MINISTRY OF MINES MAJOR ACTIVITIES MAY – 2020

The salient achievements/activities for the previous month are elaborated below:

➤ **Priority Items:**

- As regards the policy announcements under the Atmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, a comprehensive Cabinet Note containing all proposals is already under submission to higher authority and on approval, would be put up to the Cabinet.

- The position of auction and operationalization of mines, as well the position of 46 mines with leases which expired on 31.3.2020, reported in my last month’s DO letter remains unchanged. However, pursuant to recent MMDR amendments to facilitate seamless transfer of mining leases to new lessees, Odisha has issued Letters of Intent (LoI) for 21 mineral blocks and Vesting Orders for 11 mineral blocks. Karnataka has issued LoI for 4 mineral blocks. The lease deeds are expected to be signed in this month. The Ministry is following up with the States through telecons, VCs etc.

- Apprentices trainings provided by the CPSEs, under Ministry of Mines indicates the percentage of engagement of apprentice to total manpower ranges from 3.8% to 8.7% as on March 2020. Ministry has indicated the latest status of percentage of apprentices engaged under Ministry to the Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) on 13.05.2020. A copy is enclosed for information marked as “A”.

- All three CPSEs namely NALCO, HCL and MECL are registered under GeM portal and TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System). A review meeting was held on 22.05.2020 to discuss procurement from GeM, TReDS and pending payments of MSME. MECL doesn’t have any pending payment, NALCO has a pending payment of Rs.0.04 Cr only and HCL has a pending payment of Rs.3.13 Cr largely for want of information from the MSMEs like incomplete bank details, partial supply of goods, etc. The company has been advised to resolve this expeditiously. The position is also informed to Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. A copy is enclosed for information marked as “B”.
• For exploration and mining of REE (Rare Earth Elements), this Ministry through GSI and in consultation with Atomic Mineral Directorate (AMD) is finalising the Vision Document – 2025 along with a road map for further exploration. AMD has carried out aero geophysical surveys in Aravalli belt of Rajasthan and collected high resolution aero-electromagnetic data which will be useful to GSI for identifying the potential massive sulphide deposits. Though AMD has agreed to share the processed data, GSI has requested that the raw data is needed so that multiple processing tools can be applied for processing and interpretation of data. I have written to Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) to consider the request. A copy is enclosed for information marked as “C”.

• Geological Survey of India (GSI) has compiled vital geo-scientific information on landslide under National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) programme. A total of 0.36 million sq. km out of 0.43 million sq. km has been completed on 1:50000 scale in March 2020. The rest target area 0.07 million sq. km in Arunachal Pradesh, is scheduled to be completed by GSI before 2022. This data is immensely useful for incorporating into land-use zoning regulations, infrastructure projects viz. rail, road/national highways, engineering projects in hilly regions etc. A detailed letter has been written to the Chief Secretaries of 18 States/UTs, Railways, MoRTH, BRO and NDMA to utilize the datasets prepared by the GSI. A copy is enclosed for information marked as “D”.

• State Governments are continuing to use DMF funds to combat Covid-19 wherein Rs.159.51 Cr has been spent. There is regular interaction with the States to ensure smooth implementation. The latest position of fund utilization by the States upto 31.05.2020 is enclosed for information marked as “E”.

• To ensure protection of country’s geo-heritage Geological Survey of India (GSI) has already identified 36 geo-heritage sites across the country. Ministry of Mines, in coordination with the Ministry of Earth Sciences and office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to PM is in process of drafting a new legislation in this regard.

• Forest clearance is one of the major issues while undertaking mineral exploration by GSI, MECL, CMPDI and State Governments. A detailed note on related issues has been sent to the Secretary, MoEFCC vide DO letter dated 8.5.2020 for further necessary action. The matter is being pursued. The issue of pre-embedded clearance
is also being resolved. The details will follow in subsequent month. A copy is enclosed for information marked as “F”.

