyed by silting</li> <li>Trees which require 10 to 15 years to grow shall be destroyed in 5 mins</li> <li>Possible chances of landslide</li> <li>No geographical study is done by the authorities</li> <li>Buddhist caves, etc like worship places shall be affected.</li> </ul>	<p>The speaker is making generalised statement. The impacts associated with mining are discussed in Chapter 4. All the necessary safeguards will be followed while carrying out the mining operations.</p> <p>Details of land use of the study area is provided in Chapter 3 of EIA.</p> <p>The places of worship like Buddhist caves in Lamgao and other temples within the habitation won't be affected due to mining operations.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>
27	<p><b>Premnath Hoble</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He is a resident of Bicholim.</li> <li>He stated that there are around 1500-2000 locals.</li> <li>Around 40-50 workers are employed out of which some are locals, and some are outsiders.</li> <li>He stated that he wanted the security of his village and not mining.</li> <li>He stated that there are Buddhist caves in Bicholim.</li> </ul>	<p>Preference will be provided to locals w.r.t employment, around 716 no of direct employment opportunities will be available. Habitation/ places of worships etc inside and outside the mineral block will be protected a buffer of 50m will be maintained towards the same. Noise levels will be maintained within the norm's details of Noise level management and control are provided in Chapter 10. Impact on wildlife and measures proposed to prevent any negative impact on wild animals are discussed in EIA. The speaker is referring to retrenchment of the workers executed by earlier mine owner i.e., SMCL. Vedanta Ltd has not retrenched any</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that the village should be protected.</li> <li>· Villagers were not taken into consideration.</li> <li>· Lamgaon is the lease. Plan has to be there.</li> <li>· Lamgao village can be developed through tourisms and through mines.</li> <li>· He stated that who has God faith face problem here.</li> <li>· He stated that if you operate after 10 the animals will come to the village and eat the dogs. There is money but it brings tension.</li> <li>· The area is histories, should we destroy it? We should make it tourist and no mining.</li> <li>· He further stated that his brother is working now he is removed.</li> <li>Village is destroyed.</li> </ul>	employee moreover all the retrenched employees were provided opportunity to join the company's work force.	
28	<b>Ganesh Govekar – Not present</b>		
29	<b>Vasant Gad</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is the resident of Mulgao.</li> <li>· He stated that people are affected and facing problems.</li> <li>· There is limit of their patience.</li> <li>· He stated that Government should consider everything before given EC.</li> </ul>	All the procedure stipulated in the EIA notification is followed. EIA as well as executive summary (Konkani and English) of the EIA was submitted to all the surrounding village panchayats. The habitation within the mineral block at Mulgao and Lamgao will be protected and a buffer of 50m will be maintained towards habitation. Various environment protective measures will be carried out during the mining	The budget for environment management plan is 693 lakhs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When Mulgao Village Panchayat received EIA report in Panchayat, it was kept on table. Sarpanch, Panch did not know anything.</li> </ul>	<p>operations to prevent any negative impact on the habitation, the details of the measures are provided in Chapter 10 of EIA. The water bodies referred by speaker within the mineral block in Mulgao are settling ponds which were constructed by the erst while mining company and was regularly maintained by them. The same will be maintained in future also. The land use details of surrounding villages are provided in Chapter 3. The earlier mine owner i.e. SMCL retrenched the workers, however the project proponent provided opportunity to all the retrenched workers to join the company's work force and many of the retrenched workers who wanted jobs took opportunity of the offer. Locals will be given first preference for employment.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If public did not know about it and then how they will place their grievances. 223 houses, 13 temple, Panchayat building, 2 schools,</li> </ul>		
<p>lakes, ponds in Mulgao are not shown in EIA</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our village will be destroyed.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have written to GSPCB. 30% of area of Mulgao is coming within lease. In my tenure 3 times mining collapsed and Sesa has not given mining support. People were injured.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface right is not given. The mine should be restored back to original. No water in Kulaghar.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If still it goes again in the same way, I am sure the villagers are not supporting mining.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workers are not taken for jobs. All the workers are from Dempo Mining Corporation.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supreme Court Petition was filed; workers went door to door support.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Mulgao Villagers problems are not solved, remove from lease. If we are not satisfied no EC to be granted.</li> </ul>		

30	<p><b>Pandurang Parab</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested GPSCB to restore the earlier damage area by the Sesa Goa and then only grant the EC.</li> </ul>	<p>The allegations on Sesa Goa are false. The project proponent Vedanta Ltd will ensure all the necessary environment protective measures during mining operations. Details are provided in Chapter 10 of EIA and Budget for the EMP is also provided.</p>	<p>The budget for environment management plan is 693 lakhs</p>
31	<p><b>Bhau Gad – Not present</b></p>		
32	<p><b>Gajanan Gaonkar –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He states that he is a resident of Lamgao.</li> <li>Mining has affected fields/forests</li> <li>Dust pollution is caused.</li> <li>Unwanted trees are planted</li> <li>Springs are destroyed</li> <li>Fields in the area are affected and no royalty given. They come as and when they want.</li> <li>Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 is given as compensation which is insufficient</li> <li>Survey should be made of springs/lakes.</li> <li>By sitting in ACs cabins won't give the exact picture.</li> <li>Ignorant about fields and livelihood</li> <li>For 5 years Sesa never turned up, 6<sup>th</sup> year came and said adopting the village</li> <li>No company is ready to give in writing about the give and take terms</li> </ul>	<p>The impacts associated with mining operations are discussed in Chapter 4. Necessary environment protective measures will be carried out during mining operations to prevent air, water, noise pollution. Budget for the EMP is provided in the EIA. Only native plant species (mix of horticulture and forest species (It will be used for plantation in consultation with state forest and agriculture department. Water bodies in the surrounding villages will be protected. The speaker has made general comments. During the course of mining operations, in case of complaints regarding silting of fields, damage to crop due to company operations, the company will take support of state agriculture department or qualified agriculture valuer to determine the damages caused and compensation will be paid accordingly. The company will also scientifically desilt or reclaim the area scientifically.</p>	<p>The budget for environment management plan is 693 lakhs</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· All said verbally and hence goes unfulfilled</li> <li>· Children of the employees go unemployed after their end in service</li> </ul>		
33	<p><b>Prashant Shirodkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Mayem.</li> <li>· He supports the project.</li> <li>· He stated that the mine has been operating for the past 50 years.</li> <li>· He stated that the workers are 40-50 years old.</li> <li>· He stated that decision should be taken considering both sides.</li> <li>· He stated that the workers are jobless.</li> <li>· Further he stated that nobody will support when you are in need.</li> <li>· That the company has given 50% during the past 12 years.</li> <li>· Whereas other companies have taken out people from their jobs.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
34	<p><b>Ramkrishna Kundaikar – Mulgao</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he used to sell brown rice but now because of the mine there is a loss of revenue.</li> </ul>	As part of CSR activities, company carry out agriculture development programmes within its buffer zone. Budget for the same will be provided in CER.	The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that the walls have been collapsed but they have not done anything about it nor have they repaired the same and given.</li> <li>· He states that their ancestors used to live on farming and plantation as there was revenue generated from the same.</li> </ul>		
35	<p><b>Satyavan Chodankar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he is a resident of Mulgao village.</li> <li>· He states that his 20000sq m area was under cultivation and due to mining he is not able to cultivate the same.</li> <li>· He is having a farmhouse in Sy. no. 70/1, his retaining was near his house has collapsed 16 yrs ago 2 times which hasn't been repaired till date.</li> <li>· The company is a liar as they had said they would build a wall of concrete, but nothing has been done till date.</li> <li>· The farmhouse area is 4000sq m in which betel nut plantation and coconut plantation and pepper corn plantation has been destroyed.</li> <li>· 156 m compound wall has been collapsed.</li> <li>· The trenches are not repaired.</li> <li>· 17000sqm paddy field has been destroyed.</li> </ul>	<p>As part of CSR activities, company carry out agriculture development programmes within its buffer zone. The company will engage with the villagers and verify the issue w.r.t retaining wall. In case the request is genuine, the repair work will be executed. It is also understood that the earlier mine owner had desilted the entire affected area in Mulgao in the past however the farmers didn't show any interest in cultivating the same.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Once upon a time he was selling rice for Rs.10 per kg and now the same rice he has to buy Rs.70 per kg.</li> <li>· His house is in the lease area.</li> <li>· When the mine collapsed in 2016, 565 pepper plantations were destroyed.</li> <li>· The company didn't compensate for the same.</li> <li>· He fully opposes for the same.</li> </ul>		
36	<p><b>Prakash Popkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Resident of Lamgaon. Entire village is destroyed.</li> <li>· First do survey and then give lease</li> <li>· I am not opposing mining but because of mining everything will be destroyed</li> <li>· Big machines are being bought by Vedanta</li> <li>· Our village is a agricultural Village</li> <li>· 90% of the Village is farming</li> <li>· First do desilting of farms so that we can cultivate the farm.</li> <li>· Lakes are destroyed, name of lake is also removed by the company</li> <li>· 1984 first revolt was done, and I was sent to jail</li> <li>· I request you to do survey first and then give lease</li> </ul>	<p>The speaker is asking government to survey the habitation and then issue lease. It is to note that the mine was in operation since several decades and state government has auctioned the same lease area as a fresh mineral block. The area of the mine remains the same and the habitation at Lamgao and Mulgao was always part of the mines. Necessary environment protective measures will be carried out during mining operations. a safety buffer of 50m would be maintained towards the habitation. A budget for agriculture development is provided as part of CER, any farmer group who is interested in cultivation can contact the company for the same.</p>	<p>The budget for environment management plan is 693 lakhs</p>

37	<b>Vithal Parab – Not present</b>		
38	<b>Gajanand Mandrekar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is the Deputy Sarpanch of Mulgao.</li> <li>· He stated that when the company was operated by Dempo, villagers had no issue, Vedanta has created lot of issues.</li> <li>· He opposes mining activity by the company.</li> </ul>	The speaker has not raised any specific issues and falsely alleged that Vedanta has created issues. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism.	
39	<b>Madhukar Halarnkar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He Strongly opposes the mine operations.</li> <li>· He states that all the points have been discussed.</li> <li>· He thinks that the company has done a One man show as they have submitted an EIA report without taking the villagers, local people and the farmers and the other committee members into account and have done the demarcation.</li> <li>· He states that the company is a liar as they promised that they will come for discussion in front of a joint meeting with the people of the area, however they didn't turn up for the said meeting of the said day.</li> </ul>	The EIA document is prepared by Mineral Engineering Services (accredited by QCI-NABET) and based on the Terms of reference issued by MOEF&CC. The officials of company had a meeting with the Village Panchayat members who are elected representatives of the community. Regarding the joint meeting, company had communicated to the concerned in advance their inability to attend the said meeting.	
40	<b>Gopal Parab</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He Strongly opposes the mine operations and requests not to grant EC clearance to the mine.</li> </ul>	Necessary environment protective measures will be carried out during mining operations. Water bodies in the surrounding villages will be protected. Preference will be given to locals w.r.t employment. The EIA also comprises of	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that the mining has destroyed the fields and the plantation and the water bodies and the villages in the area.</li> <li>· He states that there is no employment, no land left for cultivation after the mine came into existence.</li> <li>· First there were big fields but now there is no water for the fields and the water table is destroyed completely.</li> </ul>	detailed hydrogeology report based on CGWA guidelines which concludes that there will not be any adverse impact of mining on surrounding ground water regime. Company will provide support to farmers in case they are interested to cultivate their fields. Pit water will be pumped and channelised to the horticulture gardens in Mulgao village.	The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· When the mines collapsed the water bodies were washed into his fields.</li> <li>· He states that the company is a liar, and he says everything is done systematically but nothing is done at all.</li> </ul>		
41	<b>Devidas Govenkar – Not present</b>		
42	<b>Ganpat Parab</b>	Thank you for the support.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He supports the mining project.</li> </ul>		
43	<b>Shaikh Nisar</b>	Preference will be given to locals w.r.t employment. Said Idgah is within lease area and 200m buffer zone will be maintained. The Idgah is maintained by archaeological department. A thick green belt is proposed as a buffer between the mine pit and Idgah.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· One issue pertains to workers of the company.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Company had 10-12 years to ensure that the fields in Mulgao Village are cultivated.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that Muslim community in Bicholim i.e. young generation are not given job opportunities by the company.</li> <li>· Idgah at Gaunkarwada has not been supported by the company.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Company should help poor people of the area.</li> <li>· No financial support is given to the Muslim Wada.</li> </ul>		
44	<p><b>Nilesh Gosavi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities as soon as possible as he states that the mine has generated a lot of employment.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
45	<p><b>Swayam Kamat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Mayem</li> <li>· Farmers presented their grievances</li> <li>· 12 000 sq. meters field is owned by him, inherited from his father, but now he cannot ask his sons to step down into the fields as they are thickly layered with mud soil.</li> <li>· 600 farmers are registered, and he is representing them, and they are affected by this mining.</li> <li>· He said for consultation purpose we are charged by the government, and we have to pay consultation fee.</li> <li>· He says matter is pending in court and on the other hand this project is considered.</li> <li>· Mayem people are fond of Parboiled rice (Uokde Rice) but in the circumstances</li> </ul>	It is understood that Mayem farmers had approached court and as per court directions the earlier mining companies have paid compensation to the farmers. There is no negative impact on agriculture envisaged in Mayem w.r.t the current project.	

	<p>it seems to be not possible for getting the seeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Green Field Project is only in pictures, but colour is brown.</li> <li>· If we want to eat Parboiled rice (Uokde Rice), we should give strength to farmers.</li> <li>· He asked to make the farmers strong and then to look into the project.</li> </ul>		
46	<p><b>Tushar Falari</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start it as soon as possible as he states that the mine has generated a lot of employment.</li> <li>· He states it will provide employment to the truck owners.</li> <li>· There are skilled youth which are waiting for the mines to start as they are unemployed and need employment in the field of mining related area.</li> <li>· When the mining stopped all the students who studied mining related work had to go out of the state inspite of being qualified.</li> <li>· He requests for starting of the mine.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
47	<p><b>Krishna Gadekar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is the President of All India Kissan Sabha Mayem.</li> </ul>	Necessary environment protective measures will be carried out during mining operations to prevent flow of silt outside the mine area. The EIA also comprises of detailed	The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that a large number of people from Mayem depend on agriculture.</li> <li>· He stated that there are four major water bodies in Mayem. All four water bodies are filled with silt on account of mining activities by the company.</li> <li>· He stated that water shortages for agriculture is caused due to this.</li> <li>· ZAO report is submitted that fields in Mayem are damaged due to mining silt.</li> <li>· Company has dragged more than 600 farmers to the Court.</li> <li>· The effect of granting a 50 year lease to the company on local farmers is not being considered by the Authority.</li> <li>· He stated that the Company does not have a rehabilitation plan.</li> <li>· Further, he stated that continuous mining operation will cause huge water shortages.</li> <li>· He strongly opposes grant of EC to the company.</li> </ul>	<p>hydrogeology report which concludes that there won't be any significant impact on ground water in surrounding areas because of the project. As understood, the 600 farmers were paid compensation by the earlier mine owners as per the court order. There is no population to be displaced because of mine hence the rehabilitation plan is not applicable.</p>	<p>preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>
48	<p><b>Chandrashekar Palni</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· I am supporting the Block 1 project and he further stated that mines should start as fast as possible.</li> <li>· The Trucks should be restarted and given back work.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for the support. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism.</p>	

