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NOTIFICATION

No.J-30012/10/2025-C&I, the 29th July, 2025: In the interest of public services and as approved by the Council of Ministers conveyed vide. No.J.11011/2/2025-POL/ii dt 29.07.2025 the Governor of Mizoram is pleased to notify 'Mizoram State Minor Mineral Policy, 2025' with immediate effect as follows: -

1. VISION

Minor Minerals are a valuable finite and non-renewable natural resource being the vital raw material for the infrastructure development such as construction of road, bridges, highways, buildings, dams, airport etc. Exploration, extraction and management of minor minerals have to be guided by State goals and perspectives, to be integrated into the overall strategy of the State's economic development. Scientific mining has to go hand-in-hand with sustainable management practices for the long-term economic development of the State. The Govt. of Mizoram knowing the importance of development of minerals found it necessary to outline policy relating to the development of mineral resources of the State.

Natural resources, including minor mineral minerals, are a shared inheritance where the State is a trustee on behalf of the people and therefore it is imperative that allocation of mineral resources is done in a fair and transparent manner to ensure equitable distribution of mineral wealth to sub-serve the common good. Mining needs to be carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner keeping stakeholders' participation, and devolution of benefits to the mining affected persons with the overall objective of maintaining high level of trust between all stakeholders.

It shall also be ensured that the regulatory environment is conducive to ease of doing business with simpler, transparent and time-bound procedures for obtaining clearances. Since mining contributes significantly to state revenues, there is a need for an efficient regulatory mechanism with high penetration of e-governance systems to prevent illegal mining and pilferages of minerals as well as State's wealth. Mining contributes significantly to employment generation, thus, there shall be a keen focus on gender sensitivity in the mining sector at all levels. Endeavour shall be made to set up a unified authority at State level for mineral development and co-ordination to fulfill objectives of this policy.

2. REGULATION OF MINOR MINERALS

2.1 Management of mineral resources is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments in

terms of entry 54 of the Union List (List I) and entry 23 of the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Entry 54 of List-I reads “*Regulation of mines and minerals development to the extent to which such regulation and development under the Control of the Union is declared by Parliament by Law to be expedient in the public interest*”. Also, that Entry 23 of List-II reads “*Regulation of mines and minerals development, subject to the provisions of List-I with respect to regulation and development under the Control of the Union*”. Such a law was passed by Parliament in 1957 – The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (Act 67 of 1957) which covers all minerals including minor minerals. As per the provision of this Act, the present rule in force for minor mineral applicable to the whole State is The Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023.

- 2.2 In order to make the regulatory environment conducive to ease of doing business, the procedures for grant of mineral concessions shall be transparent and seamless with an assured security of tenure along with transferability of concessions playing a key role in minor mineral sector development.
- 2.3 To ensure the preparation and enforcement of mining plans, mine closure plans, scheme of mining etc. for minor minerals, the State Directorate of Mining & Geology (DGM) has to be strengthened with adequate man power especially mining engineers and skill sets upgraded to state-of-the-art levels by means of capacity building and practical training conducted by both State Directorate of Mining & Geology and Indian Bureau of Mines.
- 2.4 There will be an emphasis on strengthening the regulatory mechanism by incorporating E-Governance, including satellite and remote sensing applications. Provisions shall be made for end-to-end accounting of minor minerals in the supply chain with use of IT enabled systems in monitoring the minor mineral exploitations, transportation and storage. Efforts shall also be made to devise appropriate mechanism(s) for awareness and information campaigns and also for involvement of local populations to supplement the law enforcement capabilities in preventing illegal mining by making whistle blower reward rules or incorporation of whistle blower reward in the Illegal mining rules to be constituted in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.
- 2.5 To formulate the minor minerals concession rules applicable for the whole State of Mizoram which includes Star Rating of Mines provisions in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015. The star rating of mines for minor minerals should also be guided by the provisions embedded in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017.
- 2.6 To formulate the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Rules in accordance with the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines and also a State Mineral Exploration Trust (SMET) for minor minerals guided by the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) set up by Government of India.

