MINISTRY OF MINES
MAJOR ACTIVITIES
December – 2019

Shri Sushil Kumar, IAS (TR: 1987) assumed charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Mines on 16th December, 2019.

There are 46 working mines whose leases are expiring on 31st March, 2020 under Section 8A(6) of the MMDR Act, 1957. The major impact on production of minerals is from the mines expiring in Odisha & Karnataka. Auction process has been completed for 6 mines (four Iron ore mines in Karnataka and two Chromite mines in Odisha). 20 expiring mines leases of Odisha are presently under auction process. 2 mines in Odisha are being reserved for State PSUs. Exploration is being carried out in remaining 18 mines for preparing these mines for auction for grant of mining lease.

In order to facilitate the operationalization of mining leases expiring in March, 2020, a meeting was convened by Ministry of Mines on 10th December, 2019 with the respective State Governments and concerned nodal Central Government Departments on granting of statutory clearances. To further streamline the process, a joint meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and self was held on 19th December, 2019 to address the issues pertaining to Environmental Clearance and Forest Clearance for the expiring mines. Accordingly, State Governments have been guided to conform to the process. Regular coordination is being done by Ministry of Mines with nodal Departments for grant of clearances.

Further, telephonic discussions were held with Mr. R.K. Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Mining Deprt., Govt. of Odisha to address expeditious restarting of mining operations for the new lessees. Some recommendations seeking policy and legislative changes were also received from him. To work out a common approach a joint meeting between Odisha govt and a team comprising of Joint Secretaries of Ministry of Mines and MoEF&CC was held also on 27th December, 2019 at Bhubaneshwar. Amongst procedural issues, a strategy to boost production of iron ore during 2020-21 was also devised with the mine owners and other stakeholders. Action plan was finalized to enhance production of about 30 million tonnes in 2020-21 over and above the targeted production in 2019-20.

After several rounds of discussions with the State Govts., stakeholders, NITI Aayog and review with PMO, ground work to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was initiated in partnership with the Ministry of Coal.
Two mineral blocks (1 Graphite block for mining lease and 1 Diamond block for composite license) were auctioned in Madhya Pradesh in December, 2019. With this, the total mineral blocks auctioned so far is 76 in 9 States. The estimated revenue accruing to the State Governments, over the lease period of these auctioned mines would be Rs.2,05,372 Crs. So far 10 auctioned mines have been operationalized. Further, 25 mineral blocks are presently under auction in Odisha, Jharkhand and Karnataka.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra KalyanYojana (PMKKKY) is being implemented through the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (DMF). DMFs have been set up in 571 districts in 20 major mineral States. As of November, 2019, the amount collected in the DMFs is Rs.34,099 Crs. Funds to the tune of Rs.28,217 Crs have been allocated and Rs.10,916 Crs have been spent. 1,43,308 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme. Rs.3,121 Crs have been spent in drinking water supply project and Rs.1,559 Crs have been spent in education projects. This Ministry is taking to steps to upload these details in the portal for fostering accountability and information sharing.

National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has approved 187 exploration projects with total cost of approved projects Rs.895.72 Crs up to 31st December, 2019. A total of 69 projects have already been completed and 118 projects are ongoing. An amount of Rs.209.42 Crs has been incurred in financial year 2017-18 to 2019-20.

During the month, several workshops/conferences related to the work of this Ministry were held. The details are in the Annexure – 1.

As regards the performance of the CPSEs under the Ministry, during December, 2019, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) produced 1,96,000 metric tonnes (MT) of Alumina Hydrate and 33,022 MT of Aluminium. The Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) produced 2482 tonnes of Metal-in-concentrate (MIC) during December, 2019.
**Workshop Organized during December, 2019**

i. The third workshop on Inter-Institutional convergence has been organized by GSI in collaboration with National Institute of Geophysical Research – CSIR, Hyderabad on 9\(^{th}\) December, 19. During the deliberations three project proposals on Iron, Diamond and Gold and concealed mineral deposits have been identified for implementation in collaboration with GSI, NMDC, NGRI, and AMD/DAE.

ii. GSI, School of Earth Sciences, Central University of Karnataka has jointly organized one– day workshop on Mineral Exploration and Resource Estimation on 5\(^{th}\) December, 2019 in Bengaluru. The workshop was focused on creating in dept awareness among the researchers and faculty members in field of mineral exploration.

iii. Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) arranged Bhuvisamvad across technical / engineering institutions, colleges, polytechnics and university departments on pan India basis. On 11\(^{th}\) December, 2019 IBM officials delivered a lecture on mining policies and sustainable development at Government Polytechnic College, Nagpur and interacted with the students of Mining wing. Similarly, on 23\(^{rd}\) December, 2019 a lecture on importance of online returns under Bhuvisamvad initiative was organized at Manganese Ore India Limited (MOIL) headquarters.

iv. Under Skill Development, a three days training programme (09\(^{th}\) to 11\(^{th}\) December, 2019) was organized at Udaipur.

v. The 36\(^{th}\) International Geological Congress (36 IGC) organized two half a day workshops on 12\(^{th}\) and 13\(^{th}\) December, 2019 at Delhi with State Governments and Public and Private exploration agencies engaged in mining sector to enhance their participation in mega Geoscience event scheduled to be held in March, 2020. The 36 IGC will provide a platform to exhibitors to showcase their technical capabilities at international level and enrich their capabilities with mutual interaction with policy makers, explorers, and researchers.