	· The Difficulties of every household should be solved.		
49	<p><b>Rutvik Sanjay Mandrekar</b></p> <p>He stated that the mining has stopped in 2012.</p> <p>He stated that 2.5% mining operational in Goa.</p> <p>He stated that royalty loss to the Government.</p> <p>He stated that he supports the mining.</p> <p>He stated that the lease owner/ mining truck owner/ worker are given jobs through mining,</p> <p>The truck owners are supported by the mining company.</p> <p>The truck owners have not given any compensation during tenure of 2012 till date.</p> <p>He stated that there are profit and losses in the business and start mining in sustainable manner.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
50	<p><b>Narayan Kharade</b></p> <p>EIA report seems to be more of Advertisement /Publication.</p> <p>It was informed consent / objective is defied in a EIA, However it is misinformed that Consent has been provided.</p> <p>He refused to call EIA it is more like Advertisement.</p>	The EIA document is prepared by Mineral Engineering Services (accredited by QCI-NABET) and based on the Terms of reference issued by MOEF&CC	

<p>He referred to Office Memorandum MOEF of dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 , which is related to Impact of Mining Activity on Habitations- Issues related to mining project wherein Habitations and Villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and Villages are surrounded by the mine lease area- Regarding, he further requested authorities for the same.</p>	<p>Necessary environment protective measures will be carried out during mining operations as given in EMP of EIA to prevent air, water, noise pollution. Minimum buffer of 50 meters will be maintained from Habitation. No drilling and Blasting will be carried out as stated in EIA</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>
<p>He found that this Green Field Project is just smeared with new face.</p>	<p>The mine is a fresh grant through auction regime by state govt for which LOI is issued to Vedanta Ltd. As per the MoEF&amp;CC minutes of meeting, in case of LOI grant it is termed as green field.</p>	
<p>If the company does not have re- habitation and resettlement plan than project proponent does not have right to present before public.</p>	<p>There is no population to be displaced because of mine hence the rehabilitation plan is not applicable.</p>	
<p>He blamed new media for making false propagating.</p>		
<p>The productivity of agriculture is affected as certified by agriculture admits compensation has to be given then it moves to collector but in the end nothing happen.</p>		
<p>he pointed out the company as videshi (foreign) it not a swadeshi, the Sesa head office is located in London so we cannot call them as swadeshi company.</p>	<p>These are false statements, Vedanta ltd is an Indian company.</p>	

	<p>As CSR activities by companies including the Mining Establishments has become mandatory up to 20% of their financial turn- over, Socio Economic Development of the neighbourhood . Habitats could also be planned and executed by the PPs more systematically based on the Need based door to door survey by established Social Institutes / workers on the lines as required under TOR. “ R&amp; R Plan / compensation details for the Project Affected People (PAP) should be furnished. While preparing the R&amp;R Plan, the relevant State/ National Rehabilitation &amp; Resettlement Policy should be kept in view.</p>	<p>Socio economic studies have been carried out within scope of TOR. Annual CSR spend of Vedanta Limited is more than 2% (mandatory requirement as per CSR rule) in the previous financial years. There is no displacement involved due to mining therefore the rehabilitation plan is not applicable.</p>	
	<p>2500 Zambia workers represented in UK Court, which judged it as illegal.</p>	<p>Not related to the project</p>	
	<p>He further submitted that he will submit the written submission.</p>		
51	<p><b>Sanjay Gaonkar – Not present</b></p>		
52	<p><b>Rajesh Vaigankar</b></p>	<p>Thank you for the support.</p>	
	<p>Mining should be started as fast as possible</p>		
53	<p><b>Pandu Kundaikar – Not present</b></p>		
54	<p><b>Sandesh Palni – Not present</b></p>		
55	<p><b>Uday Saraf</b></p>	<p>Thank you for the support.</p>	
	<p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start it as soon as possible as he</p>		

	states that the mine has generated a lot of employment.		
56	<p><b>Sitaram Walawalkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am in support of giving EC to this project since we had participated in lot of morcha strike etc to start of this mining in past, so I am confident people will support and Ec will be granted to this project</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
57	<p><b>Udesh Mandrekar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He expressed grief about a child wanting to study further and states it is not possible as father is mining affected.</li> <li>The child in future falls in bad company due to mining bandh.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
58	<b>Nitesh Parab Gaonkar – Not present</b>		
59	<p><b>Sanjay Pawaskar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start it as soon as possible as he states that the mine has generated a lot of employment.</li> <li>He states it will provide employment to the truck owners .</li> <li>He states Discussion has to be held on the problems faced by the people.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support., Company will engage with the local communities as part of its CSR, stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism.	
60	<b>Prajal Gaonkar – Not present</b>		
61	<b>Vishwas Thanekar</b>	Thank you for the support.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Many people are depended on mining because of this I am in support of this project.</li> </ul>		
62	<p><b>Dinesh Naik</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Sankhalim</li> <li>· He starts that mining should be resumed.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
63	<p><b>Ajay Anant Gaonkar He supports the mine.</b></p> <p>He demands modernisation of education, give employment, legal agreements are required to be made between him and the company</p>	Thank you for the support. Education is one of the important focus areas of development under company's CSR and required support would be provided to local schools for its upgradation. Preference will be given to locals in employment	
64	<p><b>Chandra Gaonkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· I have fully support for the mining Block 1 Bicholim project.</li> <li>· He further requested to start project as earlier as possible.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
65	<p><b>Ramchandra Popkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Lamgao.</li> <li>· He states that he is in favour of mining.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
66	<b>Rajesh Parab – Not present</b>		
67	<b>Sandip Sinari – Not present</b>		
68	<p><b>Amit Naik</b></p> <p>He is a resident of Sirsaim.</p> <p>He states that mining dependents for past 23 years. He is in support for mining. He states that he was paid by the Company during its non- operation.</p>	Thank you for the support.	

	He requested that mine should be kept in operation.		
69	<b>Milind T. Pal– Not present</b>		
70	<b>Santosh Devari</b> · He supports the mining project . · He stated that sustainable mining should be carried out in everybody's interest.	Thank you for the support.	
71	<b>Vaibhav Fadte</b> · He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start it as soon as possible as he states that the mine has generated a lot of employment. · He states that the problems faced by the people have to be solved and a sustainable mining has to be done. · A lot of people depend on mining and had taken loans previously and when the mining stopped they faced a lot of problems hence he requests to start the mining operations . · He states to protect the temples, houses and the fields of the villages and solve all the problems they face.	Thank you for the support. Necessary environment protective measures will be carried out during mining operations. As part of its CSR approach and Stakeholders management, stakeholders will be regularly engaged, and grievance redressal mechanism will be followed to address local concerns if any.	The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs
72	<b>Vithal Gawas</b>	Thank you for the support.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· I am supporting Block 1 Bicholim</li> <li>· In 2012 mining was closed for past 10 years we are representing the Government to start Mining.</li> <li>· The efforts which we put to start the mining now got result.</li> <li>· Many people say that sustainable mining, he raised the question what is sustainable mining? I feel sustainable mining means all peoples grievances should company resolved by the company.</li> <li>· So I am fully support to the project.</li> </ul>		
73	<b>Sandeep Sinari – Not present</b>		
74	<p><b>Umesh Kadam - Honda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start the operation as soon as possible as it will provide employment for the people as the people faced a lot of problems when the mining activities were stopped.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
75	<p><b>Lawrence Braganza</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· I am fully support of mining activity at Block 1 Bicholim</li> <li>· Today we have got one step to start mining by way of Public Hearing.</li> <li>· But I am of opinion that company should look into people’s grievances and resolve by the same.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Many people is of opinion that Vedanta company is giving false assures but I am disagreeing with the same.</li> <li>· All grievances should go to our company owner Mr.Amit Agrawal he will definitely help us, since during the covid time he supplied with oxygen, he supported education fields.</li> </ul>		
76	<p><b>Babal Shetgaonkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that he is in full support of the mine.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
77	<p><b>Kashinath Mayenkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· From 2012 Mining was stopped , for 11 years everything was in dark</li> <li>· I am the truck owner and we had seen very difficult time.</li> <li>· So I fully support Block 1 Bicholim Project</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
78	<p><b>Bala Khan Goni</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start the operation as soon as possible as it will provide employment for the people.</p> <p>He represents the Muslim wada and he request to provide employment opportunities to the people of the community as only one person is provided with employment for the time being.</p>	Thank you for the support. Preference will be given to locals in employment	

	<p>He request to construct a way which is the biggest problem faced by the community.</p> <p>He states that he worked for Sesa and dempo but he states that when Sesa took over there was a huge turnover and the employees were benefitted by the same. however, when dempo was operating the mine no benefits were given to the employees.</p>		
79	<p><b>Sanjay Naik</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Company has never had any of its employees.</li> <li>· He is support of the mining company</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
80	<p><b>Pramod Sawant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
81	<p><b>Shivdas Gawade</b></p> <p>I fullysupport Block 1 Bicholim Project, since there is lot of employment issue in the village &amp; EC should be granted.</p> <p>Many problems are faced by us due to closure of mining activities, like many graduate's engineer are unemployed and I feel they should get jobs.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
82	<p><b>Sameer Kurdikar</b></p> <p>He stated that for the upliftment of village, restoration of employment and to get freed from debts.</p> <p>He supports mining.</p>	Thank you for the support.	

83	<p><b>Rajaram Gaonkar</b> - Representative Bicholim Municipal Council</p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities.</p> <p>He was a truck member and had taken a loan and faced problems regarding the repayment of the same due to the closure of the mines.</p> <p>He requests the management to solve the worker problems and to provides business to the truck owners.</p> <p>He states that he has some issues, but he has given a written representation regarding the same which may be considered.</p> <p>He requests that a sustainable mining shall be done.</p>	Thank you for the support. Preference will be given to locals in employment as well as in truck business	
84	<b>Sandesh Sinari – Not present</b>		
85	<p><b>Sameer Teli – Mayem Bicholim</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities.</p> <p>He requests to start the operation as soon as possible as it will provide employment for the people as the people faced a lot of problems when the mining activities were stopped.</p> <p>There are skilled youth which are waiting for the mines to start as they are</p>	Thank you for the support.	

	<p>unemployed and need employment in the field of mining related area.</p> <p>When the mining stopped all the students who studied mining related work had to go out of the state in spite of being qualified.</p> <p>He request for starting of the mine.</p>		
86	<p><b>Subhash Kinalkar</b></p> <p>I am representing Bicholim Truck Owner as an Association Secretary we have seen many people spoken their grievances but no one has spoken about us. That is effected truck owners who has suffered due to the closure activity of the mining.</p> <p>No company has supported us or given any compensation during the closure of the mining activity, it is Manohar Bhai Parrikar who had brought Umbrella Scheme for effected truck owners, 138 cases running in the court against truck owners but no one has taken note of the same.</p> <p>Many times our children ask to complete their wishes but we can not full fill the same because we are in huge loans. Therefore if mines starts we will be very grateful.</p> <p>Now sustainable mining if Hon'ble Supreme Court wants to start why this peoples are opposing for the same .</p>	Thank you for the support.	

	I asked GSPCB to have communication with the Government to relax tax levied on them.		
87	<b>Azad Kadkade</b> He is a resident of Bicholim He stated that he has seen mining from childhood. He stated that the development in the village is solely due to mining. He clarified that the person who claimed that company did not give place has also paid house rent for 10 long years.	Thank you for the support.	
88	<b>Samir Teli – Not present</b>		
89	<b>Premanand Gaonkar – Not present</b>		
90	<b>Vishwajit Chari – Not present</b>		
91	<b>Laximan Gaonkar – Not present</b>		
92	<b>Ladu Mardolkar – Not present</b>		
93	<b>Devanand Parab – Not present</b>		
94	<b>Paresh Ghadi – Not present</b>		
95	<b>Sujay Parrikar</b> He supports the mining operation but he states that the youth have done diploma in mine engineering hence he request to provide employment for the people.	Thank you for the support. Preference will be given to locals in employment	
96	<b>Siddhesh Naik – Not present</b>		
97	<b>Sudhir Kamat – Not present</b>		
98	<b>Vaman Gawas – Not present</b>		
99	<b>Riaz Anwar Baig – Not present</b>		

100	<b>Kashinath Mhato – Not present</b>		
101	<b>Sanjay Sawant – Not present</b>		
102	<b>Tulsidas Chodankar</b> He is a resident of Mayem. He stated that Mayem is a picturesque village. It has lots of orchards and farming activities during mining the farmers undergo lots of difficulties. If ever compensation is sought it has to be only through strikes. Most of the people are directly dependent on mining. The residents should be given first preference with regards to employment. Requisite compensation and other facilities are to be given on time. Mining should be resumed but it should not bring disgrace to the village. He supports mining.	Thank you for the support. Agriculture development is one of the important focus areas of CSR by the company. Based on the needs of the farmers will carry out necessary programmes for crop cultivation. Preference will be given to locals in employment	
103	<b>Dilip Shet – Not present</b>		
104	<b>Vasudev Gaonkar – Not present</b>		
105	<b>Manohar S. Naik – Not present</b>		
106	<b>Rajan Naik – Not present</b>		
107	<b>Atmaram Tilve- Bicholim</b> He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities and requests to start the operation as soon as possible as it will provide employment for	Thank you for the support.	

	the people as the people faced a lot of problems when the mining activities were stopped.		
108	<b>Mahesh Mhambre – Not present</b>		
109	<b>Surekha Suresh Navelkar</b> She states that she is a resident of Pilgao. She states that she has an agricultural land in the proposed mining area. She further states that our agricultural land we want for the future, so she strongly opposes the project	The Block I Bicholim mineral block does not fall in Pilgao village. The company will engage with the farmers in the surrounding areas and support Agriculture development through CER and through government support.	
110	<b>Krupali Kashinath Parab r/o Barazan wada.</b> She states that her house walls got cracks 12 years ago due to mining. She states that she was promised a plot of 300 Sq meters and 120 Sq mtrs house. She states that she was later promised by Mr. Patil and Mr. Joshi that she will be provided with alternate land. She states that they showed her 2 plots at Borda. She states that there was an agreement done w.r.t that land. She states that later Mr. Joseph Coelho came and said that the land is under the loan and we cannot allot the land. So, Mr. Coelho showed another place at Dhab-Dhaba (waterfall).	There is no drilling and blasting involved in the project. Also, a buffer of 50m would be maintained from the habitation. A proper stake holder engagement and grievance redressal mechanism would be followed in case of any stake holders facing issues due to mining. It is understood that the speaker's family is in talks with the earlier mine owner to settle their claims till then the earlier mine owner is paying their monthly house rent.	

