

File No. NA-610/2/2022-NA

Government of India

Ministry of Coal

O/o Nominated Authority

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120 -F, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: March 29, 2023

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject: Minutes of meeting chaired by Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority (AS&NA), Ministry of Coal, Government of India on 21.03.2023 at 03:00 PM to address the issues pertaining to the operationalization of coal blocks located in the State of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

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The undersigned is directed to refer the subject mentioned above and to forward herewith the minutes of meeting held on 21.03.2023 at 03:00 PM under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority (AS&NA), to address the issues pertaining to the operationalization of coal blocks located in the State of West Bengal and Jharkhand.



(Manish Uniyal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tel: 011 23384106

To,

1. Secretary MoEF & CC.
2. PCCFs of State Forest Departments of Governments of West Bengal and Jharkhand.
3. Directors of Mining of Governments of West Bengal and Jharkhand.
4. Coal Block Allocattees as per Meeting Notice dated 13.03.2023.
5. District Collectors of Burdwan, Bardhawan, Paschim Bardhaman, Hazaribagh, Latehar, Palamu, Dumkal Pakur, Ramgarh, Giridih, Bokara and Dumka.

Copy to:-

1. PS to Additional Secretary (NA)
2. Director (NA)/ Director (Tech/NA)
3. Concerned staff of O/o NA

Minutes of meeting chaired by Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority (AS&NA), Ministry of Coal, Government of India on 21.03.23 at 3:00 PM to address the issues pertaining to operationalization of coal blocks located in the State of West Bengal and Jharkhand.

The list of participants is at Annexure I.

At the outset, AS & NA (Coal) welcomed all the participants. A detailed presentation was made and, progress and development of individual coal blocks were discussed.

#### A. West Bengal

##### 1. Gourangdih ABC, M/s WBMDCL

EC: The proposal was considered in EAC meeting on 14.10.2020. It was deferred and the proposal was considered in EAC on 13.01.2021. It was again deferred and considered in EAC on 01.04.2022. EDS was again raised for revision in mine plan, WLMP etc. The required changes in the mine plan comes under major category and it requires approval of CCO. Allottee informed that revision of mine plan has been completed and it will be uploaded by end of this week.

FC Stage- I: Proposal for grant of Forest Stage I has been deferred by FAC on 27.01.23 and on 23.02.2023. MoEF &CC has asked for presence of Nodal Officer of West Bengal, Regional officer, IRO, Kolkata and CMD of WBMDCL in next FAC meeting on 24.03.23.

The Nominated Authority stated that WBMDCL is not making any serious efforts for starting the mine and on one or another pretext they are unnecessarily delaying the project as it was allotted in year 2016. No substantial progress is visible in last seven years. He advised office of NA to issue show cause notices for delay and put it for consideration of Scrutiny Committee.

##### 2. East of Damogodia, M/s BCCL

M/s BCCL informed that the main issue is related with overlapping of some part of mine with lease hold area of SAIL, Sitampur block and JV of CIL &ONGC.

Nominated authority stated that decision has been taken during meeting on 08.02.23 for resolving the issue of overlapped area. He enquired about the status of action taken in this regard. Allottee informed that they are proceeding as per the direction and CMPDIL is also in process of revision of boundary of the mine. Nominated authority advised BCCL to complete the work in one month and submit a report to ministry.

### 3. Jagannathpur B, M/s Power plus Traders Private Ltd.

**Grant of Mining Lease:** It was informed that except mining lease all the clearances have been obtained. They have applied for grant of ML and state mining department has raised queries several times, last on 27.01.23. Last query is related with land availability report and NOC for explosive license. Reply has been submitted and presently the proposal is with Principal Secretary (Industries, commerce), GoWB. They are expecting that the ML will be granted in next 15=20 days

Chief Mining Officer, West Bengal informed that all the requisite information has been received for the grant of mining lease and the same will be processed for approval of the state government.

