

MINISTRY OF MINES
MAJOR ACTIVITIES
January – 2020

The highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Mines for the month of January, 2020 are as under:

➤ **Major activities of the month:**

- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 was amended through the Minerals Laws (Amendment) Ordinance (MLAO), 2020 - promulgated on 10.01.2020 - to facilitate seamless transfer of rights to new lessees and to incentivize exploration of deep seated minerals. Gazette notification is available on www.egazette.nic.in. Further, the draft rules are under finalization.

➤ **Monthly Status of Auction / PMKKKY-DMF:**

- So far, 76 mineral blocks have been auctioned across 9 States with estimated revenue of Rs. 2,29,521 crore to the State Governments over the lease period. Further, 38 mineral blocks are under auction process in Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
- To address issues of 46 working mines whose leases are expiring on 31st March, 2020, auction process is completed for six mines (four iron ore in Karnataka and two chromite in Odisha) and 22 mines of Odisha are presently under auction process. Exploration is being carried out in remaining 18 mines before putting up for auction. Ministry is coordinating with concerned Central and State Government regularly.
- Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is continuing through the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (DMF). DMFs have been set up in 571 districts in 20 States. As of December, 2019, out of Rs. 35,014 crore collected, Rs.29,773 crore are allocated and Rs.11,947 crore are spent. 1,46,836 projects are sanctioned. Rs.3,653 crore are spent in drinking water supply and Rs.1626 crore in education projects.

➤ **Conferences Workshops/Seminars/Meetings and other activities:**

- Secretary (Mines) held a consultation meeting with FICCI Mining Committee on 10th January, 2020 to discuss various mining issues viz. policy change to enhance exploration with private sector, expediting statutory clearances, metal recycling policy, rationalization of duties and royalty. The goal of \$ 5 trillion economy of Hon'ble PM and contribution of mineral sector was sought.
 - FICCI was informed of various govt. efforts viz. facilitating early operationalisation of auctioned mines, piloting of pre embedded clearances initiative, need for mining industry to achieve international benchmarks/standards, increasing use of artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics to increase efficiency etc. FICCI Mining Committee assured to incorporate these in operations of the mining sector by taking up with its members.
 - Secretary (Mines) also attended CII-Make in India 2.0 consultation chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways where mining industry made key suggestions like increase in exploration, harmonization of taxes and duties, advanced planning for auctions. Further action on their recommendations is under process.

- First meeting of the coordination committee set up at Ministry, for facilitating early operationalisation of auctioned mines, was held on 16.01.2020 with representatives of IBM, MoEF&CC, Department of Water Resources and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) and 8 State Government officials. So far 11 mines have been operationalised out of 76 auctioned mines. State Governments of Odisha, Karnataka and MP agreed to pilot to facilitate auctioning the mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances. Secretary, MoEF&CC agreed to work jointly. This will promote government policy of promoting ease of doing business.
- A meeting was held on 17th January, 2020 with 11 States to review implementation of District Mineral Foundation. The fund utilization is low in all States except Chhattisgarh. States advised to expedite action and ensure transparency and information sharing on projects by displaying boards in panchayat area and to focus on govt. priority on piped water supply projects. A joint meeting with Secretary, Rural Development and Secretary, Panchayati Raj was held on 16th January, 2020 to synergize and avoid duplication. It was agreed that DMF should complement the existing schemes run by these ministries, focus on gap funding and developmental projects covering the whole geographical area. The DMF guidelines should incorporate social audit provision of projects through existing state social audit set up and also do geo tagging of projects etc. The guidelines are being revised accordingly
- A meeting was held with Secretary Petroleum and Director Exploration ONGC to build synergies in operations and expertise to maximize gains through national geo-science data generated by Directorate of Hydro Carbon and Geological Survey of India.
- This Ministry also took up the possibilities of working with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. I have written to TIFR to find common ground and collaborate specially in R&D, technological upgradation interventions in mineral exploration by application of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Big Data Analytics. Director, TIFR would visit the Ministry to discuss the matter.
- Secretary (Mines) also took the matter of India's staking its legal rights in space mining. Dr. K Sivan, Chairman, Space Commission and Secretary, Deptt. Of Space has agreed to examine space exploration for mineral resources and India becoming part of the space mining framework initiated by Luxembourg.

➤ **MoU between Foreign Countries & Ministry of Mines.:**

- A MoU between the Geological Survey of India (GSI), and the Geological Survey of Brazil – CPRM (GSB–CPRM), Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Federative Republic of Brazil was signed at New Delhi on 25th January, 2020 on cooperation in field of Geology and Mineral Resources for an initial period of five years during the State Visit of Hon'ble President of the Federative Republic of Brazil to India. The matter of preparation of Work Plan is under process through Ambassador of India to Brazil.