	<p>She states that they made false promises for 13 years.</p> <p>She further states that she approached Municipality and met Shri. Santosh Mandrekar and told him her grievances.</p> <p>She further states that she approached Honorable Shri. Chandrakant Shetye, the local MLA.</p> <p>The MLA later called the company and asked them about the situation regarding land allotment.</p> <p>She states that they informed the MLA that it will happen.</p> <p>She further met Honorable Chief Minister and discussed about her grievances.</p> <p>She states that they had made all fake promises that they had sanctioned money but when went to ask, they just ignored us</p> <p>Hence, I strongly oppose the project</p> <p>In 2014 an agreement was done by Mahesh Patil and Upendra Joshi to give my husband Kashinath Parab 300 mts land and 120 mts house in it.</p> <p>And also made an agreement of exchange of deed.</p>		
111	<p><b>Neena B. Salelkar</b></p> <p>She States that she is depended on mining.</p> <p>She wants a mining with proper measures.</p>	<p>Thank you for expressing support for mining. All the necessary measures will be carried out to prevent dust pollution. The details of the same are mentioned in chapter</p>	

	<p>she states that her house is just near the plant and near the mining dump.</p> <p>She states that we are losing our agricultural land due to mining activities.</p> <p>She states that she is facing the dust every second.</p> <p>She states that there are many people employed and many are unemployed in our locality.</p> <p>He states that one of them is her husband, who went on strike for starting of the mines activities.</p> <p>The Government should give us justice</p>	<p>10 of EIA document. A 50m buffer will be maintained from the habitation. All the retrenched workers of earlier mining company were offered employment, and many of the workers took benefit of the offer and joined the work force of the project proponent.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p> <p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures: 408 Lakhs</p>
112	<p><b>Mohini , Pilgao sarpanch</b></p> <p>She stated that the Vedanta company is a liar.</p> <p>She stated because of the mining company there are disputes between workers and family members and I request to all to give us justice.</p> <p>She stated the villages, fields the temples are destroyed in other areas and i don't want the same in my village hence I strongly object to the operation o f the operation of the mine.</p>	<p>The speaker is making false allegations on Vedanta ltd. The company operations will not damage the fields, temples and other areas within habitation. Pilgao village doesn't form part of Mineral block. A ll the retrenched workers of earlier mining company were offered employment, and many of the workers took benefit of the offer and joined the work force of the project proponent.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment: 232 Lakhs</p>

113	<b>Sunaina Halarnkar – r/o Pilgao</b>	Necessary environment protective measures will be adopted during mining and transportation activities. The proposed measures are listed in chapter 10 of EIA.EIA document is prepared in line with TOR given by MOEF&CC	
	She Objects to the operation of the mine		
	She states that the environment is effected due to the operation of the mine		
	There is dust problems , due to transportation and dumping of the Ore		
	She states that the water bodies are destroyed		
She states that a proper survey has to be done with village committee and the final report has to be shown to the village committee		The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs	
114	<b>Priya Dinesh Morajkar</b>	Thank you for the support.	
	She states that she fully supports the mining activities and requests to start the mines activities as soon as possible.		
115	<b>Manasi M. Khautankar – Not present</b>		
116	<b>Sushma S. Sutar</b>	Thank you for the support.	
	Resident of Dhabdaba. She stated that she supports for mining.		
117	<b>Ashwita S. Mandrekar – Not present</b>		
118	<b>Anil Salelkar</b>	The person is referring Leopard as the Tiger. Chapter 3 of EIA mentions presence of schedule I species which includes	
	He states that he is from Pilgaom.		

	<p>He states that few days back that a Tiger entered the village eat dogs in the Mulgao Village as the Tigers don't have a place to stay in the forest area.</p> <p>If this situation remains the same they will start eating the humans.</p> <p>He further requested all to come at the unloading point and see the dust on the houses, almost all the houses are covered with dust, there is no need of painting the houses in that area.</p> <p>He states that when he was deployed to operate pollution control machine .</p> <p>He asked his senior as why all machines are placed in particular direction, on which his senior replied stating that we should not get the black paper</p> <p>We strongly oppose this project till our all grievances like agricultural land and worker issue, etc are not resolved.</p>	<p>Leopard. A detailed wildlife management plan is also prepared and submitted to forest department. All the necessary measures will be carried out to prevent dust pollution as referred in EMP chapter 10 of EIA. The person is not part of monitoring team and the allegations made regarding incorrect monitoring are false and baseless. As part of company's Stakeholders management program, stakeholders will be regularly engaged, and grievance redressal mechanism will be followed to address any local concerns.</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs</p>
119	<b>Mukund S. Prabhugaonkar – Not present</b>		
120	<b>Sudesh Vaigankar – Not present</b>		
121	<b>Adv. Ajay Prabhugaonkar</b>		
	<p>He opposes the Project.</p> <p>The mining was operational since 1941.</p> <p>He stated that the mining was started for production of 1.2 to 3.0 million tons.</p>		

<p>He stated that the loading, screening, dumping activities damage the fields / national habitat.</p>	<p>All the necessary measures will be carried out to prevent pollution as referred in EMP chapter 10 of EIA. Sufficient buffer would be maintained from the habitation.</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>
<p>He is the resident of Pilgao Village.</p>		
<p>He objects to the word Green field used in the EIA report and this project is destroying the Land, fields and other greenery.</p>	<p>The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&amp;CC in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field.</p>	
<p>He stated that the EIA report is bogus and faulty.</p>	<p>The allegation made regarding EIA is false and baseless. The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC. Detailed list of Flora and Fauna is mentioned in Chapter 3 of EIA.</p>	
<p>The EIA report at page no. 148 shows only rats and rabbits. No details of other wildlife animals are mentioned.</p>		
<p>EIA report is not based on ground reality.</p>		
<p>He stated that recently employment was not given on skilled basis, it was given on compensation basis while doing retrenchment they removed everyone. We want a sustainable mining.</p>	<p>Locals will be given preference for jobs on mines based on the skill and educational qualifications.</p>	

	<p>Future of Bicholim Taluka will be decided based on this public hearing. He opposes this public hearing.</p> <p>He requested to scrap the EIA report. The EIA report has to be as per the actual.</p>		
122	<p><b>Hanumant Salelkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Barazan waddo, Bicholim.</li> <li>· He stated that his ancestors land is destroyed by mine.</li> <li>· He stated that plants spread an area of 2.5 kilometres has destroyed the environment. There was a lake within the mine which has been destroyed due to dumping.</li> </ul>	<p>Vedanta Ltd has been awarded the LOI. There is no lake within the working / mining area of the mineral block. There are some settling ponds constructed by the earlier mine owner which are referred by the locals as lake. All the necessary measures will be carried out to prevent pollution as referred in EMP chapter 10 of EIA.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>
123	<p><b>Sakharam A. Pednekar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He States that he is a Chairman of Mayem Biodiversity Board and various other committees.</li> <li>· We had placed all the grievances before Government</li> <li>· Pior an inspection has to be carried out to check upon damage caused by mines and largely</li> <li>· compensation cases are pending till date.</li> <li>· Technically oppose the project</li> <li>· We have carried out study and found.</li> </ul>	<p>The person has asked these questions to the government. As part of the EIA detailed biological assessment was conducted and the list of flora and fauna is listed in chapter 3, which is authenticated by the forest department. As a good practice the company will engage with the local biodiversity committees and take into account the local flora while preparing annual environment management plan when the mining operation starts.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· There are 170 birds species.</li> <li>· Questioned the authority, whether the mining companies have fulfilled the terms and condition of lease.</li> <li>· The one who failed earlier cannot be re-considered for fresh lease. Such units, should be blacked listed</li> <li>· Discussion to be conducted at village level, sustainable plan to be prepared.</li> </ul>		
124	<p><b>Ramesh S. Gawas</b></p> <p>He questioned whether the consultants is present here for the Public Hearing.</p> <p>As per the EIA report they are supposed to remain present for the hearing or else there is no meaning for public hearing as they have to answer the issues raised in the public area.</p> <p>Vedanta Goa was doing copper mining in Zambia, they were thrown out from there for doing illegal mining.</p> <p>what is green field mining project may be explained,</p> <p>Vedanta is de-listed from London stock exchange.</p> <p>SC passed judgment saying that they were carrying carry out illegal mining.</p> <p>From 2011 -2012 100 Crores are due by Vedanta to the government.</p>	<p>The Consultant was present for the public hearing throughout the proceedings. The consultant went on the stage only when the collector invited him when he was required to provide the clarifications.</p> <p>Allegations made against Vedanta are incorrect and further it is Not related to the project.</p> <p>The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field.</p> <p>Incorrect statement. The current project proponent is Vedanta Ltd which was never listed on London stock exchange. The other issues raised are also not related to the project. The Block I Bicholim mineral block was auctioned in terms of Supreme Court directions only.</p>	

	30 lakhs fine levied by SEBI illegal and misleading.		
	He challenged if anyone proves the water from pit is rain water or it is ground water.	The mine pit comprises of both rainwater which is channelised in to the mine pit as well as ground water. Applied for permission of Ground water withdrawal from Goa state water resources department.	The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs
	60 well water went dry as all the ground water is accumulated in the Sirigao pit.	Detailed hydrogeology study is carried out as per CGWA guidelines which is part of EIA report. The water accumulated in pit is not having any impact on surrounding wells.	
	Dr. Mohan Rao prepared siltation reports of mayem lake. As per the report the Mayem lakes is silted due to mining.	Details of Environment management plan is provided in chapter 10 to ensure that there is no water pollution caused to surrounding areas. Proper care will be taken for dump stabilisation as mentioned in the EIA report.	The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs
	1:8.39 ratio flooding of Bicholim River and 140 inches rain fall one can imagine how dangerous it will be.		
	No data given regarding tippers used to match with the production to verify its factuality.	Traffic density study is provided in chapter 4 of EIA.	
	Affected football ground.	This is not related to the project	
	Water Body in front of Shantadurga H/S, Surface study is not in EIA. It originates in the mining lease it meets River Bicholim carrying huge silt and emptying it in Mandovi River.	The same nalla flows and mixes with the Bicholim river and Upstream and downstream of the Bicholim river is collected.	
125	<b>Dilip D. Kudaskar– Not present</b>		
126	<b>Hanuman Gaonkar– Not present</b>		
127	<b>Ashok Karbe</b>	Thank you for the support.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· I am resident of sirsai , and I am mining dependent, mines were closed since 2012 all workers have suffered .</li> <li>· We made request to government to start mining activities and also made many representation to Government to know how mining is important to us.</li> <li>· Supreme Court after 9 years passed judgement to start with sustainable mining, so we should welcome this decision.</li> <li>· I am fully in support of mining project.</li> <li>· In 2009 Sesa Goa has purchased this mine and they got hardly one year to run this mining activity, for 50 years back peoples complaints / grievances , we should not blame/ put the Sesa Goa/ Vedanta.</li> </ul>		
128	<b>Ajay B. Gaonkar – not present</b>		
129	<p><b>Ujwala Uttam Shirodkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· She is resident of Mayem.</li> <li>· She stated that the fields are destroyed by the mining.</li> <li>· She stated that her orchards land is destroyed.</li> <li>· She further stated that the Mayem lake is destroyed due to mining.</li> <li>· She requested fields and orchards lands should be restored.</li> </ul>	<p>The anticipated impacts of the mining operations are dealt in chapter 4 of EIA and the necessary measures/EMP required for control of pollution are provided in EMP chapter 10 of EIA. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism. Mayem lake is not destroyed, in fact it is one of the tourist places and is in very good condition.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· She stated that mining should start by restoring the environment.</li> </ul>		
130	<p><b>Ratan Pednekar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· She is a resident of Mayem.</li> <li>· She stated that money is not given to her for 5 to 7 years. The orchards, fields and water pond are destroyed.</li> <li>· She stated that her husband was working in Dempo.</li> <li>· She requested to look into her money matter. She stated that Mamlatdar has not taken any action.</li> </ul>	The speaker is mentioning about some money matter pending with Mamlatdar. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism.	
131	<p><b>Kanchan Chodankar</b></p> <p>She stated that if farmers believe in sustainable farming than proceed with mining</p> <p>Mayem is affected at large as it is skipped w.r.t. distribution of fertilizer</p> <p>Mining maybe restarted if unemployed youths should be given employment and also our agricultural problems are resolved</p>	Thank you for support, as part of CSR activities, company will carry out agriculture development programmes within its buffer zone. Preference will be given to locals in employment.	
132	<b>Pundalik Pal – not present</b>		
133	<b>Nasir Baig– not present</b>		
134	<p><b>Ganesh Gaonkar</b></p> <p>Resident of Sirgao and is opposing the project</p> <p>Representation are already given by him</p>	The allegation made regarding EIA is false and baseless. The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC. The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&CC in case LOI is issued it is	

<p>report given by mining company is false, pictures shown during presentation are false, no conditions are fulfilled. Data which is shown is manipulated by the mine owners in the report,</p>	<p>termed as Green field. The socio-economic survey was a sample survey wherein data from 25 villages was collected. A detailed study carried out with respect to impact of mine pit on Assonora river and same is annexed to the EIA report as annexure number III which concludes because of the elevation difference, existing environment protective measures inside the mine and the impervious lithology there is no flow of water between mine pit and the river. As per the mining plan backfilling of waste is proposed into the pit near the Assonora river. There are temples and other public utility infrastructure within the habitation however minimum 50m buffer will be maintained from the habitation. As part of CSR activities, company will carry out agriculture development programmes within its buffer zone. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism. Regarding the land rights, the mine has been auctioned as fresh lease and the property rights will be settled once the mining lease is executed.</p>	
<p>Green field project which is declared is wrong</p>		
<p>all five villages are destroyed namely Bicholim, mulgao, Lamgao, shirgao etc. requesting authority to practically come on site and do inspection before granting EC.</p>		
<p>the company person should come to their village and tell from where they collected the data. I am the president of Devastan, no one approached me.</p>		
<p>4 temples come within the vicinity of mining area. Mining people told that the retaining wall will be built by them and taps will be provided but nothing is done.</p>		
<p>After 3 years gap we approached the mine company but they told that no funds are available. I have all the photographs of the collapsed retaining wall. One day the temple wall will come down due to the landslide.</p>		
<p>One mining pit is there near the temple, 50 meters away from the river. No refilling is done in this pit. The depth of river is 3 to 4 meters. The dept of the pit is 25 meters.</p>		

	Because of this pit all agricultural fields are destroyed.		
	Yearly we harvest 2 types of crops. So, in order to harvest		
	2 types of crops the field should be not be dry, but come to april and may month water is there in field and everything is polluted.		The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs
	Company told they will pay.		
	Government told they will pay through DMF, but not done.		
	Area occupied by mining is not their land it is comunidade land		
	Government asked to produce the land ownership documents, but they failed. The company should produce the Form I and XIV, Property is not theirs than they should not be granted lease.		
135	<b>Dinanant Gaonkar,</b>	The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC.	
	He is a President of Tenant Association.		
	He stated that the EIA Report is prepared in an office and not by ground visits.	The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&CC in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism. The speaker also informed that the fields are restored by the mining company. It is also	
	Project is specified as Greenfield in report which is false.		
	Villages have written to the Director of Mines and Geology to exclude Shirigao		

	<p>buildings, Panchayats etc from the mining lease, however the DMG has not replied.</p> <p>The road used for religious procession is destroyed by the Mining company.</p> <p>Old survey record shows existence of road used for religious procession yet company denies its existence.</p> <p>High Court directions to restore fields and only after the High Court Directions fields are restored. This was caused due to Mining company activities.</p> <p>Issues are pending before Mamlatdars Courts.</p> <p>When so many issues are pending, I oppose grant of EC and conduct of Mining operation.</p>	<p>understood that the earlier mining company used to provide access to the villagers to perform religious procession and same will be continued.</p>	
136	<b>Narendra Prabhugaonkar – not present</b>		
137	<b>Santosh Sawant – not present</b>		
138	<b>Devidas Prabhugaonkar – not present</b>		
139	<b>Anil Naik – not present</b>		
140	<p><b>Anand Gad, Advalpal</b></p> <p>He states that his village is not in Block 1 and is in the other unit of Vedanta.</p> <p>The mine was closed due to some accident and then it was restarted by the impact it caused.</p> <p>He states that the Vedanta company is not fit to run the mine.</p>	<p>The speaker is making false allegations on the company. The issues raised by the speaker are with respect to the mines in Advalpal village and not related to the existing project namely Block I Bicholim Mineral Block. The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC.</p>	

	<p>He states that The company has changed so many names and they always lie to the villagers.</p> <p>He states that he has 2 field and the company has put dumps in his field.</p> <p>He questioned why should we not oppose because of some people who are dependents on the mine for their living.</p> <p>There was mining silt which came from the mines and destroyed the nallahs &amp; fields.</p> <p>There was alot of air pollutions when the mines were in previously in operation but the people were very happy when the mines stopped as the air and dust pollution had stopped.</p> <p>He states that the picture of the EIA report is all false and fabricated.</p> <p>He states that He still is fighting the cases his ancestors have filed against the company for his land.</p>		<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p> <p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs</p>
141	<b>Laxmikant Gaonkar – not present</b>		
142	<b>Sharmila Volvoikar Panch member of pilgao</b>	There is no beneficiation plant (washing plant) proposed in the project and hence there will not be any generation of	