- As regards the Government’s initiative of special digital platform for online courses on COVID-19 done through iGOT platform, this Ministry has issued detailed advisory to both target group and all organizations for using the platform. All CPSEs and attached offices have provided iGoT link on their websites for wider reach and dissemination. Further during this lockdown period, GSI has organised 5 e-training sessions on administrative, technical and finance courses for the officers of GSI and students of Universities and Colleges. The action taken is also informed to DoPT and MSME. A copy is enclosed for information marked as “G”.

- In the matter of International Arbitration against Ras-Al-Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA), Government of UAE, the Arbitration Tribunal vacated hearing dates in May, 2020 owing to Covid-19. Based on advice of the Queen’s Counsel, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has now expressed willingness to settle the matter with RAKIA. ANRAK has expressed intention to commission the alumina refinery in Andhra Pradesh in first half of 2021 by sourcing bauxite from various sources within India. This Ministry is pursuing the matter with State Governments as well with legal counsels to secure India’s interests.

- Aggrieved by any order made by the State Government, parties file a revision petitions to the Central Govt., which are heard by Joint Secretaries as Revisionary Authorities. Due to present pandemic, the Ministry has introduced revision applications hearings through video conferencing. During May, 2020, 17 revision applications were heard through video conferencing and this would be continued. It would save people the trouble of coming to Delhi from the States.

▶ **Monthly Status of Auction/PMKKKY-DMF:**

- Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is being implemented through the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and as on April, 2020, Rs.38,276 Cr was collected, Rs.33,225 Cr stands allocated and Rs.14,741 Cr was spent. A total 1,64,815 projects have been sanctioned under the scheme.

▶ **Conferences Workshops/Seminars/Meetings and other activities:**
- Additional Secretary held a VC meeting on 20.05.2020 with the State Governments to review the roadmap for revival / auction of non-working mines (about 2200) non-working mines across the country. States are advised to submit an action plan for their revival within 3 weeks time.

- A VC meeting was held on 22.05.2020 under chairmanship of Joint Secretary/Mines with the 17 State Governments to review utilization of the DMF funds for preventing and mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 15 States did not have any issues, with some States still showing progress of projects in final approval stages and were advised to expedite the approval process.

*******
Dear Sir

Kindly refer to the OM No. DPE/GM-0050/2014-GM-FTS-1980 dated 30th April, 2020, enclosing a copy of D.O letter no. MSDE-10(05)/2020-AP (PMU) dated 23.04.2020 from Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), regarding Implementation of Apprenticeship in CPSEs under post 'COVID-19' scenario by M/o Mines and to engage apprentices in a band of 2.5% to 15% of their total manpower strength.

This was sent to all the three CPSEs namely, NALCO, HCL and MECL, of M/o Mines for compliance.

The latest status of percentage of apprentices engaged to the total manpower strength is enclosed as Annexure for your kind information.

With regards,

Encl:- as stated above

Yours sincerely,

(Satendra Singh)

Shri. Sailesh
Secretary, DPE
Public Enterprise Bhavan
CGO Complex, Block 14
Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
Annex

Status of implementation of Apprenticeship in CPSEs under post ‘COVID-19’ scenario by M/o Mines-reg.

1. NALCO:

During March, 2020, 545 persons were engaged as apprentices, which is 8.78% of 6203 total regular employee.

2. HCL:

HCL had engaged 314 apprentices (as on 31.03.2020), which is 4.27% of the total manpower of 7338.

Further, in FY 2020-21, HCL plans to engage 520 Apprentices, which shall enhance the percentage of apprentices to total manpower as 7.08%.

3. MECL:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MECL – Status of Apprenticeship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Workforce Strength (FY 2019-20) (Including Contract Workers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Apprentices engaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of apprentices engaged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***************
Dear Shri A.K. Sharma,

Kindly refer to your DO letter No.16/08/2018-P&G/Policy (Pt.II) dated 18th May, 2020 regarding the release of payments to the MSMEs.