## B. Jharkhand

### 4. Badam, M/s NTPC Limited

**FC Stage- I:** Forest Stage I was transferred on 14.01.2020. NTPC has sought modification in forest stage I conditions and allowing NTPC to pay two times compensation in lieu of CA land as allowed to other CPSU. Earlier the recommendation of state government was turned down by MoEF&CC, however, they have agreed to reconsider the proposal in FAC on 24.03.2023.

#### **Land Acquisition:**

**Private Land:** Decision on fixation of land rate for 313 acre is pending in state revenue department. State government has sought the opinion of Advocate General, Ranchi on the land rate and it is still awaited. NTPC has made the payment for 53 acre private land awarded under LA Act 1894, however, mutation has still not been done in name of NTPC.

**Government Land:** Payment has been made for transfer of 98 ha land by NTPC to State, however it has not been transferred in the name of NTPC till date. The proposal has been sent by revenue department for approval of state cabinet. Demand note for remaining 48 ha land is awaited from Latehar district administration.

Director (Mines), GoJH stated that the issue is related with revenue department, and we will pursue the issue with them. Nominated Authority stated that the issue was discussed during meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, GoJH and Coal Secretary on 11.01.23 at Ranchi and it was decided to resolve the issue on priority basis.

### 5. Banhardih, M/s Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited

**EC:** The proposal was considered in EAC on 09.06.22 and EAC deferred the proposal and advised allottee to submit detailed study on nallah diversion and OB dump. The compliances have been submitted in October 2022. The proposal was in the agenda for EAC meeting on 15.12.2022, however, it was not

considered as M/s Vimta Labs, the EIA Consultant has been debarred by MoEF&CC. Allottee stated that they are trying to resolve the issue with MoEF&CC.

**FC stage I:** The main issue is related with challenges in tree enumeration and Gram Sabha in 2 villages. . Gram Sabha in all 7 villages have been completed, however due to dispute raised in 2 villages during gram sabha, the villagers are not ready to give their consent on the decision of the gram sabha. Therefore, NOC under FRA from the Latehar, District Administration is pending.

Additional Commissioner, Latehar, stated that there was resistance of villagers during the Gram Sabha and district administration is coordinating with the locals and are trying to sort out the issues. Nodal Officer, Jharkhand also assured that he will coordinate with the DFO, Latehar to resolve the issue.

#### **6. Dumri, M/s Hindalco Industries Ltd**

Allottee informed that they have applied for surrendering the coal mine under one time amnesty scheme of ministry on 07.06.22 They have also approached Hon'ble Delhi high court and the issue of surrender of the mine is subjudice.

#### **7. Chakla, M/s Hindalco**

**EC:** Draft EIA/EMP submitted on 28.10.22 to JSPCB, Ranchi. Notice for public consultation published by JSPCL on 26.01.23 and 29.01.23 in local newspapers.

**Forest Stage I:** Allottee informed that 1230.578 acre of CA land has been vested to them, however, 241.39 acres of land has been rejected by the DFOs of Garwha, Palamau & Bokarao, and verification of balance CA land is under process. DFO has also raised EDS on CA land and compliances has been submitted. Allottee, also stated that they will give undertaking that in case the vested CA land is not suitable ,they will arrange fresh CA land.

MoEF&CC stated that the State Government has to validate the entire CA land and forward the proposal to MoEF&CC and then it will be considered.

Additional Secretary advised the Jharkhand Government to expediate the matter at their end and sent the proposal to MoEF&CC.

#### **8. Lohari, M/s Aranya Mines Pvt Ltd**

Out of total 405 ha area, mining lease has been granted for 126.90 ha on 11.04.22 and deed executed on 30.12.22. Application for mine opening permission submitted on 28.02.23 and CTE granted on 15.03.22. He stated that application for CTO will be submitted today.

**Land Acquisition:**

Allottee has informed that the land record is not updated, and it is not in name of Raiyat. Revisional survey report is not available online and it is not clear that how much is govt land and how much is private land.

District Commissioner, Palamau stated that the mining lease has been executed. He also stated that presently there is not any Settlement officer in office and due to this revisional survey report could not be published.