	<p>She states that she is not against mining but against the granting of EC to the lease for 2.00 MTPA.</p> <p>She states Dempo was allotted 1.3MTPA EC was granted for beneficiation plant to the mining company</p> <p>A tailing pond was constructed but still waste enters in the agricultural fields causing destruction to the fields and other land.</p> <p>There is contamination of water and 60 Hectares of agricultural field was destroyed due to mining chemicals. If the capacity is increased more 1.3. siltation will increase in agriculture land and will destroy the fertile land.</p> <p>She strongly objects for the mine.</p> <p>The company needs to employ the 35 nos of employees which were removed.</p>	<p>tailings. The anticipated impacts of the mining operations are dealt in chapter 4 of EIA and the necessary measures/EMP required for control of pollution are provided in EMP chapter 10 of EIA. There are no chemicals used in mining as mentioned by the speaker. Preference will be given to locals in employment. Offer to join the workforce was provided to all the workers who were retrenched by the earlier mine owner. many of them took benefit of the offer and joined the company work force.</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>
143	<b>Ibrahim Shaikh – not present</b>		
144	<b>Glen – not present</b>		
145	<p><b>Prakash Parab- Pilgao</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities as soon as possible as he states that the mine has generated a lot of employment.</p>	<p>Thank you for the support.</p>	
146	<b>Dr. Govind Parab – not present</b>	<p>Thank you for the support.</p>	

147	<p><b>Raghuvir K. Karbotkar</b></p> <p>He is a resident of Lamgao.</p> <p>His residence is located within 2 Km from the mining area.</p> <p>He stated that the destruction which has taken place should be rectified.</p> <p>He supports the sustainable mining.</p>		
148	<p><b>Sebastiao A. Rodrigues</b></p> <p>He sought clarification from the project proponent</p> <p>He observed that application for EIA was 16/03/2023</p> <p>Baseline data collected</p> <p>project proponent stated baseline study carried out pre- monsoon which was locked down period of covid and such wrong dates are mentioned</p> <p>fresh baseline data has to be created</p> <p>fresh PH should be carried out</p> <p>The Project is referred as Green Field which is wrong</p> <p>He questioned so as to how Dempo Mining Corporation got changed to Sesa Mining Corporation, if so done all the prior liabilities should be transferred to the later company.</p> <p>He states that Bicholim is a flood prone area</p>	<p>The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC. The baseline study was conducted during March to May 2023 for preparation of this EIA. The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&amp;CC in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field. All the necessary precautions will be carried out during monsoon to manage the storm water. Details are provided in Chapter 10 of EIA</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>

	<p>He states that 2 scientific studies are done in bicholim river pollution by Rane and Matha of marine science department of goa. North goa disaster management Plan pertaining to mining lease of the project proponent.</p> <p>The collector requested copies of these two studies. Both studies were shared on whats app no.9921876712.</p>		
149	<p><b>Abhijeet Prabhudessai</b></p> <p>He stated that it has been 80 years since lease is granted to this mine</p> <p>He stated that the grievances put forth by farmers states that they are not benefited by mining.</p> <p>He states that the situation of everyone ie. Farmers, Fisherman, workers etc is helpless.</p> <p>He sought to know during the time the mines were not in operation why the loans of the workers were not forgiven if the government was really concerned.</p> <p>He pointed out that the major violations in todays public hearing is that the Consultant is not present for the hearing. Hence there is no point in seeking clarification.</p> <p>Dr. Mohan, representative of GSPCB, clarified that the consultant will be available to answer the concerns.</p>	<p>The speaker has made false statements. State government has auctioned the mine as fresh lease, Vedanta limited was declared as a preferred bidder and LOI is issued by the government. The consultant mineral engineering services was present throughout the PH, however he came on the stage only when the collector called him to clarify certain points. The distance between the Mineral Block and Dr. Salim Ali Wildlife Sanctuary is 10.553 Kms. The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&amp;CC in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field. EIA does not mention desert in any of the chapters. Details of flora and fauna is provided in chapter 3. Details of environment settings are provided in chapter 2 wherein Asnora creek and mangroves are mentioned. The influence of creek water is also seen in the surface water quality in buffer zone mentioned in chapter 3.</p>	

He stated that Dr. Salim Ali Wildlife Sanctuary is within range of 10 Kms.		
The report seems to be fraud		
Fresh lease is clubbed within earlier 5 years and termed as Block-I.		
He requested that the houses coming under the mining lease be skipped out.		
He stated that in the name of Greenfield project, the people are deceived.		
He stated that the EIA report falsely points out that area as desert and in future this will give the wrong notion that it was barren.		
Before the commencement of mining, everything in the village should be recorded . if not, people will have to leave their homes.		
Things are hidden in EIA. Back waters are to be covered in the EIA report.		
He referred to Dr. Mohan Girap's report on Mayem Lake which clearly points out to the entry of Manganese ore.		
He sought to know the future of the forth coming generation as they have more right on these mining areas.		
He pointed out that 30% of the mining ore which belongs to future generation has been already extracted.		

	<p>He requested common man to be involved in the study.</p> <p>He stated that there is no mention of flora /fauna and hydrological life in the EIA Report.</p> <p>In view of above, he stated that the project has to be rejected.</p>		
150	<p><b>Manoj Parab</b></p> <p>EIA report submitted is a false report and joke on Goans.</p> <p>The EIA report contains a chapter on chemical analysis of ore. The report does not mention analysis of 35% of ore sample. This 35% will include heavy metals and rare elements.</p> <p>The EIA report is being hidden from Goans.</p> <p>Goa has gold in its ore and mud. This is not mentioned in the EIA report.</p> <p>Dr. Nandakumar Kamat has done a research on this and submitted a paper on this to Chief Minister and Mining Minister.</p> <p>Vedanta seeks to export this gold to China.</p> <p>Research paper of Dr. kamat states that 6-8 kilo of one ton of ore will be gold.</p> <p>EC states 3 MT of ore will be excavated from mines and as such 20- 24 thousand of kilos of gold amounting to 10,000 crores worth of gold will be excavated by the company.</p>	<p>The speaker has made baseless and general remarks. The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC. The project is for mining of iron ore. Preference for employment will be given to the locals. Locals will be involved for the transportation of ore from mines to the jetty by using their 10.5 T capacity tipper trucks. The higher capacity trucks mentioned by the speaker are the company owned heavy earth moving machinery which will be used inside the mines. The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&amp;CC in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field.</p>	

<p>Why is Goa's gold sold to China and benefit not given to Goans.</p>		
<p>Research papers of Dr. kamat regarding gold in Goan soil should be refered to.</p>		
<p>He demands that a sample of ore should be analyse to prove evidence of gold.</p>		
<p>He states that mining is required .</p>		
<p>Government should made it compulsory for the mining company to give jobs for locals.</p>		
<p>Company is using only 20 ton trucks, Volvo trucks. Locals do not have these trucks. Transport contracts will not be given to locals.</p>		
<p>Government is dividing locals for and against mining.</p>		
<p>He states that he has worked at a mining company of Vedanta at Codli and it has done huge frauds.</p>		
<p>He states that 10,000 crores to be earned by the company should be informed to the Goans, but illegal mining is not wanted.</p>		
<p>Huge loss is being caused to the state due to loss of royalty on gold as ore being excavated.</p>		
<p>5 villages in mining lease area have unemployed youths. Human resource mapping is not done by the company in the EIA reports.</p>		

	<p>Details of jobs to be given to locals is not done. In Mopa, locals have been cheated of jobs by the locals.</p> <p>In an LAQ government has stated that mining company will only give preference to Goans in jobs in mining companies. It is not a compulsion.</p> <p>EIA report does not have a social impact study. He states that company has wrongly submitted that the project is Greenfield. It should have been verified before conducting the hearing.</p> <p>He states that the EIA report should be redone and environment and locals of Goa should be saved.</p>		
151	<b>Jayesh Walawalkar - not present</b>		
152	<p><b>Pandu Pilgoankar</b></p> <p>He supports the mining company</p>	Thank you for the support.	
153	<b>Nilesh Karbotkar - not present</b>		
154	<p><b>Kishor Ishwar Lokre</b></p> <p>He stated that the Government has removed notification that it is a Green Field Project .</p> <p>He stated that mining is operating from 1941 this is not a green project. And should be taken back.</p> <p>The EIA report is false. The agency has not come on the site and the 3 seasons are not taken into account while preparing the EIA</p>	The state govt has auctioned mine as a fresh lease and as per minutes of meeting of MoEF&CC in case LOI is issued it is termed as Green field. The EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC.	

	<p>report peoples problems are not taken into account the authorities have considered this false report and conducted this public Hearing .</p> <p>If now there are problems for the villages then after 50 years what will be the situation.</p> <p>He requested the collector to tell the MoEF that the EIA the report itself is false . he stated that he was working in the mine once.</p> <p>He states that it is not a green project and he strongly objects to the operation of the mine. Fresh EIA report has to be prepared after considering 3 seasons data.</p> <p>It is not green project and prepare EIA report is false.</p>		
155	<p><b>. Manohar Shirodkar R/o Lamgao</b></p> <p>The Mining had started from the time of the Portuguese and going on for last 60 years.</p> <p>There are good and bad effects of the mining unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· It has reached the residential area and still why more 50 years are given to the mine, Unit to excavate the area.</li> <li>· The company if given 30 years of excavation then the mine will reach the field are the humble request to the GSPCB</li> </ul>	<p>State government has freshly auctioned the mine as new mine, Vedanta limited was declared as a preferred bidder and LOI is issued by the government. A buffer of 50m will be maintained from habitations. EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC. The Buddhist caves are located in the habitation within the mineral block in Lamgao village. These caves are not notified monuments and hence were not specifically mentioned in the draft EIA. However, the same will be included in the final EIA. As mentioned above, a buffer of 50m will be maintained from habitations and the distance from the ultimate pit limit and the caves is around 300m. Preference will be provided to</p>	

	<p>that before issuing the EC, carry out site visit and survey along with the mining dept, local villagers, committee, GSPCB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that the EIA report is false.</li> <li>· He states that the picture shown is one sided that CSR activities will be taken up by the company but will they executes their promise and who will monitor the issues.</li> <li>· He stated that There are Buddhist caves and tourists spot are shown the mining area and this issue has to be taken.</li> <li>· We are not against the mining operation but has to be done in sustainable manner.</li> <li>· The Union workers were having problems with the company.</li> <li>· The temples, the tourist spots and the Buddhist caves are shown in the mining area, the same will be destroyed if the mines are given to operate</li> <li>· We want mining but not at the cost of destruction of our houses, water bodies, fields etc.</li> <li>· The CM can solve all our problems if he takes the issue personally.</li> </ul>	<p>locals w.r.t employment. Necessary environment protective measures will be adopted during mining operations. Company carries out CSR activities in the buffer zone of its area of operations. The focus would be on agriculture, healthcare, education, alternative livelihood, sports, women empowerment.</p>	
			<p>The budget for environment management plan is 693 lakhs</p>
156	<b>Vinayak Samant - not present</b>		
157	<b>Arun Naik</b>	EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC.	The budget for environment
	· Resident of Lamgaon.	The anticipated impacts of the mining operations are dealt in	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that the mine has been existing for a long period.</li> <li>· He stated that the previous experiences showed that environment are effected due to mining. The report submitted by the Project Proponent is one sided.</li> <li>· He requested for a detailed survey to be conducted along with the villagers and also by taking in account of previous experiences.</li> <li>· He stated that mining company has never given justice.</li> <li>· They have never fulfilled their promises.</li> <li>· Mining lease should be given for 30 years , he sought to know why this mining project was granted 50 years of lease.</li> <li>· He sought to know whether this lease is revocable, if not the clause should be added in the lease.</li> <li>· He sought to know whether the report are done considering the period when the mine was in operation or for the last 12 years.</li> </ul>	<p>chapter 4 of EIA and the necessary measures/EMP required for control of pollution are provided in EMP chapter 10 of EIA. Baseline study is for the period of March to May 2023.</p>	<p>management plan is 693 lakhs</p>
158	<p><b>Navin Jan Naik</b> He is a resident of Lamgaon. He stated that he oppose the project.</p>	<p>A buffer of minimum 50m will be maintained from habitations. The anticipated impacts of the mining operations are dealt in</p>	<p>The budget for environment</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He stated that the area marked for mining is below 500 meters.</li> <li>· He stated that area which is marked is close to Lamgao and can cause damage to Environment, health safety of locals.</li> <li>· He stated that the mine has an adverse effect on health and our fields.</li> <li>· He stated that the EIA is one-sided mining has destroyed ecosystem.</li> </ul>	Chapter 4 of EIA and the necessary measures/EMP required for control of pollution are provided in EMP Chapter 10 of EIA. EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC.	management plan is 693 lakhs.
159	<p><b>Gajanan Karbotkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is a resident of Mayem.</li> <li>· He stated that he is in full support of this project.</li> <li>· He requested the Goa State Pollution Control Board to grant the Environmental Clearance.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
160	<p><b>Sagun Gad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He requested to start the Mining block.</li> <li>· So he is totally supporting the mining activity to start.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
161	<p><b>Mansi Kauthankar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· She is a Panch member of Mulgao.</li> <li>· She stated that she opposes the project.</li> <li>· She stated that the EIA is given to Village Panchayat.</li> <li>· She stated that the report is not explained to the people.</li> </ul>	All the steps prescribed in the EIA notification with respect to public consultation are followed. The EIA and executive summary of the report was submitted to all the surrounding Panchayats and Municipal Councils. A buffer of minimum 50m will be maintained from habitations. The mines management had meeting with the panchayat members who are the elected representatives of the community.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Temples, fields which will be destroyed should be checked.</li> <li>· The company was called for a joint meeting in the Panchayat but they sought for police protection.</li> <li>· She stated that the people questioned them during the gram sabha .</li> <li>· She stated that the government should think about the welfare of the people.</li> <li>· She stated that the job is required, food is required but not of the cost of their lives.</li> </ul>		
162	<p><b>Anil Nagvenkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he is from Bicholim.</li> <li>· He states that he is very grateful to Chief Minister and MLA for starting of mining activity.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
163	<p><b>Ajay Shetkar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he is a resident of Mayem Village.</li> <li>· He states that his main grief is about unemployment, if mining is started than our main problem will be resolved.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
164	<b>Suresh Kudaskar-Not Present</b>		
165	<p><b>Vivek Kudaskar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He is a resident of Mayem.</li> <li>He supports the project.</li> <li>He requested to grant EC to the project .</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
166	<b>Mohan Parab</b>	Thank you for the support.	

	<p>He states that he requests the Government to start the company as soon as possible.</p> <p>He strongly supports the project.</p>		
167	<p><b>Satish Sutar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports to the operations of the mine.</li> <li>· He stated that employment opportunities will be generated and the truck owners will be benefited.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
168	<p><b>Govind Ghatwal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he is a resident of Shirgao.</li> <li>· He supports the company.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
169	<p><b>Shankar Rawale</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine as soon as possible.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
170	<p><b>Swapnesh Sheldekar</b></p> <p>He states that he is placing objection on granting of EC to M/s Vedanta Ltd for starting of Block I Bicholim Mineral Block, He is a resident of Mulgao Village and the Chairman of Biodiversity from his Village.</p> <p>He states that the EIA report is prepared without consultation or taking local knowledge of the people into consideration.</p> <p>He states that no one has approached their village to collect the baseline data.</p>	EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC. baseline study was conducted during March to May 2023, details are provided in the Chapter 3. Prominent and famous temple like Lairai Devi temple, notified archaeological monuments like Namujgah are mentioned in the EIA. There are several other religious places of worships within the habitation located in mineral block, minimum buffer of 50m will be maintained. The speaker has made false allegations w.r.t the EIA report.	