3. **ROLE OF STATE IN MINOR MINERAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 3.1 The core functions of state in mining of minor minerals will be facilitation and regulation of exploration and mining activities, making provision for development of infrastructure and non-tax revenue collection with safety going in tandem. An Annual Working Plan/Road map for the development of minor mineral sector shall be brought out by the nodal Department viz. Directorate of Geology & Mining. Grant of clearances for commencement of mining operations shall be streamlined with simpler and time bound procedures facilitated through an on-line public portal with provision for generating triggers at higher level in the event of delay. As part of Initiative for ease of doing business the States shall make an endeavour to auction mineral blocks with pre-embedded statutory clearances. Mineral bearing area/zone shall be earmarked as Mining Land in the land record by the States. Endeavour shall be made to rationalize those areas that were reserved but remained unused by PSUs, for speedy development.

- 3.2 Trust is vital to the ability of the State to achieve sustained growth in mining sector. State will endeavor continuously to increase trust level between government, miners, local communities and other stakeholders through openness, fairness, better regulation, responsiveness, inclusive policy making. All the legislations for minor minerals shall ensure judicious exploitation being finite resources and export to neighbouring States/ countries is not encouraged.

4 SURVEYING AND EXPLORATION

- 4.1 The State is blessed with minor minerals such as sandstone, shale, river/ pit sand and gravel in abundance. Brick earth and clay are found in sporadic nature at the present scenario of mining of minor minerals and has the geological environment for occurrence of other minor minerals which waits prospecting and exploration. To explore the State's entire geological potential, it shall be ensured that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically, scientifically and intensively over the entire geologically conducive mineral bearing area of the State, using correct mining methods and state-of-the-art technologies in a time bound manner in accordance with a globally accepted public reporting standard for ensuring reliability of reporting and acceptability to financial institutions such as UNFC Codification as far as practicable.
- 4.2 While the Government agencies will continue to perform the tasks assigned to them for survey and exploration, the private sector would be encouraged to take up exploration activities. Government agencies will expend public funds particularly in areas where private sector investments are not forthcoming due to reasons such as high uncertainties. States may be mandated to create dedicated funding for boosting exploration activities to be supported by State Mineral Exploration Trust and National Mineral Exploration Trust funds.
- 4.3 Exploration may be incentivized to attract private investments as well as state-of-the-art technology, within the ambit of auction regime, through Right of First Refusal (ROFR) at the time of auction in virgin areas on revenue sharing basis or any other appropriate incentive.
- 4.4 In case of the sites where minor mineral deposits are found at the outcrop, Pre-Feasibility Survey (PFS) have to be conducted by mining engineers/ geologists prior to grant of short-term mining permits and by mining engineers in the case of mining leases.

5 MINING AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 General Strategy

Minor minerals are important resource for the construction sectors. There is a huge demand for minor minerals in view of the rapid urbanization and the projected growth in the manufacturing sector. Extraction and management of minerals has to be guided by long-term and sustainable mining development. Mining technology will be upgraded to ensure extraction and utilization of the entire Run-of-Mines (RoM) to be zero-waste mining.

A thrust will be given to extraction of minor mineral resources in which the State is well endowed so that the needs of domestic industry are fully met keeping in mind both present and future needs.

5.2 Conservation and Mineral Development

Conservation of minerals shall be construed not in the restrictive sense of abstinence from consumption or preservation for use in the distant future but as a positive concept leading to augmentation of reserve/ resource base. There shall be an adequate and effective legal and institutional framework promoting zero-waste mining as the ultimate goal and a commitment to prevent sub-optimal and unscientific mining. The research-based utilization of rejected stone dust finer than 75µm may be mixed with cement at varying proportions to manufacture solid block which can be the substitute for bricks, ACC block or even dimensional stones should be encouraged.

5.3 Scientific Methods of Mining

Mine development and mineral conservation of minor minerals as governed by the rules and regulations will be on sound scientific basis, with the regulatory agencies, viz. the State Directorate of Geology & Mining must have sufficient qualified mining engineers to ensure preparation of optimal Mining plan, Mine Closure plans (PMCP and FMCP) and Scheme of Mining (SoM) for all mining leases and mining permits.

Besides these, all mines/quarries of short-term mining permits requiring explosives and blasting must have Blast Design with Safety guidelines prepared by mining engineers so as to use explosives safely and judiciously and to obtain Explosive Licence from concerned District Magistrates or Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), Govt. of India. Conditions of mining leases regarding extent of area/size, shape, disposition with reference to geological boundaries and other mining conditions shall be such as to favourably predispose the leased areas to systematic, scientific, optimum, and complete extraction of minerals. The regulatory agencies will be suitably strengthened through capacity building measures in terms of adequate man-powers such as mining engineers, technology, equipment and skill-set.

