

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TECHNICAL SESSION ON ATOMIC MINERAL POLICY

Date: 05-07-2016, Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Venue- Studio I (Meeting Floor)



Shri R. Sridharan, Union Mines Additional Secretary & Shri Sudhaker Shukla, Economic Adviser
Chairing the session

A presentation on Atomic Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 was delivered by Shri Sudhaker Shukla, Economic Adviser, Union Mines Ministry.



Shri Sudhaker Shukla, Economic Adviser making presentation

Scheme of presentation was based on 5 basic features.

- ❖ Presence of monazite establishes a strong base for treating beach sand minerals as Atomic Minerals.
- ❖ MMDR Act, 1957 includes Atomic Minerals in Part B of the First Schedule.
- ❖ Strong role for Government Atomic Minerals Act, 1962 further defined the prescribed substances.
- ❖ MMDR Act, 1957 amended w.e.f. 12 January, 2015.
- ❖ Atomic Mineral Concession Rules are framed under section 11B.
- ❖ Concept of “**threshold value**” central to understanding the scheme of the rules.
- ❖ Beach Sand Minerals included as a new entity.
- ❖ The rules shall apply only to atomic minerals where the quantity of atomic mineral contained in the ore is equal to or more than the threshold value.
- ❖ “**Threshold value**” to be specified and notified by AMD. Atomic Minerals which are listed in Part B occur naturally in association with prescribed substances.
- ❖ It is the intention of Government to keep the mining of prescribed substances.
- ❖ If quantity of atomic minerals contained in ore equal to or more than threshold value, then mining lease shall be granted to Govt Company or corporation owned or controlled by Govt, to be identified by Central Government (DAE). Private players will have role only if AMD specifically permits them.
- ❖ Where the grade of atomic minerals is less than the threshold value, State Government, may grant mineral concessions through auctions or reservation as the case may be.
- ❖ Discussion and concerns were made on the threshold value for atomic minerals as prescribed in the Schedule A of AMCR, 2016
- ❖ It was decided that it is the technical domain of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Ministry of Mines is not having any expertise in deciding the technical standards for atomic minerals.
- ❖ The issue regarding disharmony between Beach Sand Mineral Policy, MMDR Act and Rules made thereunder, was raised by one of the delegates. A separate discussion could follow if needed. Right now there is no ambiguity.

- ❖ It was informed by the Chairman that the complete listing of areas falling above and below threshold value is going on. Further, it was informed that AMD has identified 1000 sq.km. area below the threshold value which will be available for private players.