	<p>He states that the data collected is inaccurate, unreliable.</p> <p>He states that no authority is aware of any person visiting the village for collection of the data.</p> <p>Data collected from buffer zone .</p> <p>The data provided in the EIA report is nor accurate and appears to be fabricated.</p> <p>False data is given in the report .</p> <p>Temples, caves. Lakes etc does not find mentioned in the EIA report.</p> <p>Entire study to be redone after taking into consideration biodiversity committees and local bodies and then conduct public hearing.</p>		
171	<p><b>Vinod Naik - Pirna</b></p> <p>· He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine as soon as possible.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
172	<p><b>Shrikant Karbotkar</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities.</p> <p>He requests to start a sustainable mine without hurting the sentiments of the villagers.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
173	<p><b>Prashant Kinalkar - Mayem</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities.</p> <p>He states that he has his vehicles in the area. ‘</p>	Thank you for the support.	

	He request company should take into the confidence all the truck owners and other people who they used to provide benefits monetary and others into confident and start the mining operation as soon as possible.		
174	<b>Prakash Naik – not present</b>		
175	<p><b>Navnath Jannaik</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He is the resident of Lamgao</li> <li>· Production of supari has decreased due to mining .</li> <li>· the cost of fertilizers is more than the input they get from the produce</li> </ul>	Agriculture development is one of the key aspects of company's CSR. The company will engage with the farmers and with help of state agriculture dept will help the interested farmers in crop development	
176	<p><b>Sumit Talawnekar - Mayem</b></p> <p>He states that he strongly supports the operations of the mine activities as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· He states that he is a Truck owner and his land is next to the mine lease area.</li> <li>· He states that he is unemployment and no one came to his aid when the mines were shut down.</li> </ul>	Thank you for the support.	
177	<b>Khemlo Sawant – Not Present</b>		
178	<p><b>Pravir Prabhakar Fadte</b></p> <p>He states that he has inwarded Goa Foundations' application in Collector office yesterday on 10-08-2023.</p>	EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC. it is true that this particular mineral block was earlier operated by Sesa mining Corporation ltd (formerly known as Dempo mining corporation Ltd). Pursuant to Supreme Court	

	<p>The necessary environmental information and data which are required to be produced in response to the TOR are missing from the draft EIA document. The suppression of necessary information has been achieved by claiming that the Mining Block is a “Greenfield project” . Such a characterization of what is clearly accepted. The Mining Block has been operated from inception as a series of five leases (TC 11- 15/1941) neighbouring each other in a straight line, and thereafter, amalgamated lease is the relabelled “I-Bicholim” and has the same boundaries.</p>	<p>judgement in Goa Foundation 2 dated 07.02.2018, all the mining leases granted by the state government were cancelled. Thereafter, State Government in terms of the said order and as per the provisions of MMDR Act put this block for auction as a fresh lease/ grant. Vedanta Ltd was selected as the preferred bidder in the said auction for Block I Bicholim mineral block and accordingly LOI was issued to Vedanta Ltd. As per the MoEF&amp;CC EAC minutes of meeting, in case of LOI grant it is classified as green field and hence in the EIA it has been mentioned as green field. There is no hiding of facts as alleged by the speaker/ goa foundation, as the earlier pits can be seen in the surface plan which is provided as plate no 5 of EIA.</p>	
	<p>These 5 leases before and after amalgamation have been in operation since 1941, and have been operated by a variety of actors, including Dempo Mining Corporation and Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd. SMC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vedanta Ltd., which is now assigned this mineral block. The production data of the 5 leases, from 1941 to 2012, is available in public domain. The leases were also operated between 2015 and 2018 by SMC /Vedanta. In normal and legal terminology, such a mine site could never been cauterised as a Greenfield project for the purpose of obtaining Environmental Clearance.</p>	<p>The EIA also comprises of detailed hydrogeology report based on CGWA guidelines which concludes that there won't be any adverse impact of mining on surrounding ground water regime.</p>	

<p>The important thing to emphasis here is that the wilful characterisation of the project site as a “Greenfield” project has been relied upon to withhold data and the past record of this project proponent (PP) required to be made part of the draft EIA and to the public. This includes the environmental data collected since the lease started operation in 1941 as well as studies by academics and entities like NEERI, which data and information must be used to understand past impacts so as to foresee future impacts.</p>	<p>As per our information, the erstwhile leaseholders have complied with all recommendations prescribed by NEERI in PIL no 1/2008. According to the official records, the three erstwhile leaseholders namely Chowgule and Company Private Limited, Rajaram Bandekar Mines Private Limited and Sesa Mining Corporation Limited have submitted an amount of Rs. 65,00,000 with the High Court. Desilting work is being carried out by Water Resource Department.</p>	
<p>There are people who have their own grievances and hence has to be give sufficient time to place their grievances and requested to adjourn the public hearing as EIA report has suppressed basic data . It series of 5 leases which are amalgamated to single number</p>		
<p>The investigation report of assessment of depletion of ground water sources and land degradation in Sirgao Village ,and mitigation Measures by National Environmental Engineering Research institute under Council of Scientific &amp; Industrial , Nagpur dated 16/06/2008 in PIL No. 1/2008 was submitted to the Hon. High Court of Bombay at Goa in which it clearly shows the worst condition of natural water</p>		

	sources and other issues are mentioned in it. Why this report was not included in the draft EIA. Copy of the report is submitted to Goa State Pollution Control Board.		
	He requested the Collector to personally visit the mining lease areas and do the surveys of the critical conditions of the people living there and requested to re-schedule the Public Hearing.		
179	<b>Narayan Sawant - not present</b>		
180	<b>Hanumant Malik - not present</b>		
181	<b>Vallabh Parab - not present</b>		
182	<b>Vinod Mandrekar</b>	State government has freshly auctioned the mine as new mine and Vedanta ltd is selected as preferred bidder. As mentioned in the EIA the project will generate employment opportunities to 716 locals and preference will be given to the locals. A buffer of minimum 50 m. will be maintained towards habitation. There are primary schools (at Gaonkarwada (not in use) and Manasbag) in Mulgao village within the Mineral block. A buffer of 120m will be maintained from the Manasbag habitation and will be updated in the EIA report. Necessary protective measures to be taken are mentioned in EMP which also includes drainage details. There is no planned activity in the unused area.	
	He States that he strongly opposes the mine lease		
	He States that he wants to seek clarification from the Project proponent.		
	He questions how many people are employed from the core mining belt.		
	He States that the most important thing is roti kapda and makan.		
	He States that if roti is provided but their homes are taken		
	He requests the GSPCB to excluded the houses and demarcate the area.		

	<p>He wants clarification whether the GSPCB, have visited all the villages.</p> <p>He States that there are govt primary schools in Manasgao Mulgao which is not mention in the report.</p> <p>He States that he visited the school today and the same is operational but the GSPCB nor Project Proponent has visited the school.</p> <p>He States that the mining lease boundary in my village mulgao, there is no drainage system which has to be taken into account.</p> <p>He States that he wants a detailed report what activities are proposed in the unused area as the same are not mentioned by the Project Proponent.</p>		
183	<p><b>Kalidas Kavlekar</b></p> <p>He is from Mayem Village. The EIA report is erroneous, It is not known as to who and when survey is conducted.</p> <p>Several complaints against the mining go unattended. Likewise many cases are pending before Mamlatdar which are unsolved.</p> <p>There are 167 water bodies mayem lake not shown on the EIA report.</p>	<p>The speaker has made false allegations. EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC. Land use plan given as an annexure covers all the water bodies in 10km buffer zone including Mayem lake. Important archaeological sites are mentioned in EIA for ex. Namujgah which is located within the mineral block. The presence of habitation within mineral block (in Lamgao and Mulgao Village) is clearly specified in the EIA report. Necessary environment protective measures will be adopted during mining operations and the same is covered in Chapter 10 of EIA. Representatives from mining company</p>	<p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs</p>

	Heritage sites are omitted. He requested that proper survey be conducted and then processed EC.	and the EIA consultant were present for the PH. the Consultant also clarified the points raised on request of Collector.	
	Ancestors houses not shown or mentioned .		
	Latambarcem / Mayem details not given.		
	If mines can give justice to everyone than they can definitely proceed with lease mining project.		
	No representative present from mine.		
	Lots of dust pollution due to mines which is creating air pollution in the area.		
	GSPCB should take everyone into confidence and the same presentation should be presented before the villagers.		The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs
184	<b>Rohan Shirodkar</b>	The EIA report along with executive summary was submitted to all surrounding Village Panchayats office for further awareness. The presence of habitation within mineral block (in Lamgao and Mulgao Village) is clearly specified in the EIA report and a minimum buffer of 50m will be maintained from the habitation. The notified archaeological monument within the mineral block is listed in the EIA. EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&CC. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism for any concerns.	
	He strongly objects to the operation of the mine.		
	He states that the EIA report has not reached him.		
	The presentation given states that there are 200 houses which are illegally demarcated.		
	There are archaeological protected sites which are there in the lease area.		

	<p>He states that no local person or farmers were taken into consideration while preparing the EIA report.</p> <p>Our houses temples, villages have to be taken into account before commencing the mining operations.</p> <p>Previously only few were given employment because their houses were effected . And now there are taken out of employment. Their problems have to be solved first.</p> <p>Their he requests the company to solve their problems first.</p>		
185	<p><b>Bhagwant Gaonkar</b></p> <p>He is a resident of Mayem.</p> <p>He stated that his house is within 3 kms.</p> <p>He supports the mine.</p>	Thank you for the support.	
186	<p><b>Trupti Gad</b></p> <p>There are different committees in our villages and all the committees had come together and a draft ahd been put up with all the problems faced by the villages of the area.</p> <p>She states that the temples, houses, fields are in the lease area.</p> <p>She states that 2 times the mine had collapsed and they had to face a lot of problems.</p>	<p>The anticipated impacts of the mining operations are dealt in chapter 4 of EIA and the necessary measures/EMP required for control of pollution are provided in EMP chapter 10 of EIA. A minimum buffer of 50m will be maintained from the habitation. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism.</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring / Air pollution control measures : 408 Lakhs</p> <p>The budget towards erosion control measures, monsoon preparedness on</p>

	She requests to first solve the problems of the villagers affected by the mining operations and then start the mine.		mines and water treatment : 232 Lakhs
187	<p><b>Ranjana Chodankar</b></p> <p>She states that there are big trees which have been grown in our area and which have to be cut down and the area has to be cleaned.</p> <p>She states that the area has to be cleaned as there are crocodiles there.</p> <p>She states that no employment is given to our children .</p> <p>She states that mining has destroyed everything.</p> <p>She requested the company to first solve the problems of the people and then start the mining activities.</p>	The speaker has made general statements like requesting to cut big trees in her area, cleaning the area. Company will engage with the local communities as part of its stakeholder management and grievance redressal mechanism. Preference will be given to locals for employment. All the retrenched employees of earlier mine owner were offered job and many of them have taken advantage of this opportunity. Company also runs a technical institute (ITI ) in Sanquelim village which caters to skill development of local youth and making them employable.	

## Clarifications provided by the consultant during the Public Hearing on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Sr No	NAME & COMMENTS	RRESPONSE	BUDGET
1	<b>Shri. Swapnesh Sheldekar</b>		
	He sought to know the exact duration for which the baseline data was collected by the consultant for incorporating in the EIA report.	The baseline data initially collected in the year Oct, Nov, Dec 2020, since the data validity was nearing expiry on Sep 2023, the baseline data was again collected from March to May 2023.	
	How is it that the consultant representatives have not been seen or identified by the local villagers during the exercise of collection of baseline data in the village of Mulgao as claimed to be carried out by the Consultant.	It is a sample survey, and the sampling team has collected the baseline data.	
	Does the Consultant posses photograph of the Leopard clicked during the process of data collection?	It is clearly mentioned in the Draft EIA report that the information of presence of Leopard was provided by locals i.e. secondary data. The detailed List of Flora and Fauna is provided in Chapter 3	
	There was no mention of forest in Mulgao Village in EIA report , how is this possible when across the boundary of village of Mayem is shown to have forest in the EIA report and also how can this be possible when there are two temples located in the village of Mulgao dedicated to the Goddess of Forest (Dhaktivan Devi and Vodlivan Devi).	The is no forest land within the Mineral Block and the same is confirmed by the state govt.	
	The EIA report does not mention the presence of large number of water bodies and temples in the Village of Mulgao. How is this possible?	Only major temples like Lairai Devi temple are mentioned in EIA. However, there are several such temples in the habitation for which a buffer of 50 m from the habitation is mentioned. There are no natural water bodies within the mineral block. As per the information there are settling ponds which were developed or constructed by erst while	

		mining company. These ponds were maintained, desilted by the earlier mining company and the same system will be followed. Flow of water to the Mulgao horticulture area will be ensured as was done by earlier mine owner.	
	The existence of archaeological site that is 2500 year old Buddhist caves at Lamgao are not been mentioned in the EIA report. How is this possible? The Project Proponent is requested to include this in the report	The Lamgao caves are not a notified monument, however the same will be incorporated in final EIA. It is within the habitation of Lamgao and a sufficient safety buffer will be maintained.	
	Project proponent was questioned as to how the consultant being qualified has classified this project as a Greenfield project knowing fully that it is a Brownfield project	The mine is a fresh grant through auction regime by state govt for which LOI is issued to Vedanta Ltd. As per the MoEF&CC minutes of meeting, in case of LOI grant it is classified as green field.	
	With reference to table 2.3 at page no. 15 of 600 of the EIA report, Consultant was requested to clarify as to the feasibility of the figure of 17.05 of Free Feasibility Mineral Resource which requires washing as the mine does not have facility for washing.	Clarified that it is not a proved reserve and will have to undertake further exploration to prove the same.	
	Based on the reserves as stated at Table 2.3 at page 15 of 600 of the EIA report can the Project Proponent windup operations in 10 years?	NO	
	With reference to a corrigendum dated 06/06/2023 issued by the DMG putting a gap of 40 trips per hour on the road on the company, the Company will not be able to transport more than 1 million tons per annum. The Project Proponent was requested to clarify.	The above referred notification is for auction ore only.	
2	<b>Shri. Ramesh Gauns</b>		

	<p>According to EIA the Consultant visited 68 places out of which 58 are the villages having Gram Panchayats. And the Gram Panchayat maintains biodiversity register based on the Biodiversity Act. Whether the consultants approached gram Panchayats to go through the register to find out the Biodiversity of the Village.</p>	<p>NO</p>	
	<p>They studied the surface water but did not study the surface water of the water body flowing in front of Shantadurga School and which emerges from within the mining lease carries lot of silt then meets the River Bicholim and empties into Mandovi River. It is a pollution of water body is concealed.</p>	<p>The same nalla flows and mixes with the Bicholim river and Upstream and downstream of the Bicholim is collected.</p>	
	<p>The water in the pits according to EIA report is stated that pit water is rain water. But when the study is carried out the main period of summer in the month of March, April and May, the pits are full of water in the month of May. The colour of the water clearly states that it is ground water and not rain water.</p>	<p>The rainwater is channelised in to the mine pits and as per the hydrogeological survey there exists bands of impervious layer comprising of Phyllite and clay and hence there is no ground water seepage. However the project proponent will take approval form Water resources Dept for pumping of the rain water/ ground water accumulated in the mine pit.</p>	
	<p>He sought to know whether the wells have been studied from Mulgoa, Mayem, Bicholim, Lamgao, as wells are the indicators of ground water and they should have checked the levels of well water in the month of May not to give any scope to the company that the drying of wells is not because of them. The study would have provided a substantial evidence against the Company to refute on the perennial fresh water in the wells.</p>	<p>All villages mentioned above is covered.</p>	

