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PART-IIA

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
MINING AND GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

The 5th November, 2012.

No.MG.40/2010/200. – The Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to notify
THE MEGHALAYA MINES AND MINERALS POLICY, 2012 as follows:-

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The Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012

INTRODUCTION:

The Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012 has been formulated with an aim to facilitate systematic, scientific and planned utilization of mineral resources and to streamline mineral based development of the State, keeping in view, protection of environment, land, health and safety of the people in and around the mining areas. The Policy will also dwell on ensuring optimal utilization of available mineral resources, realization of vast mineral potential, generate revenue for socio-economic development, uplift the economy of the State and enhance employment opportunities.

Hence the policy, hereunto called the Meghalaya Mines and Mineral Policy, 2012.

PART – I

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Minerals are a finite and non-renewable natural resource and must be exploited wisely in the larger interest of the State. They constitute a vital raw material for many basic industries, which bring about increased economic activity and development of the State. Scientific management of mineral resources has to be closely integrated with the overall strategy for sustainable development and guided by the long term national goals as well as the State perspectives.
- 1.2 It is imperative to conserve the available mineral resources through scientific exploration and mining so as to ensure availability of minerals for industrial production in the long run. The Mining Policy aims to reconcile these two objectives.
- 1.3 It is important to secure proper linkage between exploitation of minerals and development of mineral industry, with preference to the local tribal people for development of deposits.
- 1.4 To facilitate and ensure sustainable development of mineral resources in harmony with environment, a comprehensive approach to land use needs to be taken, keeping in view the needs of development as well as the imperative of protecting forests, natural caves, environment, water bodies and ecology of the State.
- 1.5 The land tenure system in the State is largely governed by customary laws and practices. The Policy objectives will be in consonance with such laws and practices, as specifically stipulated in the Sixth Schedule to the

Constitution of India and the Meghalaya Land Transfer (Regulation) Act, 1971 and the relevant laws of the respective District Councils.

- 1.6 The antiquated and outdated method of manual extraction, not only involves more time, labour and cost, but also constitute health hazard and risk to human life. Therefore, adoption of modern methods of mining would increase the safety of workers and reduce accidents.

2. MISSION:

The Meghalaya Mines and Mineral Policy, 2012 is being formulated with a focused mission of sustainable and eco-friendly growth of mineral deposits and mineral based industries with due regard to environment, conservation as well as upliftment of standards of living of the local people in and around the mineral bearing areas.

3. MINERAL RESOURCES OF MEGHALAYA:

Meghalaya is endowed with sizeable deposits of a number of valuable minerals. Coal, limestone, uranium, granite, kaolin, clay and glass sand are the principal minerals. A brief account of mineral resources is as follows:

- 3.1 **Coal** – Meghalaya coal, which is tertiary coal, is generally sub-bituminous in composition. The prominent coalfields of the State are West Darrangiri, Siju, Pendengru-Balpakram in the South Garo Hills district; Borsora Langrin and Shallang in the West Khasi Hills district; East Darrangiri partly in West Khasi Hills and partly in East Garo Hills; Mawlong-Shella and Sohra-Cherrapunjee in the East Khasi Hills district and Bapung-Sutnga in the Jaintia Hills district.
- 3.2 **Limestone** - An extensive bed of limestone occurs in the Southern part of the State from Jaintia Hills in the East and Garo Hills in the West. The main deposits are found around Cherrapunjee, Mawlong, Ichamati, Shella, Komorrah in the East Khasi Hills district; Borsora and Bagli in the West Khasi Hills district; Lakadong, Lumshnong and Nongkhlieh in the Jaintia Hills district; and Darrang Era-aning, Siju, Chokpot in the South Garo Hills district.
- 3.3 **Uranium** - Significant occurrence of uranium deposit is found in and around Domiasiat and Porkut-Nongjri around Wahkynshi area in the West Khasi Hills District.
- 3.4 **Granite** – Deposits of multi-coloured granite have been located around Nongpoh in the Ri-Bhoi District; Myllem in the East Khasi Hills District; Mawkyrwat and Nongstoin in the West Khasi Hills District; and Mendipathar and Songsak in the East Garo Hills District.