2. In this regard, I am happy to say that all the three CPSEs of Mo Mines namely NALCO, HCL and MECL are already registered under TReDS. A review meeting on TReDS, GeM portal and apprentices training was held on 22nd May, 2020 and the minutes of the meeting has already been sent to you.

3. As on date, MECL does not have any pending payments to MSMEs. As on 26th May, 2020, the pending payment to MSME vendors by HCL is Rs.3.13 Crore. During the review meeting, HCL conveyed that some of these payments are pending as the vendors have not provided bank details, partial quantity delivery of goods, etc. These pending bills are under process for payment. As on 22nd May, 2020, the pending payment to MSME vendors by NALCO is Rs.0.04 Crore.

4. Regarding the above pending payments, suitable instructions have been given to these CPSEs to adhere the guidelines on TReDS and to clear the payments as early as possible as per admissibility.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Sushil Kumar)

Shri A.K. Sharma,
Secretary,
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises,
Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi-110011.
Dear Sir,

This has reference to your DO Letter No.72/2020 dated 16th March, 2020 in response to my DO of 12th February, 2020.

2. As pointed out in your aforesaid DO, it is completely agreed that there is a need for continued interaction on REE exploration being carried out in Ambadungar and in areas of Rajasthan as well including sharing of analytical data. Based on these interactions, DAE and M/o Mines shall take steps and time bound action for taking up areas in Rajasthan based on AMCR guidelines. The Hon’ble Prime Minister had also taken a detailed review meeting on the issues related to exploration and mining on 30th April 2020 where this issue was also flagged.

3. You may also recall pursuant to the discussions in the PMO where both of us were present, Geological Survey of India (GSI) had prepared a Vision Document – 2025 based on its work and sent the same to the Director, AMD for incorporating their inputs/suggestions/modifications. I am happy to note that AMD has critically examined the document and provided elaborate comments including updates of exploration work carried out by AMD vide correspondence of 8th May, 2020. GSI is updating the document based on the information received from AMD.

4. The completed Vision Document – 2025 along with comprehensive road map of joint exploration strategy in respect of tapping the REE potential in the country by GSI and AMD, will be submitted to the office of the Hon’ble Prime Minister by the end of June, 2020.

5. I am aware that GSI is having close interaction with AMD. Recently, after an interaction of DG, GSI with Dr. D.K. Sinha, Director, AMD on 5th May, 2020, AMD invited a GSI team to visit its campus at Hyderabad to make a first-hand assessment of the database present with them. AMD has assured that selected processed data of aeroelectromagnetic (AEM) as true-scale maps and shape files will be shared with in accordance with MoI guidelines. Accordingly, GSI will be sending a team to AMD.

6. However, GSI is of the view that the raw data will be more useful as multiple processing tools could be applied for processing and interpretation of data. Therefore, considering that the datasets will be of immense use in identifying new target zones for the strategic and critical commodities other than the atomic minerals. I am of the view that raw data, except such data which cannot be shared because of the issues of internal security, should be freely shared between Central Government Departments provided...
that safety and custody protocols for the preservation of data are strictly followed. If
needed, GSI would prepare the protocols and security requirements as per your
directions within the GSI at one specific location or any way that you prescribe.

7. The matter has also been separately taken up with the Ministry of Defence. I
would like to request you to obtain necessary exemption from MoD as such data sharing
would avoid duplication of high cost and efforts.

8. Please let me know if this is considered and if not how we can proceed.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

(Sushil Kumar)

Shri K. N. Vyas,
Secretary,
Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman, AEC,
Anushakti Bhavan,
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Marg,
Mumbai – 400 001

Copy to:
1. CEO, NITI Aayog, New Delhi-110 001.
2. Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence, South Block, New Delhi-110011.
3. Shri Rudra Gaurav Shresth, Joint Secretary, Prime Minister’s Office, South
Block, New Delhi-110011.
4. Dr. Ranjit Rath, Director General, Geological Survey of India, 27, Jawaharlal
Nehru Road, Kolkata-700016.