Nominated Authority stated that the issue was discussed during meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, GoJH and Coal Secretary on 11.01.23 at Ranchi and it was decided to resolve the issue on priority basis. He advised DC, Palamu to resolve it at the earliest so that the mine can start production.

**9. Meral, M/s Trimula Industries Limited**

It was informed that the request of Allottee for surrender of 74.01 ha land has been rejected by ministry and they have to proceed accordingly. Allottee informed that they are preparing revised mining plan and revised EC proposal.

**10. Moitra, M/s JSW Limited**

Mining lease has been granted on 31.10.2019, however, lease has not been executed till date. The e-stamp required for execution of ML deed has been submitted by allottee to district mining officer. Nominated Authority stated that the issue was discussed during meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, GoJH and Coal Secretary on 11.01.23 at Ranchi and it was even discussed with hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Director (Mines & Geology), GoJ stated that he is waiting for approval of state government.

**11. Tokisud (North), M/s NMDC Limited**

**Mining Lease/ Land Acquisition:** Total geological area is 316 ha. Total project area as per approved Mine Plan is 585 ha. Out of this 585 ha, only 261.34 ha is lying inside the geological boundary and the remaining area is lying outside the block boundary. The area lying outside the coal block boundary is required for OB dump (non-coal bearing) and railway siding. Accordingly, certification of boundary area by CMPDIL is required. NMDC has requested CMPDIL for certification of boundary which is pending. DGPS survey for lease hold area and project area has been completed and survey report submitted by CMPDIL on 10.03.23. Application for Section 4 under CBA Act is under process.

Nominated Authority advised NMDC to expedite the land acquisition process .

## **12. Rohne, M/s NMDC Limited**

**Forest Stage II:** Forest Stage I transferred to NMDC on 18.11.21 for 789.88 ha forest land. MoEF&CC sought comments of Jharkhand Forest department on 01.02.22 on the request of allottee for relaxing the conditions of CA as in case of other Central PSU. Jharkhand forest department recommended to MoEF&CC for allowing provision of double degraded forest land in line with other CPSU in place of CA land on 17.05.2022. The proposal was considered in the FAC meeting. MoEF&CC rejected the recommendation of the state government on 23.11.22 and advised NMDC for arrangement of CA land as advised in grant letter for FC stage-I. Allottee again approached MoEF&CC through Steel ministry and they have agreed to consider the proposal.

**Mining Lease:** Applied for the ML. Grant of ML is pending for want of FC -II. In order to rectify the issue of differences in bounding coordinates provided in allotment order and in approved mining plan, NMDC has given work order to CMPDIL for DGPS survey on 27.01.2023. DGPS survey work is under progress.

## **13. Kotre-Basantpur & Pachamo, M/s Central Coalfields Ltd**

**EC:** Proposal considered in EAC meeting on 01.04.2022 and on 13.07.22. EDS raised & allottee was advised to update and revise mine plan & mine closure plan activities considering sustainable way of mining and vetting of mine plan by a reputed international agency. Allottee was also advised to submit WLMP, social impact assessment and hydrological study report. Allottee is at advance stage of completion of compliances, and it is expected that the compliances will be submitted by end of April.

**Forest Stage II:** Forest Stage I granted on 27.01.23, however, the external dumping area is reduced from 313 ha to 151 ha. Accordingly, CMPDIL is assigned the work of revision in mining plan with reduced external OB dump area. It is expected that the compliances will be submitted by end of May.

Additional Secretary enquired about the timelines for grant of clearances. CCL stated that they are expecting grant of EC and FC stage-II by September 2023 and October 2023 respectively.

## **14. Rajbar E&D, M/s TVNL**

**EC:** Revised TOR granted on 28.03.22. However, due to revision in the forest area by DFO, Latehar on 26.07.22, the land schedule needs to be revised. Draft EIA/EMP report has been prepared and after revision of land schedule by revenue department, draft EIA/EMP will be submitted to JSPCB.