- 3.5 **Kaolin** - Good quality Kaolin (China Clay) occurs around Mawphlang, Smit and Laitlyngkot in the East Khasi Hills District; Thandlaskein, Shangpung, Mulieh and Mynsngat in the Jaintia Hills District; and Darugiri in the East Garo Hills District.
- 3.6 **White Clay** - Sedimentary white clay is found around Cherrapunjee and Mahadek in the East Khasi Hills; Nangalbibra in the South Garo Hills and Rongrengre in the East Garo Hills District.
- 3.7 **Glass Sand** - Glass sand is found to occur at Laitryngew, Umstew and Kreit in the East Khasi Hills and Tura in the West Garo Hills.
- 3.8 **Sillimanite** – Sillimanite is found in some parts of Mawthengkut Block at Sonapahar of the West Khasi Hills District.
- 3.9 **Other minerals** - Quartz occurs almost in all districts in the Northern part of the State. Feldspar and iron ore are reported in the Ri-Bhoi and West Khasi Hills Districts; and bauxite and rock phosphate are found in the Jaintia Hills District.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MINES AND MINERALS:

- 4.1 **Road** - Road transport is the major means of communication in the State with the nearest railhead at Guwahati. There are three national highways traversing the State. The road network needs to be developed to facilitate easier access to mineral bearing areas.

Besides road connectivity, there are two Airports in the State, namely, Umroi and Baljek. The Umroi Airport is about 15 km from Shillong and Baljek is about 28 KM from Tura. With the upgradation and regular operation of the airports, air connectivity could facilitate faster access to mineral bearing areas.

- 4.2 **Power** - Power is a key input for mechanized mining, processing and mineral-based industry. The State has been experiencing power shortage lately. The Power Policy of the State seeks to encourage small captive power plants.

- 4.3 **Human Resource-**

The mechanized mining is expected to pick up in the State, which would lead to increased demand for qualified technical personnel. Besides sponsoring students for degree courses in mining engineering and geology, institutional arrangement shall be organised in the State to prepare the local youth for acquiring statutory certificates from the Board of Mining Examinations/ Directorate General of Mines Safety so that the mine owners can be required to deploy the technically qualified personnel.

- 4.4 The State Government shall also facilitate to provide orientation programmes to the personnel of private mine owners/ operators in order to improve sectoral capacity.
- 4.5 Efforts will be made to strengthen the ITI network in mining in order to equip employable local population with basic skills enabling absorption by the mining industry. Focus will be on excavation machinery management and repair, industry trades including welding, electrical repair, road and civil construction skills. Mining companies would be encouraged to adopt ITI in their area of operations for better absorption of skilled personnel.
- 4.6 The National Mineral Policy, 2008 categorically states that Government of India will support the States in developing infrastructure in and around mining areas. Government of India will be requested to come out with a plan programme for infrastructure and other developments in mining area on the lines of JNNURM.
- 4.7 The Child Labour Laws shall be taken fully into cognizance in this policy.

5. REGULATION OF MINES AND MINERALS:

- 5.1 The State Government gives permission for prospecting or leasing of mines in respect of specified major minerals.
- 5.2 Licenses are given for both prospecting and exploration on merit basis. Reconnaissance permits to conduct aerial surveys over an extent up to 100 sq.kms can be given to any person who is an Indian national or a company as defined in sub-section (I) of section 3 of the Companies' Act 1956, provided that a single license shall not exceed 100 sq.kms. If the grant of Prospecting Licenses covering a total area of not more than 25 sq. kms is given, a maximum of 10 sq.kms will be granted for a mining lease.

PART – II

6. OBJECTIVES:

- 6.1 The basic objectives of the Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012 are the following, namely,-
 - (i) to facilitate exploration work for accurate reserve estimation of the mineral deposits;
 - (ii) to develop and exploit mineral resources in a scientific and sustainable manner, taking into account the interest of the State and people;

- (iii) to review the existing practice of random exploitation of mineral resources and to regulate mineral exploitation;
- (iv) to carry out geological mapping of mineral resources;
- (v) to promote necessary linkages between mining, mineral industry and power generation;
- (vi) to promote investment in mining and industry to generate employment for local people;
- (vii) to promote research and development activities in mineral sector;
- (viii) to ensure establishment of appropriate training facility for human resource development to meet the man power requirement of the mineral industry;
- (ix) to minimize adverse effect of mineral development on the environment and ecology through appropriate preventive and control measures;
- (x) to ensure conduct of mining operation with due regard to safety and health of all concerned;
- (xi) to create a database on mineral resources, both major and minor;
- (xii) to take steps to promote geo-tourism;
- (xiii) to promote private sector participation in various aspects of mineral development, which includes exploration, infrastructure building, mining and other mining related activities and mineral based industries;
- (xiv) to safeguard the rights of miners, mine owners and mining industry;
- (xv) to protect the waterways, like rivulets, rivers and streams, including drinking water sources, aquatic life and safeguard the healthy environment from pollution; and

7. MINERAL EXPLORATION:

- 7.1 The Directorate of Mineral Resources and the Geological Survey of India are the two main government organizations engaged in geological investigations of minerals in the State. Besides, the Atomic Mineral, Directorate of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India is also engaged in exploration of uranium in the State.
- 7.2 Modern techniques such as Aerial Remote Sensing, geophysical and geo-chemical surveys would be adopted for mineral exploration.
- 7.3 Evaluation of the reserve potential of known deposits on the basis of United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) would be done.

