

**F. No. 13016/42/2015-CA-III/P&S-II**

**Government of India**

**Ministry of Coal**

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**Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi**

**Dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

**ORDER**

**Subject: Increase in the area limits under Section 6 (1) of the MMDR Act for grant of Prospecting Licenses/ Mining Leases to forty (40) square kilometres in respect of coal blocks located in Maharashtra State**

WHEREAS, sub-section (1) Section 6 of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that no person shall acquire in respect of any mineral or prescribed group of associated minerals in a State (a) one or more prospecting licences covering a total area of more than twenty-five square kilometres; or (b) one or more mining leases covering a total area of more than ten square kilometres.

2. AND WHEREAS, if the Central Government is of the opinion that in the interest of the development of any mineral or industry, it is necessary so to do, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, increase the aforesaid area limits in respect of prospecting license or mining lease, in so far as it pertains to any particular mineral, or to any specified category of deposits of such mineral, or to any particular mineral located in any particular area.

3. AND WHEREAS, the allocation of coal blocks is carried out by the Central Government under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder and several coal blocks with area of more than ten square kilometres and upto forty square kilometres located in Maharashtra State have been allocated so far.

4. AND WHEREAS, keeping in view the overall development of coal industry due to liberalization of auction process and commencement of commercial mining it is noticed that companies which have been awarded one or more coal blocks with combined area of more than ten square kilometres in a State have to often seek relaxation of area limits beyond ten square kilometres for obtaining one or more mining lease under sub-section (1) Section 6 of the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

5. AND WHEREAS, in order to expedite the process of obtaining clearances and to further facilitate early operationalization of coal blocks and to reduce compliance burden, it has been decided to increase the area limits for obtaining one or more mining lease(s) to forty square kilometres from the existing ten square kilometres and it has also been decided that area limits for obtaining one or more prospecting license may be increased to forty square kilometres from the existing twenty-five square kilometres in respect of coal blocks located in the State of Maharashtra.

6. NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) Section 6 of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government hereby increases the area limits for obtaining one or more mining lease(s) to forty square kilometres and increases the area limits for obtaining one or more prospecting license to forty square kilometres in respect of coal blocks located in the State of Maharashtra.

7. The concerned State Government is requested to note the above increase in the area limits of mining lease and prospecting license in respect of coal for information and compliance.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority.



(Rishan Rynthiang)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tel. No. 23073936

**To,**

1. Chief Secretary, Maharashtra
2. Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal
3. Coal Controller, Coal Controller Organization, New Delhi
4. Under Secretary (P&S-I), Ministry of Coal
5. STD, NIC, Ministry of Coal: - for uploading in the website of Ministry of Coal