5.4 Mining Machinery and Mineral Beneficiation Equipment

Use of equipment and machinery which will improve the efficiency, productivity and economics of mining operations as well as mineral beneficiation process, safety and health of persons working in the mines/beneficiation plant and surrounding areas shall be encouraged. Availability of such equipment and machinery shall be incentivized and freely allowed.

5.5 Human Resource Development

Development of human resources shall be the mainstay to improve the competitive edge of the State mining industry with a focus on improving gender balance in mining industry. Emphasis shall be laid on mechanization, computerization, automation and adoption of state-of-the-art technology of the existing and new mining units. The human resource development strategy shall be suitably reoriented for the purpose. Facilities for basic and specialized training shall be constantly reviewed and upgraded from time to time, to ensure that adequately trained manpower at all levels is available for the development of mines and minerals. As the mining sector takes off, the country will need more and more mining engineers, Environment engineers, geo-scientists and IT professionals. The functionaries of the State Governments shall be trained to strengthen the mining sector regulation as per national standards. Besides these, the mining engineers of Directorate of Geology & Mining shall conduct routine capacity building/training to the mine/quarry owners and operators at least once in a year and for this fund shall be allocated by the State Government.

5.6 Infrastructure Development

Mining infrastructure requires a special thrust as the economic efficiency of transportation of minor minerals from pit mouth to user point is closely linked to the end use value of the mineral and of the viability of the industry producing and using the minor mineral. An enabling environment will be created to allow mining companies to undertake construction of such infrastructure including construction of conventional transportation networks like rail and road for their own usage in coordination of State/Central agencies. The contribution of mineral development to regional and more specifically peripheral development, commensurate with the huge investment in large mining projects is substantial. An integrated approach shall be encouraged encompassing mineral development, regional development and the social and economic well-being of the local, and particularly, tribal population of the State.

5.7 Financial Support for Mining

Mining is an eligible activity for obtaining financial support from financial institutions. However, at present only those mining projects which have a substantial component of mining machinery, equipment and buildings are being financed. Steps shall be taken to facilitate financing of prospecting, surveying, exploration and mine development. Efforts shall be made to grant mining the status of industry. The state Government shall try to make arrangement of mechanical equipment for drilling of shot-holes to petty quarry owners in the cluster areas to enhance production and revenue collection and ultimately for to uplift the economic condition of the miners.

5.8 Small Minor Mineral Deposits

Small and isolated deposits of minor minerals are scattered at various places in the State. These often lend themselves to economic extraction through small scale mining. With modest demand on capital expenditure and short lead-time, they provide employment opportunities for the local population. However, due to lack of economies of scale they can also lead to sub-optimal mining and ecological disturbance. Efforts will be made for promotion of small mineral deposits in a scientific and efficient manner while safeguarding vital environmental and ecological imperatives.

Where small deposits of minor minerals are not susceptible to viable mining, a cluster approach will be adopted by granting the deposits together as a single lease within a geographically defined boundary as suggested by National Mineral Policy 2019.

In grant of mineral concessions for small deposits in Scheduled Areas, endeavour will be made to accommodate Scheduled Tribes while extending enabling environment to carry-out mining operations in a systematic and efficient manner.

5.9 River Sand Minerals

Efforts will be made to encourage extraction of the replenishable deposits of river sand minerals for improved economic growth by ensuring coordination between the different agencies viz., State Governments, Directorate of Geology & Mining and Environment, Forests & Climate Change (EF&CC) Department, so that regulation of mining of river sand minerals is in conformity with the mining and other environmental laws. Efforts will also be made to ensure preparation of District Survey Report (DSR) for mining districts for sand mining are undertaken for obtaining environmental clearances.

5.10 Protection of Environment

Extraction of minerals impacts other natural resources like land, water, air and forest. It is necessary to take a comprehensive view to facilitate the choice or order of land use keeping in view the needs of development as well as needs of protecting the forests, environment and ecology and to conserve biodiversity of areas to be mined.

Prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental effects due to mining in accordance with the latest scientific norms and modern afforestation practices shall form integral part of mine development strategy in every instance. All mining shall be undertaken within the parameters of a comprehensive Sustainable Development Framework which will ensure that environmental, economic and social considerations are integrated effectively in all decisions on mines and minerals issues. The guiding principle shall be that a miner shall leave the mining area in an ecological shape which is as good as it was before the commencement of mining or better with least impact on flora and fauna of the area.