(Sushil Kumar)
Dear Mr. Singh,

You may be aware, that the country’s 12.6% area (~0.43 million sq. km.) located in the mountainous and hilly terrains of the Himalayas, North-East India and Western Ghats are landslide-prone. Every year, during monsoon, these areas experience landslides of varying magnitudes inflicting irreparable losses to the properties and lives. To contain the landslide losses, effective, sustainable and safe land use practices in such fragile landmass are of paramount importance. This is only possible if proper land-use zoning regulations are put in place and are effectively implemented in these landslide-prone areas. Despite the availability of advanced spatial geo-scientific information in public domain (http://bhukosh.gsi.gov.in/Bhukosh/Public) there is lack of proper land-use zoning regulations in these landslide prone areas except Nainital and Nilgiris.

2. In this context, I am happy to inform you that by December, 2020, the nodal agency for landslides in India, the Geological Survey of India (GSI), would be in a position to complete 1: 50,000 scale landslide susceptibility mapping for 0.36 million sq. km area (~85% of the entire target) through the implementation of its 6-year long National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) program (2014-2020). The rest target areas (70,000 sq. km.) in Arunachal Pradesh, is scheduled to be completed by GSI before 2022. In Uttarakhand, landslide susceptibility maps of 32,804 sq. km. area along with 13,359 landslide polygons and 4,862 landslide point data with 41 geo-parameters has been uploaded and available for downloading. The NLSM map data can be used as an effective geo-information tool for implementing relevant land-use zoning regulations in hilly/mountainous areas for larger areas. For infrastructure planning in some selected locales (viz. road/rail stretches, expansion areas of any hill town, etc.), the existing NLSM data may also be used as a base map for upsampling to meso scale (1:10,000/5,000) landslide susceptibility information, which in turn can be used for large scale land-use zoning regulations for a limited area of interest.

3. GSI is uploading its NLSM map data phase-wise in its Bhukosh portal (http://bhukosh.gsi.gov.in/Bhukosh/Public) as soon as the same is prepared and approved for free access of stakeholders. The above vital geo-spatial information may be appropriately used by each landslide-prone State for their land use zoning regulation practices like that of the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu and Nainital, Uttarakhand and must integrate this spatial geo-information mandatorily in their respective State and District Disaster Management Plans.
4. GSI will prepare easy-to-understand handbook/Tutorial/FAQs for the common users to enable them to understand GSI’s map products and also the methodology for its effective utilization. Ministry of Mines, through GSI, would be happy to provide handholding to the Government of Uttarakhand on technical aspects of landslide susceptibility mapping.

5. Ministry of Mines is also proposing to organize regional landslide workshops in collaboration with NDMA in these landslide prone States to discuss issues of landslides with a thrust on integration and use of the available NLSM maps in their respective State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) and framing land use zoning regulations. The dates of the workshop will be finalized in consultation with NDMA and the participating States.

6. I am looking forward to active participation by the Uttarakhand State in the workshop.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

(Sushil Kumar)

Shri Utpal Kumar Singh,
Chief Secretary
Govt. of Uttarakhand
4, Subhash Road, Uttarakhand Secretariat
Dehradun-248001
Email: chiefsecyuk@gmail.com
## Daily expenditure report for Covid-19 - DMF funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>DMF fund available as on 28th March 2020 (Rs. in crore)</th>
<th>Amount spent on activities related to COVID-19 on date (Rs. in crore)</th>
<th>Cumulative amount spent on activities related to COVID-19 since 28 Mar 2020 (Rs. in crore)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>623.12</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>77.50</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>12623.82</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>159.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

- **Total balance available in DMF as on 28 March is 12623.82 cr. and 36% of this comes as 3787 cr.**
- Data is awaited from States where rows are blank.