- 7.4 Private participation in the sphere of mineral exploration would be encouraged.
- 7.5 The State Geological Programming Board shall prioritise the projects and programmes to maximize the benefits for the State.
- 7.6 Small and traditional system of mining by local people in their own land shall not be unnecessarily disturbed.

8. STRATEGY FOR MINERAL DEVELOPMENT:

8.1 Major Minerals

- 8.1.1 Suitable strategy for development and exploitation of all major minerals in a scientific and sustainable manner would be followed, including value addition of the mineral to encourage development of mineral processing industry and increase revenue earnings of the State.
- 8.1.2 Scientific mining in the State would be introduced in a phased manner and for this, involvement of reputed institutions such as the Central Mining Research Institute, M/s Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (Coal India Ltd) would be sought.
- 8.1.3 The State has been endowed with the unique caves in the world and the Government shall make all endeavors to maintain and protect them.
- 8.1.4 No mining activities will be allowed near rivers, river beds and streams to prevent pollution.

8.2 Minor Minerals

Mining and quarrying of minor minerals are to be regulated in the form of mining lease or quarry permit. As such, framing of minor mineral concession Rules for regulating the grant of mining lease/quarry permit would be taken up to ensure proper vigilance and supervision over mining and quarrying activities.

8.3 General

- 8.3.1 The strategy for exploitation and development of each mineral will be reviewed periodically on the basis of available resources. An optimal depletion rate will be worked out in respect of each mineral keeping in view the State and national resource position and the need for stable and sustained economic growth.
- 8.3.2 The best use of the State's rich mineral deposits will be ensured by adopting, during mining operation, effective measures for conservation

and beneficiation, recovery of associated minerals and by efficient processing of minerals. The Mineral Advisory Committee constituted under para 19(a) will advise and assist miners to supplement sub-optimal and unscientific mining. Some of the suggested steps to achieve this goal are:

- (i) full use of scientific method of exploration and exploitation of mineral deposits;
- (ii) development of mineral processing and beneficiation system;
- (iii) greater recycling of metallic scrap and utilization of mineral waste;
- (iv) use of better and improved mining technologies;
- (v) proper manpower development;
- (vi) greater linkages between development of mineral resources and their utilization in the end products;
- (vii) dissemination of information on technological changes;
- (viii) improvement of infrastructural facility;
- (ix) financial support/incentives for mining activities; promotion of small scale mining or small deposits.

9. MINING PRACTICES:

9.1 To ensure best mining practices and procedures including optimal utilization and development of mineral resources available in the State, efforts would be made to:

- i) adopt cost effective, efficient and state-of-the-art mining practices for optimum recovery and utilization of mineral.
- ii) introduce efficient, cost effective and improved technologies in the mining of coal and various other minerals.
- iii) create a Mineral Data Bank for search, utilization and analysis of various data pertaining to mineral concessions, production and dispatch of minerals, land use pattern, afforestation, mineral development etc. The information in the Data Bank shall be regularly updated.
- iv) ensure that all mine owners follow the statutory and administrative guidelines.
- v) ensure reclamation, rehabilitation and closure of mined out areas to facilitate environmental protection.

- vi) keep proper record of waste/overburden/side burden, low and sub grade materials extracted and generated in the course of mining.
- vii) encourage beneficiation and upgradation of low grade minerals.
- viii) to involve mineral industries and Research & Development Organizations.

9.2 Preparation of detailed geological reports based upon extensive survey and exploration would be taken up.

10. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR MINE DEVELOPMENT AND MINING:

The regulation framework and the procedure for granting mineral concession would be as follows: -

- a) The applications for the grant of mineral concession shall have all relevant details, such as locational address, map of the area, geographic coordinates, extent of the area, boundary description, name of the owner, nature of land, etc;
- b) Application for mineral concession either fresh or renewal is to be submitted to the State Government through the Deputy Commissioner of the District wherein the area applied for is situated and with NOC from District Council concerned and land owner;
- c) On receipt of application, the Deputy commissioner will examine the same, make necessary enquiry with, inter-alia, land-owner and traditional institutions like Headman, Village/Local Durbars and the Autonomous District Council about the applied area and forward the application with a report to the Directorate of Mineral Resources;
- d) The Directorate of Mineral Resources will examine the technical aspects and forward such application with comments if any, to the Government. The comments/ recommendations of Directorate of Mineral Resources shall normally be submitted to the Government within a period of 8 (eight) weeks of receipt of application;
- e) Where it appears that the application is incomplete or is not accompanied by the required documents, the State Government shall issue notice to the applicant to supply the omission or furnish the documents within a period of 4(four) weeks of receipt of the said notice;