Additional Commissioner, Latehar informed that revised land schedule has been received for verification and certification. He assured that the verification and certification will be completed within fifteen days.

**Forest Stage I:** Application submitted on 10.09.2020. However, due to revision in land schedule, revised application is required to be submitted. Out of revised 1345.14-acre requirement of CA land, the suitability for 181.99 acre is received. Identification of balance land is completed. Allottee has applied for suitability certificate to DFO ,Giridih and DFO, Gumla. Verification of identified land for CA purpose is under process.

**15. Saharpur Jamarpani, M/s Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.**

Allottee informed that exploration work was given to CMPDIL but due to law-and-order situation the exploration work couldn't started. Accordingly, they decided to go for MDO mode. Tender for MDO was issued on 03.10.22, however no bid was received. Date of tender opening has been extended several times since October 2022. The revised date of tender opening is 11.04. 2023.

Allottee further stated that they are constantly in touch with district officials and DC, Dumka has assured to provide all possible help in starting drilling/exploration work. Meanwhile, CMPDIL has also been approached and DC, Dumka has advised UPRVUNL/CMPDIL to start drilling from 15.04.23.

~~DC, Dumka stated that the company has not taken any initiative for mobilisation of resources at site despite repeated instructions. He assured that they will extend all possible assistance in resolving the law-and-order issue, but company needs to take the proactive measure in mobilising the resources at the site.~~

Additional Secretary stated that no progress has been observed in last three years. He advised UPRVUNL/CMPDIL to start drilling at the earliest with the help of district administration as they are fully cooperating.

**16 .Amarkonda Murgadangal and Brahmini & Chichro Patsimal, M/s Eastern Coalfield Ltd.**

Due to resistance of local villagers, the drilling/exploration work could not be started. M/s ECL informed that they had applied for surrendering the mine on 15.06.2022, however, later it was decided to continue with the operationalization of the mines and surrender request has been withdrawn. 25 villages are falling within the block boundary, however, initially they are focusing on 10 villages where population is low. They had a meeting with DC, Dumka on 10.03.2023 and he has assured all possible help. Commencement of exploration is likely to start from 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023. For exploration purpose, they have divided the mine in three parts. North part will be explored by CMPDIL while middle and south part will be explored by MDO. ECL further stated that lots of development has taken place in last one month.

Additional Secretary appreciated the cooperation provided by DC, Dumka and advised ECL to start drilling/exploration at the earliest with the help of district administration.

**17.Sugia Closed, M/s JSMDCL.**

**EC:** Applied for transfer of EC to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on 01.12.22. SEIAA raised EDS on 23.12.22 regarding submission of compliance report for previously approved EC and NOC from prior allottee. Compliance report is yet to be completed by JSMDCL.

**Forest Stage I:** Application for diversion of forest proposal is yet to be made by the allottee. The Identification of 77.03 ha CA land is in progress.

**18.Gondulpara, M/s Adani Enterprises Limited**

**EC:** Applied for TOR on 19.06.2021. It was considered in the EAC meeting on 06.07.2021. EAC deferred the TOR proposal and asked to submit a revised proposal after excluding proposed external OB dump area lying outside the mining lease boundary. A revised mine plan is required to be prepared and for this DGPS survey is to be done. However due to resistance of local villagers the DGPS survey could not be completed.

**Forest Stage I:** Identification of 219.64 ha CA land is under process.

DC, Hazaribagh stated that there was some resistance from the local villagers due to which the DGPS survey could not be conducted, but the district administration is in touch with the local villagers and the issues will be resolved soon.

Allottee further stated that they will face problem in coal evacuation due to absence of road connectivity.

Additional Secretary advised allottee to make a combined effort with other nearby coal mining company for construction of road for coal evacuation and he enquired about the expected timeline for operationalization of the mine. Allottee informed that combined efforts with other coal companies are being going on for road construction and they are hopeful to start mining by April 2024.

