ORDER

Subject: Relaxation of area limits in exercise of powers under section 6 of the MMDR Act, 1957, for prospecting licence and mining lease in respect of limestone in the State of Maharashtra


Whereas Government of Maharashtra has sought approval of the Central Government for relaxation of area limits under section 6 (1)(b) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, for mining leases for captive use in the interest of mineral development.

And whereas the total resources of limestone in Maharashtra state have been estimated to the tune of 2821 million tonnes as per the Indian Minerals Year Book, 2014.

And whereas most of the cement companies operating in the State of Maharashtra have expanded their production capacity as a result of which the existing captive leases shall be exhausted prior to attaining life of the expanded capacity of the plant.

And whereas there is a need for increasing the area limits for mining lease for limestone keeping in view the expansion of the cement plants and the requirement of limestone for captive purpose, in the State of Maharashtra.

And whereas considering the vast resources of limestone deposits in the State of Maharashtra there is a need for increasing the area limits for prospecting licence for limestone to encourage prospecting over large areas to establish sufficient mineralisation for future production of limestone for captive use in cement plants.

Now therefore the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 6 of the MMDR Act, 1957, hereby conveys its approval for increasing the area limits for prospecting licence and mining lease in respect of limestone in the State of Maharashtra, in the interest of development of limestone and the cement industry dependent on captive limestone leases, from 25 square kilometers to 100 square kilometers for prospecting licence and from 10 square kilometers to 50 square kilometers for mining lease.

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