	<p>Mayem lake is used for surface water study but the 2 springs have gone completely dry because of the pit which has gone deep at Dhabdabha resulting in the depletion of water level of these 2 lakes goes low in the month of May.</p>	<p>There is no connection between the mine pit and Mayem lake. A detailed hydrogeology study is provided as part of EIA.</p>	
	<p>Then there are lakes in Malgao and Mulgao. Among these there are 6 lakes are in Mulgao and 7 lakes in Lamgao according to the RTI sought from the Mamlatdar of Bicholim on 01/07/2009. The total area of all these lakes comes to more than 27,000 sq. mtr which is nearly 3 hector of the land. All these lakes are totally silted which once upon a time feed the agriculture in Mulgao, bittlenut plantation in Mulgao so also in Lamgao. All these lakes find no place in the EIA report. One of the lake in Lamgoa belong to Government having 3375 sq. mtr. This fact is defeated by the company instead they claim it to be their tailing pond. The same lake was used for Ganesh immersion and now no immersion takes place in the tailing ponds.</p>	<p>All the water bodies within the buffer zone are covered under Land use pattern under chapter 3 of EIA</p>	
	<p>A number of tipper/trucks is missing in EIA which would have helped to calculate actually the ore is transported and thereby can be matched up with the production as given in the EIA report.</p>	<p>Covered under Chapter 4 pg No.129</p>	

	<p>He asked for the gradient of the mining area as the top most point of this area is 169 meter plus a huge waste generated to a tune of 1:8.39 tons based on the annual production of 3 million tons the waste generated will be 2, 51,70,000. Therefore, the gradient is very high to ration. The gradient to was very much important because no mechanism can stop a huge silt moving out of the mining lease when entering into River Bicholim which is connected to the mining lease precisely to the lake which is sy. No. 25/1. The steam is as of now heavily silted used for fishing purpose in the town it self. Everything is wiped off.</p>	<p>The gradient of Dumps is provided in the EIA report. The EIA also contains the environment protective measures which will be carried out for dump stabilisation.</p>	
3	<b>Shri. Vinod Mandrekar</b>		
	<p>There is a Government Primay school located at Manasbhag Mulgao which is operational as on 10/08/2023. This school is located within the mining lease/core are of the proposed project. However, this school is not mentioned any where in the EIA report. The Consultant is requested to clarify this point.</p>	<p>We will reconfirm regarding this additional school in Mulgao, Manaswada and functionality of Govt Primary school shall be included. However, a sufficient buffer zone will be maintained towards habitation.</p>	
	<p>In the EIA report there is a mention of unused area (refer Map on page 262 of the detailed EIA report). Consultant is requested to clarify as to the meaning of the term unused area. Further, consultant is specifically requested to clarify as to whether unused area in the EIA that includes the residential areas in the unused area.. If not the Consultant</p>	<p>The residential area is included in unused area as per existing available exploration data. 50 meters buffer zone will be maintained from the residential areas/houses in the village of Mulgao.</p>	

	should give a specific undertaking in this regard whether it will be used in the future.		
4	<b>Shri. Pravir Phadte</b>		
	Do you think that your draft EIA report can be understood by common people without any awareness programme about it? Or what are your suggestions to enable common people /illiterate people to understand this EIA report?	All the procedure stipulated in EIA notification is followed.	
	The amount time taken by you to prepare this EIA report? How is it that though the TOR for the project was granted on 16/06/2023 the draft EIA? report was signed on 20/06/2023 by the Mining Engineering Services Consultant, M.S. Raju.	The work of EIA was started basis the standard TOR issued by the MoEF&CC and the baseline was carried out from march to May. Although the TOR was issued on 16th June, the minutes of meeting including all the points was received earlier and the EIA work was continued and completed.	
	Explain in detail how the Consultant has classified this project as a Greenfield project?	Explained earlier	
	Why was the detailed EIA report not explained to the public/ awareness regarding the same not done by the Project Proponent when keeping the report with the Local Panchayat. How does the project Proponent expect the detailed EIA report to be understood by the Public present for today's hearing only on the basis of short Power Point Presentation made today?	Explained earlier	

	As the time to seek clarification is being restricted to 5 minutes; it is requested that the written submissions submitted to the Collector's Office on 10/08/2023 by The Goa Foundation should be clarified by the project proponent now. Copy of the submission is handed over.	All the issues raised during the PH will be addressed in the final EIA	
	Why has the MoEF terminology not been explained in the EIA report?	EIA is prepared based on the TOR issued	
5	<b>Dr. Sebastiao A Rodrigues, Convener of Bharat MuktaMorcha (Goa State)</b>		
	Regarding baseline data presented in EIA, so I want to know periods of data collections . Because the consultant Raju has stated that he had collected data upto September, 2020 .When I questioned on that on this subject Mr Raju informed that indeed baseline study was upto September 2020	Explained earlier. The base line data was done during Mar to May 2023.	
	Regarding project proponent application dated 16/03/2023 seeking TOR ,wherein it is mentioned that the period of baseline data collection as from 01/10/2020 to 31/12/2020.	Explained earlier	
	October 2020 to December 2020 there was covid-19 lock down in Goa. Did company carry out baseline data collection during lockdown period?	Yes, explained earlier. The data was again collected afresh during March to May 2023 which is considered in EIA.	
	When TOR requires baseline data collection of three non monsoons in a year, why baseline data was collected only for one season of march to may 2023?	Mr. Raju answered that only one season data is required. I mentioned that PP has admitted for tweaking TOR on baseline data collection in EIA. Mr. Raju denied.	
	Asked whether the comments received from public will be incorporated in the EIA report and shown to the public again.	Mr. Raju answered all the issues raised shall be addressed and submitted to MoEF&CC.	

	<p>Now my last clarification is will all the applications received against this mining projects be forwarded to MOEF&amp;CC considering that former environment cum public relation officer of Project proponent Mr. Mahesh Patil is the Chairman of GSPCB, as the case of likely conflict of interest.</p>	<p>All shall be forwarded. Collector North requested the people present that if they so desire, they may file their written objection/suggestion/views within 7 days from today to the GSPCB. The same will be part of the hearing and accordingly it would be forwarded to the concerned Regulatory Authority.</p>	
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### Clarifications to the letters received w.r.t. the Public Hearing on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

REPLY TO LETTERS RECEIVED			
Sr. No.	Letter	Response	Budget
<p>Letter 1 and letter 2 are same letters hence common response provided</p>	<p><b>Dr. Sebastiao A. Rodrigues,</b> 48/2, P.O. Piedade, Vanxim, lihas, Goa-403403 Mobile:9923336347, 17August2023</p> <p><b>From: Ramesh S. Gauns 1724,</b> Pajwadda, Bicholim. Goa Mobile:9270085105</p>		

	<p>17August2023 The Member Secretary Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao, Bardez, Goa</p> <p>Subject: Failure of GSPCB to complete minutes of the Public Hearing of Block -   Bicholim Mineral Block on 11 August 2023 at Sarvan Bicholim</p> <p>Madam, Above referred Public Hearing (PH) that began at 09.00 am on 11 August 2023 came to an abrupt end at 01.30 am on 12 August 2023 without minutes being finalized and shared in hard copies to the participants of the PH. It was total mess thanks to incompetent staff in compiling notes at the PH.</p> <p>It was observed that the large number of points raised by several speakers were not recorded in the minutes. In some cases entire presentation of the speakers found to be omitted along with their names. In other cases in spite of rectifications suggested by speakers who were present at the PH venue till mid night minutes could not be completed. Mess created by the on duty staff went out of control of the Presiding Officer who is North Goa Collector and an IAS officer. Presiding officer went on to announce at 1.30 am that the minutes of the PH will be shared online at GSPCB website. This is complete violation of the norms of PH followed where in minutes used to be finalized immediately after the conclusion of the PH and print copies were shared with the participants present at that time at the venue duly</p>	<p>These are false allegations, the public hearing was completed after the minutes of meeting were read out in presence of public and the finalised minutes were signed by the Chair of the meeting and representative of GSPCB. The entire proceedings of the PH were video graphed by the GSPCB. The consultant was present for the Ph throughout the proceeding; however he went on the stage only when he was invited by the Chair of the meeting for providing clarifications to the speakers. The speaker is making false and baseless allegations on the officials, it appears that he has come with a predetermined agenda. We would like to state that the Minutes of public hearing meeting were finalised on the same day in the presence of the public. The document was signed by the Chair (Collector North Goa) and the GSPCB representative Dr. Girap and the copy of the same was handed over to us as well as the collector immediately after the conclusion of PH. The speaker also could have collected the copy immediately after the conclusion of the PH.</p>	
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	<p>signed by the Collector as the Presiding officer. We are worried that messy situation created thus might be used by vested interests to manipulate/omit/delete part of the contents before the minutes are made available online. Biggest danger we fear to the integrity of minutes is from the Chairman of the GSPCB Mahesh Patil who is an exEnvironment cum Public Relations Officer of Sesa Mining Corporation that is wholly subsidiary of Vedanta who is currently the project proponent. Tempering of minutes in order to favor Project Proponent is real possibility. And quality of online minutes confirms this further. Therefore we strongly object to the procedures adopted by Presiding Officer of PH of putting minutes of the PH online without giving print copies immediately after the conclusion of the PH. When Ramesh S. Gauns asked for the consultant of EIA Presiding Officer responded saying that Consultant is not present at the PH proceedings. Consultant appeared in the night at around 08.00 pm. Time given for asking queries was only 05 minutes. Ridiculous trend is set in PH by granting only 10 minutes to seek clarification on document that consisted more than 600 pages of EIA/EPM. Several People could not get access to the Hall before 11.00 am because Project Proponent mobilized management and employees from all its buffer zone and out of buffer zone units to enter the Hall and occupied the entire hall to its fullest capacity. Minutes are put online after five days on 16 August 2023. What is recorded in the minutes is different from what was spoken at the meeting. Minutes has innumerable errors,</p>		
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	<p>Pages 12, 31, 32, 33 encompassing 20 people and their presentations are missing from the records of minutes. Your are therefore required to hold Public Hearing afresh based on fresh EIA.</p> <p>Thanking you, Yours Sincere, Dr. Sebastiao A. Rodrigues</p> <p>Copy to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collector (North Goa), Panaji</li> <li>2. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbag Road, New Delhi 110 003 INDIA</li> <li>3. Chairman and Members of Expert Appraisal Committee, MoEF&amp;CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbag Road, New Delhi 110 003 INDIA</li> </ol>		
<p>Letter 3 and 4 are same hence merged and common</p>	<p><b>Dr. Sebastiao A. Rodrigues</b> 48/2,.P.O Piedade, Vanxim, Ithas, Goa 403 403 Mobile: 9923336347 Date: 18" August 2023 Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao, Bardez, Goa</p> <p><b>Ramesh S. Gauns</b> 1724, Pajwadda, Bicholim. Goa Mobile: 92 70085105 Date: 18" August 2023 Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao, Bardez, Goa</p>	<p>A detailed traffic density study was conducted and details are provided in Chapter 3 of EIA. The google map showing the transportation route is also part of the EIA. The details of the road are also provided in the traffic density study, Out of the 5.4 km of transportation route around 0.9km of road is public road after which the trucks enter the iron ore loading jetty at Sarmanas( not the public ferry jetty) .The pollution control measures proposed to be taken are detailed in Chapter 10. The entire transport route is shown on the google earth map which is part of the EIA. It is true that there are two</p>	<p>The budget towards environment monitoring and air pollution control measures is 408 lakhs.</p>

<p>response provided</p>	<p>Subject: Concealment of usage of Public Road in front of the main Gates at Bicholim of Block I Bicholim Mineral Block in ETA report</p> <p>Madam,</p> <p>Road from Bicholim to Chora Ferry, Narve, Mayem lake, Poira, Siqueri, Mayem, Tikhazan is under crowded vehicles (two wheeler and four wheeler) daily except Sunday. The same road is intersected in front of the gates of the mining area. The road has got a slope and if ends exactly at a point of intersection. Most of the vehicles on road are headed towards the Ferry crossing into Chora. Local people of all the villages mentioned above use the road to approach to reach Bicholim town for various reasons particularly taking the young children for schooling in Bicholim. Therefore instead of using this public road use a fly-over like structure to avoid risk for the lives of the heavily crowded road by all the commuters.</p> <p>Secondly, mining road from within the Project Proponent's mining area also intersects the road to Pilgao village in front of the turn to Sarmanas Ferry. Some fly over like structure is required to be installed to ensure safety of the commuters.</p> <p>900 meters road as mentioned in EIA does not reveal actually which public road will be used for the transportation of the ore. EIA does not speak that it is none other than the Pilgao road which is also heavily crowded by the two wheeler and the four wheeler to reach Sarmanas ferry to attend to their duties. In fact immediately after that 900 meters of the said road the ferry point hardly at a</p>	<p>junctions namely at Mulgao and Pilgao on the transportation route and both the junctions will be provided with traffic marshals for smooth flow of public as well as ore traffic. Government will be constructing the underpass at the cost of project proponent at Mayem junction so that the interface between ore transportation and public is avoided. Till the underpass is constructed, dedicated manpower would be deployed to facilitate smooth and safe flow of transport.</p>	
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	<p>distance of 100 meters but it is not recorded in EIA, There are two ferries operating indicating that there is a heavy load on the road by the people travelling with two wheeler and four wheeler. Therefore using the 900 meters of public road of Pilgao village is nothing but creating dangerous situations two all the commuters. Also the loaded trucks will create dust pollution which people will face and also the clothes will be severely dusted. Hence the road should not be used for transportation instead a conveyor belt from the road from where trucks move on the public road of 900 meters should be constructed and used. On ground verification of 900 meters road at Pilgao connecting Sarmunas Jetty is 1 km distance and not 900 meters in length as mentioned in EIA report. This means that Project Proponent has cheated with facts on ground. Project Proponents therefore be denied Environmental Clearance for the Block I Bicholim Mineral Block as use of Public Village road is in violation of Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Thanking You. Yours sincerely,  <b>Dr. Sebastiao A. Rodrigues</b>  <b>Ramesh gauns</b></p>		
Letter 5	<p>From: Ramesh S. Gauns 1724, Pajwadda, Bicholim. Goa  Mobile: 92 70085105  Date: 17 August 2023  The member secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board,  Saligao, Bardez, Goa  SubJect: Discrepancies in baseline data collection in EIA</p>	<p>The base line data was earlier conducted during Oct-Dec 2020. The same was mentioned in the TOR application also. However, as there is a validity of three years for the baseline data, The base line monitoring was again conducted for the period Mar- May 2023. The base line monitoring is carried out as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC and is valid.</p>	