**19.Rajhara North (Central & Eastern), M/s Fairmine Carbons Pvt Ltd**

**Grant of Mining Lease:** Application for grant of mining lease submitted to DMO, Palamu on 24.03.22 and the application has been forwarded to Director (Mines) GoJ on 13.10.2022. Allottee informed that the publication of revisional survey of Rajhara and Pandwa village is pending due to absence of any Settlement officer in Palamu district. The issue was discussed in the meeting between Secretary (Coal) and Chief



Secretary, Jharkhand held on 11.01.2023 at Ranchi and it was assured that publication of revisional Survey report would be completed in 1 month.

Additional Collector, Palamu stated that the issue of posting of settlement officer is under discussion and it will be resolved soon.

Allottee requested for holding a tripartite meeting with CCL to resolve the issue of CBA land. Additional Secretary stated that CCL has already been given direction regarding CBA land and advised allottee to take up the issue with CCL.

Allottee also stated that the state govt is now including the percentage of revenue share (bidding amount) in the calculation of stamp duty for ML and due to this amount of stamp duty increases abnormally by 3 to 8 times. Additional Secretary advised allottee to give a written representation to ministry and thereafter it will be resolved in consultation with state government.

#### **20.Urma Paharitola, M/s Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure Pvt Ltd**

PL has been granted on 10.01.2023. Allottee stated that they are regularly meeting with local villagers and the drilling/ exploration work will start in first week of April 2023.

#### **21.Brahmadiha, M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.**

**EC:** Final EIA/EMP report submitted on 21.02.23 to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for grant of EC. SEIAA raised an EDS on 02.03.2023 and revised MP is to be prepared.

**Revised Mine Plan:** Allottee informed that the revised MP was considered by the committee for increased PRC of 0.5 MT. Committee considered the proposal on 16.03.2023 and a few clarifications has been sought. Allottee assured that the reply will be uploaded by end of this week.

#### **Land Acquisition:**

**Private Land:** Allottee requested DC (Giridih) for transfer of 36.43 ha land purchased by previous allottee on 06.04.21. Additional collector, Giridih stated that the sale deed has been executed in name of APMDCL and only mutation is pending for want of legal paper. Nominated Authority stated that vesting order itself is legal paper and advised Additional Collector to complete the mutation process

**Government Land:** Application for acquisition of 34 Ha land submitted on 14.07.2021 to DC (Giridih). Allottee made the payment of Rs. 28.0 crores as per the demand note issued by DC (Giridih). The proposal has been sent to Secretary (Revenue), Ranchi. Preparation of cabinet note for transfer of government land

is under process in office of Secretary (Revenue). Once the ML is executed, it will be transferred to APMDCL after approval of state cabinet.

**22.Jogeshwar & Khas Jogeshwar, M/s Southwest Pinnacle Exploration Ltd.**

Application submitted for PL cum ML to DMO, Ramgarh and DMO, Bokaro districts on 12.07.22 and 20.10.22 respectively. Clarifications have been asked on approved exploration scheme by Forest department and by CMPDIL. Allottee stated that M/s Southwest Pinnacle Exploration Ltd itself is an accredited exploration agency and further approval of exploration scheme is not required from CMPDIL. Director(Mines) ,GoJ stated that they will not insist for approval of exploration scheme from CMPDIL .He further stated that other companies have submitted exploration scheme approved by forest department for forest land and they will help them in obtaining approval from forest department. Allottee stated that they will submit exploration scheme approved by forest department for forest land shortly.

**23.Rauta Closed Mine, M/s Shreesatya Mines Private Limited**

Application submitted for PL cum ML to DMO, Ramgarh on 06.01.22. Application has been forwarded to Director (Mines), Ranchi on 17.07.22. The proposal was considered in cabinet meeting on 21.10.22,however,it was deferred due to some land issues. He has sought clarification from DC(Ramgarh) and after gaining the clarification, the proposal will be processed again.