Mining operations shall not ordinarily be taken up in identified ecologically fragile and biologically rich areas. The State Government shall identify such areas that are critically fragile in terms of ecology

and declare as 'in-violate areas' or 'no-go areas' out of bounds for mining. In order to achieve a better semblance between mineral based development and environment, there shall be an endeavour to create Exclusive Mining Zone (EMZ) with prior in-principle statutory clearances demarcated for the mineralized belt/zone to avoid conflict of interest and to curtail delay in commencement of mining operation.

With a view to reduce pollution, carbon footprint and operational costs, use of renewable sources of energy at mining sites will be encouraged through appropriate incentives. Appropriate sensitization training about environmental issues will be provided to all workers involved in mining operations.

5.11 Sustainable Development in Mining

Environmental, economic and social considerations must be taken into account as early as possible in the decision-making process, to ensure sustainable development in the mining sector which envisions mining as financially viable; socially responsible; environmentally, technically and scientifically sound; with a long-term view of development; uses mineral resources optimally; and, ensures sustainable post-closure land uses.

The State Government shall set a benchmark against which all mining operations may be evaluated in terms of their comparative performance on sustainable development framework and enforce commitment on part of the mining companies to adopt sustainable development practices for achieving environmental and social goals. Sustainable development parameters shall be incorporated in the Star rating of mines of minor minerals.

5.12 Welfare of Project Affected Persons

5.12 (a) Relief & Rehabilitation of Displaced and Affected Persons

Mining operations can involve acquisition of land held by individuals including those belonging to the tribals and weaker sections. In all such cases a careful assessment of the economic, cultural, environmental, and social impact on the affected persons needs to be undertaken to ensure that suitable, appropriate, relief and rehabilitation packages are evolved.

In areas in which minor minerals occur and which are inhabited by tribal communities and weaker sections, it is imperative to recognize resettlement and rehabilitation issues as intrinsic to the development process of the affected zone. A mechanism will be evolved which would actually improve the living standards of the affected population and ensure them a sustainable income. For this purpose, all the provisions of rehabilitation and resettlement given in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013 as amended from time to time will be followed.

5.12 (b) Devolution of Mining Benefits to Project Affected Persons

The mining legislation has been amended to provide for the establishment of District Mineral Foundation ("DMF") with the objective of working for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas, affected by mining related operations. The objectives for devolution of mining benefits under DMF for inclusive and equitable development of project affected persons and areas are to be guided by the provisions of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana ("PMKKKY").

It shall be the endeavour of the State Government to monitor and review the implementation of schemes under DMF for giving effect to PMKKKY for a State web portal may be developed with free access to the public. In order to effectively implement the PMKKKY Scheme the State shall recruit at least one technical man-power ie. mining engineer with supporting staff to oversee all activities

including preparation of Statements for audit of all Governing Council of DMF for the entire Districts of the State.

5.12 (c) Welfare of Tribal Communities

Existence of minor minerals in tribal areas with rich biodiversity requires a comprehensive assessment. Land acquisition and displacement of tribal communities due to mining projects may lead to distress in tribal communities living in Scheduled Areas.

Grant of mineral concessions (viz. mining leases/ mining permits) in Scheduled Areas shall be guided by the provisions contained in article 244 read with Fifth and Sixth Schedules to the Constitution relating to administration of the Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas and the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 or any other relevant statutory acts protecting the interests of tribals. All Relevant Acts/Rules related to rehabilitation and resettlement like The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, subsequent amendments or any other relevant acts/rules shall be strictly implemented.

5.13 Mine Closures

Proper and systematic mine closure is the key component in mining project to be sustainable and environmentally friendly mining. At the initial phase while preparing mining plan, the mining plan shall include Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) to be implemented while depleting the minor mineral resources. Once the reserves in mine are completely exhausted there is need for scientific mine closure guided by Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP) which will not only restore ecology and regenerate bio diversity but also take into account the socio-economic aspects of such closure. Where mining activities have been spread over a few decades, mining communities get established and closure of the mine means not only loss of jobs for them but also disruption of community life. Mine closure should be done in an orderly and systematic manner.