$ As per D.O.No.7/2/2020-MIV, dated 28.03.2020 Rs. 334.08 crore from 19 districts has been transferred to Chief Minister's relief fund.
D.O.No.M.I-40/3/2020-Mines 1
New Delhi, the 8th May, 2020

The reference is drawn to the meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) on “status of operationalization of allocated Coal and non-Coal blocks and progress in respect of auction of Coal and non-Coal blocks” held on 01.11.2019 at New Delhi wherein the following recommendations in respect of Coal and Mines sector were made:

i. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) may quickly resolve all the issues being faced by various States and other stakeholders in respect of PARIVESH portal to ensure its smooth and seamless functioning.

ii. MoEFCC may examine the possibility of extending the exemptions from the requirement of FC, presently available to petroleum and natural gas sector for the purpose of prospecting, to coal and mines also.

2. As a follow up of the recommendations of CoS, the Secretary (Mines) held a meeting on 12.3.2020 with the Secretary, MoEFCC to discuss the various issues faced by GSI, MECL and CMPD I in getting the Forest Clearance for the mineral exploration. During the meeting, it was stated that the matter will be looked into and the issues related to the forest clearance will be resolved shortly. In this regard a note on various issues faced by GSI, MECL, CMPD I and State Governments on forest clearance is attached.

3. The High Level Committee constituted by Niti Aayog has also recommended that FC may not be levied at exploration stage.

4. In view of this, I request you to look into the matter and accordingly amend the guidelines for effective implementation in field of exploration and mining sector for sustainable development of the country.

With warm regards

Yours Sincerely

(Sushil Kumar)

Encl: As above.

Shri C.K. Mishra,
Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
Dear Sir,


2. In this connection, I would like to inform that the Ministry of Mines is taking proactive action to give wide publicity of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other Ministries/Departments from time to time and transmitted within the Ministry and to all the Offices/Organisations under the Ministry including installation of Aarogya Setu App in the mobile phones. As part of our resolve to contain the spread of COVID 19 pandemic, all offices under the Ministry have contributed one-day salary to PM CARES Fund. Based on the advisory issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other Ministries/Departments, an informative circular in the form of a power point presentation has been prepared for guidance of all employees which has been uploaded in the e-office portal which contains video clips and tips issued by the Government.

3. As regards the Government’s initiative of special digital platform for online courses on COVID-19 pandemic through iGOT platform, this has been widely circulated to the target group as also to all organisations for acquiring knowledge and understanding. All the offices have uploaded this in their websites for wider reach and dissemination. Here, it is worthwhile to mention that Geological Survey of India (GSI) utilised the lockdown period for conducting various training programs to the trainee geoscientist of GSI through iGOT_Diksha platform and has successfully conducted e-lectures on basic geoscience programs including special training program on “Basics of COVID-19” from GSI-Training Institute (GSI-TI).

4. The hospitals functioning under the PSUs have utilised this platform for training of covid warriors within their hospitals. Action taken in the matter is given below:

(i) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a PSU under administrative control of Ministry of Mines has arranged training of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff through iGOT courses on DIKSHA platform at its hospitals at (i) Khetri Copper Complex (KCC), District – Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, (ii) Malanjkhand Copper Project (MCP), District – Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh) and Indian Copper Complex (ICC), District – Purvi Singhbhum (Jharkhand).
(ii) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), another PSU has made tripartite agreement with Government of Odisha and Christian Hospital at Nabarangpur to take care of COVID-19 patients for which expenditure will be borne by NALCO. Further, all medical staff at hospitals of NALCO have since undergone batch-wise training through iGOT online platform.

5. As regards other organizations under this Ministry, the communications received from DoP&T have been uploaded on the official websites of all organizations for wide publicity of iGOT platform and for information and guidance of all.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sushil Kumar)

[Signature]

Dr. C. Chandramouli,
Secretary,
Department of Personnel and Training,
North Block,
New Delhi.

Copy to:

Shri A.K. Sharma,
Secretary,
Ministry of Small & Medium Enterprises,
Udyog Bhavan,
New Delhi.

(Sushil Kumar)