	<p>Project Application and Statement of Consultant M.S. Raju of Mineral Engineering Services regarding Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block Madam,</p> <p>We wish to bring to your notice the following discrepancies with regards to period of baseline data collection as stated in above mentioned subject:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Proponent (PP) Vedanta Limited submitted application to MoEF&amp;CC dated 16 March 2023 seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) to prepare EIA/EMP. In their application PP has stated that the baseline data for EIA Study was collected from the three month post monsoon season period 01 October 2020 to 31 December 2020.</li> <li>2. EIA report in compliance to TOR 44 by PP states that the baseline data was conducted during summer season 2023.</li> <li>3. At the Public Hearing held on 1) August 2023 regarding this project consultant M.S. Raju stated during clarification queries by Swapnesh Sherlekar that consultant had collected baseline data upto September 2020 and this is even recorded in the minutes posted online at Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) on 16" August 2023.</li> <li>4. Project consultant M.S. Raju confirmed again in response to query raised by Dr. Sebastiao A. Rodrigues that the baseline data collected was upto September 2020. The three months baseline data upto September 2020 would involve data covering monsoon season of July to September 2020 in violation of TOR 44. When it was pointed out to the above consultant that the Project application for TOR states that period of data collection mentioned is of post monsoon season from Of October 2020 to 31 December</li> </ol>	<p>Mr. Ramesh Gauns is making false and baseless allegations. Measurement of rain is a very common practise and the same is done every year by the mining companies. The consultant has collected the rain data for last 5 years from the earlier mine owner. All the land use features are provided in the EIA. Details about the habitation as well as main water resources like river etc are provided.</p>	
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	<p>2020 Mr. Raju denied having collected baseline data during this period stated in the Project Application for FOR. This indicates that the baseline data collection period mentioned in the Project Application as from 01 October 2020 to 31 December 2020 is false. Further Mr. Raju stated the rainfall data stated in EIA as 3500 mm was collected not only from the meteorological department but also from on-site physical monitoring of rainfall at Block -I Bicholim Mineral Block. This means that baseline data collected is of monsoon season. When it was questioned about the credibility of the content of Project Application to MoEF &amp;CC regarding baseline data collection period M.S. Raju denied his own statement saying his baseline data is upto September 2020 and said period from 01 October 2020 to 31 December 2020 is correct. If this was indeed correct then why did Mr. Raju stated that his baseline data is upto September 2020? This means that baseline data collection periods stated both in Project Application to MoEF &amp; CC as well as in EIA report are fictitious in nature.</p> <p>5. Additionally Consultant M.S. Raju was questioned by Dr. Sebastiao A Rodrigues whether his agency really carried on baseline data collection during 01 October 2020 to 31 December 2020 considering that it was strict lockdown period due to Covid-19, Project Consultant M.S. Raju answered affirmatively stating that indeed baseline data in 2020 was collected during COVID-19 lockdown period.</p> <p>6. Since the stated period of data collection (01 October 2020 to 31 December 2020) stated by PP in Project Application is impossible to believe or accept on the ground of inherent inconsistency the suspicion of the conduct of</p>		
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	<p>the PP manifesting fraud are established beyond doubt. The stated period of baseline data in EIA of March to May 2023 too is suspect due the past record of cheating about baseline period datas as established from above facts and analysis.</p> <p>7. Baseline data being the foundation of EIA and having established that Consultant of PP has engaged in gross manipulations fresh documentation and fresh EIA be directed to be conducted by PP. This is required to be done not only because of several defects in EIA relating to baseline data related to lakes, rivers, wells and Perennial flowing rivers but more because PP has violated TOR and cheated on disclosure period of baseline data collection itself thereby violating TOR 44 &amp; 70. Hoping for sincerely and decisive directions from MoEF &amp; CC to direct PP to compile fresh documentation and conduct Public Hearing again as required under TOR 70.</p> <p>Thanking you, Yours sincerely, Ramesh S. Gauns</p> <p>Copy to (1) The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Detha (2) The Chairman and members of the Expert Appraisal Committee, MoEF&amp;CC, New Delhi</p>		
Letter 6	<p>From: Anil D Salekar, Begwada, Pilgao, Bicholim, Goa Mobile: 9850138372 date: The Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao. Bardez, Goa Subject: Grievances regarding choice of venue for Block-I</p>	<p>The venue of the public hearing was selected by the GSPCB as it was the most convenient in all aspects. The venue is also less than 2 km aerial distance from the mine boundary. The project proponent also provided refreshments twice during the hearing. Ample time was provided to the public for</p>	

<p>Bicholim Minerai Block Public Hearing (PH) held on 11 August 2023 at Sarvan organised by Goa State Pollution Control Board GSPCB</p> <p>Madam,</p> <p>We have observed that the venue for PH at Zantye Sports Complex, Savona, Bicholim chosen by GSPCB was unreasonably far from the villages in the core zone areas and those impacted directly. Venue was 13 kms from Sirigao, 09 kms from Mulgao, 05 kms from Lamgao, 07 kms from Pilgao, 12 kms from Maem and 03 kms from Bicholim. Case law in india requires that the venue for the PH should be within 01 kms from the proposed mining project. PH was held in Sarvan village Panchayat Jurisdiction that is not in the core zone of the mining project. Several people could not make it to the venue as it was far from the the core zone localities.</p> <p>There were available Halls attached to Temples in Sirigao, Muigao, Lamga Maem, and very big Hirabai Zantye Memorial Hall in Bicholim but the were not taken. The venue of PH at Bicholim was inconvenient because Public Hearing that an at 09.00 am on 11 August 2023 went on till 01.30 am on 12 August 2023 for nearly seventeen hours. There was not a single hotel at the venue of the Public Hearing. Number of people stayed in the hall starving. Women who stayed on till 01.00 am at night had major problems.</p> <p>We were under impression that It was an absolute prerogative of GSPCB to decide on the date and venue of PH.</p> <p>However after the consultation with some knowledgeable</p>	<p>registration. Hence the allegations are of baseless nature as 834 people attended the PH.</p>	
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	<p>people in this matter we realized that venue had to be within 2 kms from the proposed project. if we had to know this in advance then we would have objected to the venue selected by GSPCB to hold this PH. In the light of various judicial directions given by National Green Tribunal B6( NGT ) and Gujarat High Court Judgement of 2003 we call upon you to conduct fresh PH close to our localities and villages at core zone of the mining project. Thanking you, Yours sincerely, Anil D Salelkar Copy to 1. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbag Road, New Delhi 110 003 INDIA 2. Chairman and the Members of the Expert Appraisal Committee, MoEF &amp; CC, indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbag Road, New Delhi 110 003 INDIA</p>		
Letter 7	<p>From: Mr. Sharadchandra Krishnarao Vishwasrao Desai Son of late Shri. Krishnarac Ravioba Vishwasrao Desai &amp; that of Ms. Sundarabai Krishnarao Vishwasrao Desai Resident of house no: 1996, Vishwasnagar, Larngao, Bicholim Goa. Date: 11.08.2023. To_ The Member Secretary Pollution Control Board Saligao, Bardez Goa. he Deputy collector of Bicholim Taluka Bicholim Goa. SUBJECT: OBJECTION FOR MINING IN LAMGAO VILLAGE &amp; IN BICHOLIM BLOCK Sir, I am permanent resident of Bicholim being born and</p>	<p>With respect to civil suit bearing no. 188/2015, it is our understanding and on the basis of available official records, the matter was filed against the erstwhile leaseholder SMCL. Vedanta Limited is not a party to the proceedings and no adverse orders have been passed against it.</p> <p>With respect to case no. SDM.BICH.133 CRPC,4.2013., it is our understanding and on the basis of available official records, the matter was filed against the erstwhile leaseholder SMCL wherein SMCL had challenged the order dated 20.02.2018 in a criminal revision application before</p>	<p>The budget towards Environment Monitoring and Air pollution control measures: 408 Lakhs</p> <p>The budget towards Erosion Control Measures,</p>

<p>brought up at Village Lamgao having my landed properties in Bicholim and in Lamgao Village. I have also filed civil suit bearing no: 188/2015-C which is pending in the court of Civil Judge Junior division at Bicholim. Already there is intunction granted by the Civil Court in my favour vide order dated 18.04.2022. The said order reads as under: ORDER</p> <p>i. The application for temporary injunction at exhibit D-3 is granted.</p> <p>ii. The Defendants, thcir relatives, servants, agents, or any other person claiming through or under them are hereby restrained from interfering with the suit property and digging pit in the suit property or from carrying out any such mining activity in the suit property bearing survey no; 15/1 of village Lamgao of Bicholim tatuka until the disposal of suit on merits.</p> <p>The Defendants in the above referred order are :</p> <p>i. Sesa Mining Corporation Limited, Bichclim Iron Ore Mines, Dhabdhaba Bicholim Goa, Pincode: 403504.</p> <p>ii. The Mines Manager, Sesa Mining Corporation Limited, Bicholim Iron Ore Mines, Dhabdhaba_ Bicholim Goa, Pincode: 403504.</p> <p>iii. The A.G.M. Sesa Mining Corporation Limited, Bicholim Iron Ore Mines, Dhabdhaba Bicholim Goa, Pincode: 403504.</p> <p>That the above stated order dated 18.04.2022 passed by the civil court is till date operational in force and binding on the defendants of the suit.</p>	<p>the District and Sessions Court, Mapusa. On 04.07.2023, the District and Sessions Court passed an order quashing the order dated 20.02.2018.</p> <p>With respect to case no. MAM.BICH.MINE.08.2016, it is our understanding and on the basis of available official records, the matter was filed against the erstwhile leaseholder SMCL and the same is pending for adjudication. Necessary measures will be put in place to ensure that there is no flow of mine silt in the neighbouring habitations/ agriculture land. The details of various erosion control measures are provided in Chapter 10. Only the water within the mining area is channelised into the pits and harvested. Detailed hydrogeology study is carried out as per CGWA guidelines and attached as anexure to the EIA.</p> <p>The complainant is referring to the incidents happened during earlier mining operations.</p> <p>All necessary safety and environment protective measures will be taken during the mining operations so as to ensure that there is no occurrence of any untoward incident.</p>	<p>Monsoon preparedness on mines and water treatment is 232 lakhs.</p>
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	<p>That the honorable Deputy Collector has passed Judgement and order dated 20.02.2018 in case no: SDM.BICH.133 CRPC, 4.2013. The said order reads as under: ORDER</p> <p>The Opponent is hereby directed to refill the existing pits with mud in the property surveyed under no: 15 and 16 of village Lamgao on or before 15.03.2018 under strict compliance.</p> <p>Pronounced in the open court. The opponent of the above mentioned case is: M/s Sesa Mining Corporation, Dhabhaba Bicholim Goa.</p> <p>That the Opponent went in appeal in the Session Court and have got the said order set aside and the matter is sub judice before the Deputy Collector of Bicholim. I have also filed contempt application before Deputy collector Bicholim and the same is pending under no: DCB.BICH. 133 CRPC.4. 2013.2019.</p> <p>That I have also filed application to the office of Mamlatdar of Bicholim Taluka which is also pending under no MAM.BICH.MINE.09.2016 with respect to survey numbers 26/1, 18/6, 24/3, 11/1-O, 11/1-L, 11/1 M, 11/1-Q of village Lamgao of Bicholim Taluka.</p> <p>That there is contamination of well water in the area of village Lamgao. I am having Water testing report issued by the office of Pollution control Board. Water wells of Lamgao Village were getting dried up so also were getting pollutants in the water due to mining. I am having my residential house 1856 in the property surveyed under no: 16/1-A of village Lamgao.</p> <p>That one Mr. Narayan Mone has also filed application to the</p>		
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	<p>office of Mamlatdar of Bicholim Taluka which is also pending under no MAM.BICH.MINE.08.2016 with respect to properties situated in village Maem of Bicholim Taluka. The properties of Mone are situated touching the Mining area mining belt. The zonal agricultural officer / official has also deposed that the plantation is getting affected due to running of mining silt in the water pond serving irrigation of plant.</p> <p>There were frequent accidents of mining burst brining mining silt, boulders, stones down in the Bicholim city, Mulgao Village. One such land slide was witnessed on 16.07.2011 at Mulgao, on 06.06.16 at Pajwada Bicholim. Reference of the above incidents has come in the Judgement of Deputy Collector dated 20.2.2018.. That old Temple situated at Lamgao Village had to be reconstructed. The school in village Lamgao had to be reconstructed due to passing of pit water through school building. The mining pit which is existing at present is situated at the higher level than village of Lamgao and Bicholim City. The said mining pit is having huge accumulation of water posing danger to the inhabitants of Lamgao Village and Bicholim City. If any untoward incident takes place there will be flowing away of nearby human habitation causing numerous casualties and countless monetary &amp; economic irreparable loss of property.</p> <p>That the farmers are getting affected due to reckless mining done previously by the Dempo Mining Corporation' / Sesa Mining Corporation / Vedanta limited. The above companies did mining only by changing their names one after another. The names were changed to cheat farmers.</p>		
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	<p>Farming and plantation in the nearby areas has become difficult rather impossible. The water in the locality is channelized in one pit affecting water elsewhere in the locality.</p> <p>In Lamgao Village previously there use to be water at a just distance of 1 to 3 meters from surface but now it is not possible to have the same due to mining pit taking water dip in the pit. Houses have also got cracks due to mining done in the locality.</p> <p>Environmental damage caused by previous mining is irreparable. Flora and fauna is affected causing damage to nature, plants, water sources, water courses, animals, birds.</p> <p>Considering all the above facts, I pray that no mining be permitted in "Bicholim Mineral Block" as sought to be proposed.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, .</p>		
Letter 8	<p>GOA FOUNDATION, G-8, St Britto's Apartment, Feira Alta, Mupusa, Goa, INDIA</p> <p>The Collector (I), North GOA District, North Goa Collectorate, Panaji 403001 Goa.</p> <p>Subj: Request to cancel Public Hearing on the Vedanta mineral block I-Bicholim, scheduled for 11 August, 2023</p> <p>Dear Sir, We are writing to you to seek cancellation of the Public Hearing scheduled in respect of the Vedanta mineral block I-Bicholim on 11 August, 2023.</p>	<p>EIA report is prepared as per the TOR issued by MoEF&amp;CC. it is true that this particular mineral block was earlier operated by Sesa mining Corporation ltd (formerly known as Dempo mining</p>	