**Annexure I****1. List of participants from Ministry of Coal**

S. No	Name
1.	Shri M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority
2.	Shri Ajitesh Kumar, Director
3.	Shri V. Marapally, Director (Technical)
4.	Shri Jitendra Kumar, Chief Manager (Mining)
5.	Shri Manish Uniyal, Under Secretary
6.	Shri Harishchand, Manager
7.	Shri Prince Kumar, Dy. Executive Engineer
8.	Shri Annurag Khemka, Team Leader, PMU
9.	Shri Bijay Kumar Sinha, SME, PMU
10.	Ms. Deepika Pokhariya, SME, PMU
11.	Ms. Uma Chakrawarti, Office of NA

**2. List of participants from MoEF&CC and State Government of West Bengal and Jharkhand**

S. No	Name	Designation	State /MoEF&CC
1	Shri Charanjeet singh	Scientist (Forest Division)	MoEF&CC
2	Shri Munna Shah	Scientist (Environment Division)	MoEF&CC
3	Shri Sanjay Srivastava	Nodal Officer, PCCF	Jharkhand
4	Shri. Sadat Anwar	Additional Collector	Bokaro, GoJ
5	Shri. Surjit Singh	Additional Collector	Palamu,GoJ
6	Shri. Alok Shikari Kacchap	Additional Collector	Latehar,GoJ
7	Shri Wilson Bhengra	Additional Collector	Giridih, GoJ
8	Ms. Nancy Shahy	DM cum DC Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh,GoJ
9	Shri Anjaneyulu Dodde	Deputy Commissioner	Palamu,GoJ
10	Shri Ravi Shankar Shukla	Deputy Commissioner	Dumka,GoJ
11	Shri Varun Ranjan	Deputy Commissioner	Pakur,GoJ
12	Shri Madhvi Mishra	Deputy Commissioner	Ramgarh,GoJ
13	Shri Joydeep Prakash	Chief Mining Officer	West Bengal Govt
14	Shri S S Anand	CCF /FCA	West Bengal Govt
15	Shri Priyanka Singla	District Collector, Burdwan	West Bengal Govt
16	Shri Prashant Raj Shukla	ADM, Paschim Bardhaman	West Bengal Govt

### 3. List of participants representing coal mines

S. NO	Name
1	Shri Partha Majumdar, Executive Director, NTPC
2	Shri Rajeev Ranjan, AGM, PVUNL. Shri Jibanendu Mohapatra (DGM Mimning)
3	Shri J. Mahapatra, DGM, PVUNL
4	Shri Rajeev Kumar, Hindalco Industries Ltd
5	Shri Anup Singh, GM, Aranya Mines Ltd
6	Shri Anand Mohan Prasad Vice President, Trimula Industries Ltd
7	Shri Sauvick Mazumder Chief Operating Officer, JSW Steel Ltd
8	Shri A K Prajapati ED NMDC Ltd
9	Shri Swaminathan, Sr. Manager, NMDC Ltd
10	Shri B Sairam, DT (P&P), CCL
11	Shri Anil Kumar Sharma, TVNL
12	Shri S K Dutta, Director (Proj. & Com), UPRVUNL
13	Shri Nilendu Kr. Singh, DT (P&P), ECL
14	Shri Amit Kumar, MD, JSMDCL
15	Shri Afroz Ali, Cluster Head, Adani Enterprises Ltd
16	Shri Rajeev Singh, Director, Fairmine Carbon Pvt. Ltd.
17	Shri M. Gopal Reddy, Aurobindo Reality & Infrastructure Ltd
18	Shri S.K. Anil Kumar, APMDCL
19	Shri Ramesh Dawani, APMDCL
20	Shri Manik Jain, VP, Southwest Pinnacle Exploration Ltd
21	Shri Vikas Jain, CMD, , Southwest Pinnacle Exploration Ltd
22	Shri Bhim Ray, Shreesatya Mines Pvt. Ltd.
23	Shri Arun Acharya, GM, WBMDCL
24	Shri U.A. Kaole, DT (P&P), BCCL
25	Shri K.S. Rao, Mining Head, PTPL