State Government has a role in ensuring that post-production mine decommissioning and land reclamation are an integral part of the mine development process; that financial provisions for the costs incurred in mine closure are accorded a high level of priority by the industry; and those consistent approaches are adopted for efficient and effective mine reclamation and rehabilitation.

5.14 Safety of mines and mine-workers

Mining operations at times are hazardous in nature. Accidents happen and often result in occupational health problems, serious bodily injury or even loss of life. Efforts must be directed towards the development and adoption of mining methods which would increase the safety of workers and reduce accidents. Towards this end, participation and cooperation of mine workers shall be secured. Steps will also be taken to minimize the adverse impact of mining on the health and safety of workers and the surrounding population. Directorate of Geology & Mining (DGM) should be further strengthened through adequate manpower viz. mining engineers, equipments, and skill sets in order to carry out the regulatory role for ensuring miners' health and mine safety effectively as mandated by the Mines Act 1952 and guidelines of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Govt. of India.

5.15 Minor Mineral Security

Minor mineral resources security is an important issue with strategic as well as economic significance. Securing access to sufficient, reliable, affordable, and sustainable supplies of minor minerals is increasingly becoming an important factor for functioning of downstream industries and the overall

economy. Hence, ensuring long-term mineral security for the State shall be taken up with utmost priority. In order to conserve State's finite mineral resources, exporting the minor minerals to the neighbouring States and countries is not encouraged.

6. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Research in Mining Methods

Mining methods determine the safety, economy, speed and the percentage of extraction of the ore reserves from a mine. Research and development thrust shall be directed specially in the areas of rock mechanics, ground control, mine planning and design engineering, equipment deployment and maintenance, energy conservation, environmental protection, safety of operations and human engineering. Also, the DGM shall send its mining engineers for training and workshop conducted by Indian Bureau of Mines, Directorate General of Mines Safety and Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) to grab technological advances of the country.

6.2. Development in Mining Technology and Capacity building for Mining Engineers

Mining Plans, Mine Closure Plans, Scheme of Mining (SoM) and Blast Design shall be developed and improved based on the latest technology and innovations guided by the Ministry of Mines and Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Govt. of India from time to time. The Directorate of Geology & Mining (DGM) shall conduct annual training programmes for mining engineers for imparting knowledge in latest technological advances, mining reforms and amendments of mining laws that governs mineral administrations.

6.3 Capacity building for State Geologists

The Directorate of Geology & Mining (DGM) shall conduct annual training programmes for newly recruited geologists for amalgamating theoretical knowledge to practical use in the State. For this, mining geology in line with State geological setup and mineralogy shall be given priority. The DGM shall also send its geologist to the training centre of Geological Survey of India (GSI) on the subject which shall be beneficial for mineral exploration in the State.

7. ROYALTY SHARING MECHANISM

Management of mineral resources is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments in terms of entry 54 of the Union List (List I) and entry 23 of the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Such a law was passed by Parliament in 1957 – The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (Act 67 of 1957) which covers all minerals including minor minerals. As per the provision of this central act, the present rule in force for minor mineral applicable to the whole State is The Mizoram Minor Minerals (Concession and Prevention of Illegal Mining) Rules, 2023. As there is royalty sharing provision in the Constitution of India by the State with the Autonomous District Councils the State shall device such sharing mechanism as per the provisions of Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

8. INTER GENERATIONAL EQUITY

There is a need to understand that natural resources, including minerals, are a shared inheritance where the state is the trustee on behalf of the people to ensure that future generations receive the benefit of inheritance. State Governments will endeavour to ensure that the full value of the extracted minerals is received by the State. Inter generational equity emphasizes that the current generation should manage resources and make decisions in a way that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It calls for responsible use and conservation of natural resources, including both renewable and non-renewable resources.

9. OUTCOMES AND CONCLUSION

Minor mineral wealth is finite and non renewable. It is a major resource for development. The management of this precious resource and its optimal and economical use are matters of both national and regional importance. Under the 'Make in India' initiative, the Government of India aims to increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the economy. This national initiative needs to be adopted in the State level requiring a holistic development of the mineral sector on a sustainable basis in order to fulfill the demand of downstream industries dependent on minor mineral supply.

The outcomes expected from these policy proposals are, an increase in the production of minor minerals in sustainable manner without compromising with safety and conservation of environment without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The success of the State Minor Mineral Policy will depend largely on commitment of all concerned to fulfill its underlying principles and objectives.

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