	<p>There are very serious grounds for considering and acceding to this request. These are set out below:</p> <p>a) The necessary environmental information and data which are required to be produced in response to the TOR are missing from the draft ELA document. The suppression of necessary information has been achieved by claiming that the Mining Block is a “greenfield project.” Such a characterization of what is clearly a brownfield project as a greenfield project is wholly incorrect and cannot be accepted. The Mining Block has been operated from inception as a series of five leases (TC 11-15/1941) neighbouring each other in a straight line, and thereafter, as an amalgamated lease with a single lease number (08/AMLG). The amalgamated lease is the relabelled “I-Bicholim” and has the same boundaries.</p> <p>b) These 5 leases before and after amalgamation have been in operation since 1941, and have been operated by a variety of actors, including Dempo Mining Corporation and Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd, SMC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Vedanta Ltd, which is now assigned this mineral block. The production data of the 5 leases, from 1941 to 2012, is available in public domain. The leases were also operated between 2015 and 2018 by SMC/Vedanta. In normal and legal terminology, such a mine site could never been characterized as a “Greenfield project” for the purpose of obtaining environment clearance.</p> <p>c) The important thing to emphasize here is that the willful</p>	<p>corporation Ltd). Pursuant to Supreme Court judgement in Goa Foundation 2 dated 07.02.2018, all the mining leases granted by the state government were cancelled. Thereafter, State Government in terms of the said order and as per the provisions of MMDR Act put this block for auction as a fresh lease/ grant. Vedanta Ltd was selected as the preferred bidder in the said auction for Block I Bicholim mineral block and accordingly LOI was issued to Vedanta Ltd. As per the MoEF EAC minutes of meeting, in case of LOI grant it is classified as green field and hence in the EIA it has been mentioned as green field. There is no hiding of facts as alleged by the Goa foundation, as the earlier pits can be seen in the surface plan which is provided as plate no 5 of EIA.</p> <p>As per our information, the erstwhile leaseholders have complied with all recommendations prescribed by NEERI in PIL no 1/2008. According to the official records, the three erstwhile leaseholders namely Chowgule and Company Private Limited, Rajaram Bandekar Mines Private Limited and Sesa Mining Corporation Limited have submitted an amount of Rs. 65,00,000 with the</p>	
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	<p>characterization of the project site as a “Greenfield” project has been relied upon to withhold data and the past record of this project proponent (PP) required to be made part of the draft EIA and to the public. This includes the environmental data collected since the lease started operation in 1941 as well as studies by academics and entities like NEERI, which data and information must be used to understand past impacts so as to foresee future impacts.</p> <p>d) We were not able to write this letter earlier for obvious reasons. The Terms of Reference have been communicated to the PP on 16 June 2023 and the 624 page has been manufactured in 4 days! It is unrealistic to expect the public to be able to read such a report in the space of a month. In fact, all the data produced is related to periods prior to the issue of TOR letter, including a report prepared in 2010! In other words, the draft EIA cannot be considered as conforming to the TOR either in letter and spirit.</p> <p>e) Please note that the lease is now granted for a period of 50 years. During the past existence of these leases unparalleled damaged has been done by the mining activity to water bodies including the Asnoda river, springs, fields (most outside the lease boundary), biodiversity, hill slopes, and most seriously, to the ground water aquifer. This has been permanently destroyed. The entire development has been documented and proven in the NEERI report organized under the directions of the</p>	<p>High Court. Desilting work is being carried out by Water Resource Department.</p> <p>The EIA also comprises of detailed hydrogeology report based on CGWA guidelines which concludes that there won't be any adverse impact of mining on surrounding ground water regime.</p> <p>Explained as above.</p> <p>The EIA report is prepared on the lines of TOR issued to Vedanta Ltd. The Baseline monitoring was carried out in march to May 2023. The EIA work did not wait for the issuance of TOR, as standard TOR is available for this purpose. Other specific points raised during EAC meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May were immediately noted and studies carried out without waiting for the Minutes of Meeting. The</p>	
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	<p>Bombay High Court. The water resources available to this hitherto water surplus village have evaporated, turning the village into an area of drought. The PP has now sought to eradicate all this history of severe ill-effects of mining by terming it a “Greenfield project”. This makes a complete mockery of the EIA process, and cannot be permitted under any circumstances. For these reasons, the public hearing is important. It is the right of the people, especially the villagers of Sirigao, to represent what happened in the past 50 years, and to hear whether the scenario would be repeated in the next fifty years. No village should be gifted with such a ghastly legacy.</p> <p>f) We set out various items from the Terms of Reference Compliance section draft EIA report (pp.5-18) which have not been complied with.</p> <p>6. The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC.  <b>The drone survey was conducted and will be Submitted during appraisal for EC</b>  <b>Comment of Goa Foundation: This is material information to understand the topography of the site in the context of aspects such as hydrogeology. If the survey has been conducted, why is it being suppressed?</b></p> <p>7. During the meeting, the EAC noted that old excavated pits exist within the mine lease area. Hence, the Project Proponent needs to submit a letter from the Department</p>	<p>complainant is simply trying to make false allegations.</p> <p>The mineral block is auctioned as a fresh lease and EIA is based on the baseline study carried out during the period March to May 2023. The project proponent has detailed out the various impacts and the environment management plan in details to reduce the environmental impact.</p> <p>As clearly specified in the TOR, the drone survey will be submitted to the EAC during appraisal for EC</p> <p>The clarification from State govt is obtained as part of the Final EIA.</p>	
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	<p>of Geology and Mining, Government of Goa clarifying whether any illegal mining within the mine lease area has been carried out or not and whether the same has been carried out by M/s. Vedanta Limited or not?</p> <p><b>The state govt. auctioned Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block as fresh mine and Vedanta was preferred bidder. We have requested to state Govt. for the Clarification, and response is awaited and same shall be provided</b></p> <p><b>Comment of Goa Foundation: This is an absurd statement given that Sesa Mining Corporation/Vedanta was the earlier operator. Whether illegal mining took place by the project proponent is material information for a public hearing</b></p> <p>20. Year-wise production details since 1994 should be given, clearly stating the highest production achieved in any one year prior to 1994. It may also be categorically informed whether there had been any increase in production after the EIA Notification 1994 came into force, w.r.t. the highest production achieved prior to 1994. The production details need to submit since inception of mine duly authenticated by Department of Mines &amp; Geology, State Government</p> <p><b>GREEN FIELD PROJECT</b></p> <p><b>Comment of Goa Foundation: This is another absurd statement given that Sesa Mining Corporation/Vedanta was the earlier mine operator. The relevant information required to be produced has not been produced.</b></p> <p>24. The PP should submit the real-time aerial video</p>	<p>The 3 month data collected from two PHC's is representative and sufficient for evaluation for the EIA purpose and budgetary allocations are made in the EIA</p> <p>The state government in compliance to the hon. Supreme court order auctioned the mine as a Fresh lease . Vedanta Ltd was selected as a preferred bidder and LOI issued. In such case past data is not required. In case the application for EC was w.r.t renewal of mine lease or expansion project the past production data etc are required. In this particular case the past production data is not required to be produced.</p> <p>The real time video footage of the mine lease will be submitted at the time of EAC meeting.</p> <p>The point made by complainant is in case of a operational mine which is applying for EC for the purpose of lease renewal or expansion. In this case the mine is auctioned as a Fresh lease and the proposal is accordingly prepared.</p>	
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<p>footage &amp; video of the mining lease area and of the transportation route.</p> <p><b>PP shall submit the real —time video footage of the mining lease at the time EAC Meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Comment of Goa Foundation: This is material information to understand the vegetation that currently exists in the mine and along the transportation route. It must be provided as a link so that the public can study the facts on the ground.</b></p> <p>34. Compliance of the Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F: 350/2017-IA.III (Pt.), dated 30.05.2018 on the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated the 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India needs to be submitted and included in the EJA/EMP Report</p> <p><b>The Affidavit is enclosed as Annexure-2</b></p> <p><b>Comment of Goa Foundation: This relates to violations of the Environmental Clearance by Vedanta and is material information for the public hearing. An affidavit is not equivalent to compliance. Compliance would require a statement of violations, if any, and payment of sums as required as per the MoEFCC OM.</b></p> <p>35. PP Shall Submit a Certificate from Chief Conservator of Forests regarding involvement of forest Land in the Mining lease area if any. In case forest and is involved:</p> <p>i) PP should submit the proof of application made for obtaining forest clearance and</p> <p>ii) a map clearly showing the forest &amp; nonforest area.</p>	<p>The annexure 3 is the letter of approval of mining plan. The surface plan and geological sections are part of EIA as plate no 5 and plate no 4A1 to A4.</p> <p>The auction document of the state government clearly states that there is no forest area within the mineral block. Letter from the state forest department is also attached in the final EIA.</p> <p>Even earlier i.e before auction of the mines , there was no forest land within the mines.</p> <p>Approved lease sketch is attached in the EIA and land classification is provided in final EIA.</p>	
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	<p>As per the auctioned document given by state govt. there is no forest area involved in Block-I Bicholim Mineral Block  <b>Comment of Goa Foundation:</b> No certificate is produced as required by the TOR.</p> <p>36. Status of forestry clearance for the broken-up area and virgin forestland involved in the Project including deposition of net present value (NPV) and compensatory afforestation (CA) should be indicated. A copy of the forestry clearance should also be furnished.  <b>NA</b>  <b>Comment of Goa Foundation: This is another absurd statement considering that the leases have been operated from 1941 till 2018.</b></p> <p>37. PP should submit the details of survey number [viz. survey no, area in hectare, classification of land (government, private, forest, grazing land etc.), villages] duly authenticated by State Government, falling in the mining lease area  <b>Enclosed in lease sketch as Plate.No.2</b>  <b>Comment of Goa Foundation: The classification of land has not been provided by survey number as required.</b></p> <p>55. Public health implications of the Project and related activities for the population in the impact zone should be systematically evaluated and the proposed remedial measures should be detailed along with budgetary allocations.  <b>The socio-economic study was conducted Ref. Chapter-3, Para.3.9</b></p>	<p>The base line monitoring is carried out as per the TOR . The data is valid as per specific TOR point no 4.1 .</p> <p>Point clarified above. The report from Regional office is required in case of a existing valid EC. In this particular case there is no existing EC. The mine is auctioned as fresh mine and for which purpose EC is being applied for . Once the EC is obtained the lease would be executed and other permissions obtained, then the mining operations will start.</p>	
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<p><b>Comment of Goa Foundation: The health survey in para 3.9.1.19 has been conducted by collecting data from two PHCs working in the buffer zone, for just three months prior to the survey. This is absurd as much longer data is available, especially since the PP and Mineral Foundation of Goa partly funded by the PP have been conducting health camps as part of CSR for decades.</b></p> <p>68. The Questionnaire for environmental appraisal of mining projects as devised earlier by the Ministry  <b>Comment of Goa Foundation: There is no response at all by Vedanta. The response to the Questionnaire is not reduced.</b></p> <p>70. Changes, if any made in the basic scope and project parameters (as submitted in Form-I and the PFR for securing the TOR) should be brought to the attention of MoEF&amp;CC with reasons for such changes and permission should be sought, as the TOR may also have to be altered. Post Public Hearing changes in structure and content of the draft EIA/EMP (other than modifications arising out of the P.H. process) will entail conducting the PH again with the revised documentation  <b>Baseline collected during summer season, 2023</b>  <b>Comment of Goa Foundation: The response has little connection with the ToR point. Note that since required information has been suppressed, this would anyway require conducting the PH again with revised documentation</b></p>	<p>The project proponent will obtain both CTE and CTO from the GSPCB before starting the mining operations.</p>	
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	<p>71. As per the circular no. J-11011/618/2010-IA.II (I) dated 30.5.2012, certified report of the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environment clearance for the existing operations of the project, should be obtained from the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as may be applicable.</p> <p><b>Green field Project</b></p> <p><b>Comment of Goa Foundation: The claim is that because this is a Greenfield project (which is incorrect), the report need not be produced.</b></p> <p>g) Other important information relevant for a public hearing has not been provided, most important of which is the mining plan. Without a mining plan, it is not possible to evaluate its environmental impacts. The Annexure 3 of the EIA / EMP also refers to an “<i>annexure attached of surface mining plan and cross-section</i>”, which is missing.</p> <p>I am confident that once you recognize this glaring misrepresentation and suppression of essential information after receipt of this letter, you will also conclude that the Public Hearing is vitiated due to an incomplete draft EIA report — which is based on the false claim that the project is a green field project when it is actually (and quite clearly and without doubt) a brownfield project.</p> <p>The Public Hearing is being conducted with the assistance of the Goa State Pollution Control Board. The Board will doubtless produce before you, if required, copies of the</p>		
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	<p>consent orders issued to the erstwhile leaseholder (Sesa Mining Corporation/Vedanta) for operation of these leases since the time the Board was constituted in 1987. In fact, if this were a Greenfield project, why is there no consent to establish (CTE) issued by the Board?</p> <p>An environmental Public Hearing is not an occasion to correct blatant errors in the draft EJA nor is the public required to point out such egregious claims. The draft EIA report must conform to the TORs in all respects, and only then can the public hearing proceed. The draft EIA uploaded to the website of the PCB is severely deficient in this regard. This issue needs to be settled first. Your office can sort out this problem with the PCB, especially with regard to the claim of then project being a “Greenfield project.” After a proper draft EIA report conforming with the TORs in all respects is received and verified, the public hearing can be notified and held.</p> <p>We therefore reiterate our demand that the public hearing be cancelled in the circumstances, till a fresh draft E]A — prepared with some degree of honesty and scientific integrity — can be placed before the public.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dr Claude Alvares Director Cc: Goa State Pollution Control Board</p>		
Letter 9	<p>Letter from Village Panchayat Mulgao dtd 7/8/2023</p>		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demarcation of village boundaries active mining lease boundaries &amp; Buffer Zone boundaries to be done in presence of all committees and Village Panchayat Mulgao.</li> <li>2. Company should exclude houses, Temples, Lakes paddy Fields bhagayatis from mulgao mining blocks as per new mining lease.</li> <li>3. Desilting of paddy fields should be carry out by company on priority.</li> <li>4. Pending compensations of famers from 2011 to till date to be release on immediate basis.</li> <li>5. Priority to be given to mulgao villagers for Employment, the Company should also give preference to mulgao villagers for business opportunities.</li> <li>6. Mulgao Comunidade is having 2.21 laks sq.mrts area in the said mining block of which lease rent is in arrears from the year 2011.</li> <li>7. Mulgao comunidad is having three water lakes under Survey No.69/1 &amp; 71/0 which has been filled with mining silt need to be cleaned in original form.</li> <li>8. Arrangement of smooth flow of water to the kulagars in the area in summer season.</li> <li>9. Attend and provide solution to the difficulties faced by the ritreched sesa mining worker of the</li> </ol>	<p>The mineral block is auctioned by state government. The habitations within the lease were always existing . A safety buffer of minimum50m will be maintained form these habitations which includes houses, temples, agriculture properties etc.</p> <p>Vedanta ltd is a new lessee and the mining operations have not started. There is no compensation liability with Vedanta ltd company. The earlier mine owner was a different entity and the compensation matters would be dealt by them.</p> <p>Employment preference will be given to locals only. There would be lot of indirect employment and business opportunities due to mining which will benefit the local population.</p> <p>The lease needs to be executed first for further needful in this case.</p> <p>It is understood that the earlier mining company had constracted these ponds which are referred by the villagers as lakes. These ponds were maintained and desilted by earlier mine owner and the practise will follow.</p> <p>Flow of water will be ensured .</p>	
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	<p>mulgao village.</p> <p>10. Mining grants to Village Panchayat and Devasthan to be increased.</p> <p>11. Compensation for houses damaged caused due to operation of mines in the VP Jurisdiction.</p> <p>12. Also brings to your notice that villagers require Public information in details with regards mining in mulgao village. We strongly opposed resumption of mining in mulgao village till we fulfill the above Point.</p>	<p>All the retrenched workers were provided opportunity to join the work force of Vedanta ltd and many of the workers took benefit of this opportunity.</p> <p>Vedanta has won the mine in auction and has not yet started the mining operations.</p> <p>It is to ensure the villagers of mulgao that a safety barrier of minimum 50 m will be maintained towards the habitation. There wont be any drilling and blasting . There is no shifting of habitation proposed.</p>	
Letter 10	<p>Letter from Pilgao village panchayat RefNo.VP/PIL/BICH/2023-24/L.SI To The Mermber Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.</p> <p>Sub :- Point to be discussed in Public Hearing. Sir, With regards to the public Hearing as per the Environmental impact assessment 2006 w.rt Block Bicholim Mineral Block with area of 478.5206 ha located in Bicholim Taluka which was held on 11/08/2 023.</p> <p>In this regards I would like to bring to your attention to add the following points on the record as the same has not been recorded on the minutes of the hearing. 1) The Dempo Mining Corporation was allotted approximately 1.3 MPTA EC as per the reliable sources.</p>	<p>The current project doesnot include beneficiation plant.</p>	

<p>Accordingly they had designed and structure the beneticiation plant (Washing Plantl Known as New Beneficiation Plant in Pligao Village Bicholim Goa. The tailing Pond was also constructed considering the 1.3 MPTA EC still the water from the tailfng point (silt) enters in the agriculture field which leads to the contamination of soil, ground water and surface water by chemical emitted from mining processes and agriculture field get destroyed, about 60 hector of agriculture field has been destroyed so far. Later on Sesa Mining Corporation Limited took over mining business from Dempo Mining Corporation and presently Vedanta is running the said mining business.</p> <p>2) The Beneficiation plant has a capacity of 1.3 MPTA if the capacity is increased beyond the 1.3 MPTA than the tailing point will overflowed and silt will enter in the agriculture field and water bodies, which will leads to soil contamination and water pollution. The infrastructure of Mining Company was not enough to handle 1.3 MPTA of Ore and it will destroyed all major fertile land and natural habited if any Mining company is allowed to operate over and above. Hence we have strong objection for production of 2.0 MPTA Ore and all the damages to the fields and land to be restored.</p> <p>3) Also there is some agriculture land bearing sy.no.66/40,164/01, 184/4,5,9,10,14, 15,16,19,20 &amp;21. 165/8. 187/4,5,6,8, 10,12, 13. 66/40, 154 and others of Village Piligao, where there is illegal encroachment have been done by mining company to run miníng activities.</p>	<p>There is a beneficiation plant of SMCL in Pilgao village. However it is a separate project and not part of the Block I Bicholim mineral block.</p> <p>In case the SMCL company requires to expand its capacity, they would be required to obtain Environment clearance for the same.</p>	
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	<p>Hence the issue related to above agriculture land farmers regards to the agriculture land has to be resolved on the priority, until it gets resolved we have strong objection for operation of mining activities in Piligao Village Bicholim Taluka.</p> <p>Kindly take note of the above point and do the needful.</p>		
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