- f) On receipt of error free application for the grant of Mining Lease, the State Government shall take decision within a timeline of 4(four) weeks to grant precise area for mining lease and communicate such decision to the applicant with direction to obtain clearances from Pollution Control Board, Forest & Environment Department, Labour Department as well as Mining Plan duly approved by Directorate of Mineral Resources;
- g) The applicant must also obtain the clearance of the Pollution Control Board of the State of Meghalaya under Pollution Control Act. Pollution Control Board will endeavor to accord clearance within 4(four) weeks of receipt of error free and complete in all material particulars application;
- h) Similarly the applicant shall enclose the Forest and Environment clearance of the State Forest & Environment Department and other relevant Acts. The State Forest & Environment Department will endeavor to accord clearance within 4 (four) weeks of receipt of error free and complete in all material particulars application;
- i) The applicant must also enclose a labour plan duly approved by Labour Department which should inter-alia, include the following:
- i. The number of labour likely to be employed;
 - ii. Sourcing of such labour;
 - iii. An undertaking that no child-labour shall be engaged;
 - v. Maintenance of Health Facilities, Safety standards etc;

Labour Department will endeavor to accord approval within a period of 8(eight) weeks of receipt of the application.

- j) The applicant will also be required to submit a Mining Plan duly approved by the Directorate of Mineral Resources with list of equipments proposed to be used, quantum to be mined, safety standards to be maintained, arrangements for storage of mined minerals, and preventive measures to be taken to ensure that water bodies/sources in the vicinity do not get polluted etc.

The Directorate of Mineral Resources will endeavor to accord approval within a period of 12(twelve) weeks of receipt of error free and complete in all material particulars application;

- k) Once all the necessary documents as above are submitted, the ground level verification of the claims made vide such documents would be undertaken by the Directorate of Mineral Resources.

Where ever necessary, joint inspection teams of relevant departments and agencies shall be formed for this purpose;

- l) The order for grant of mineral concessions will be issued by the State Government, with the approval of the Central Government wherever necessary;
- m) The execution of deed or agreement will be done by the Deputy Commissioner of the District concerned;
- n) Inspection of the mines shall be carried out on a periodic basis and corrective action where required would be taken.

11. MINERAL ADMINISTRATION:

- 11.1 The State Govt. is entrusted with inspection of mines. As such, greater degree of financial support for the Directorate and opening up of more Divisional Offices at the District level would be taken up to strengthen the infrastructure.
- 11.2 All field offices would be interlinked with the State Headquarters and efficient Management Information System (MIS) would be developed and implemented at the District and State Levels.
- 11.3 Non working mines would be declared as lapsed.
- 11.4 Action plan would be framed for preventing of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.
- 11.5 The data and information would be properly catalogued to work as a data bank and the Directorate of Mineral Resources will maintain such data bank for which Information and Documentation Cell at Headquarter would be set up.
- 11.6 Exchange and dissemination of data and information on minerals with other Government Agencies would be taken up. The geological data generated by the Directorate of Mineral Resources would be supplied to private entrepreneurs at the rate as may be fixed from time to time.

12. LINKAGE OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT WITH MINERAL-BASED INDUSTRIES IN THE STATE:

- 12.1 The existing and upcoming important mineral based industries in Meghalaya are in the following sectors:
 - i. Coal-based Industries: Coke Oven and thermal power plant.

- ii. Limestone-based Industries: Cement Plant, Lime Plant, Calcium Carbide Plant, Precipitated Calcium Carbonate Units and Bleaching Powder Units.
 - iii. Other minerals based industries: Granite mining and polishing, Sillimanite refractory and other allied industries, Clay washery, Ceramic glazed tiles, Cement based mosaic tiles, Ceramic crockery, Ceramic low tension insulators, Ferro Alloys etc.
- 12.2 Mineral development needs to be linked with mineral based industries for assured supply of minerals.
- 12.3 Agreement between the mineral based industries and the lessees for supply of minerals at a mutually acceptable price shall be encouraged.
- 12.4 The following measures will be adopted for development of mineral based industry in the State:
- i. Facilitation of the term loan assistance from financial institutions to those engaged in mining and processing/beneficiation of minerals.
 - ii. Priority for grant of mining lease to such entrepreneurs who are willing to install a processing and beneficiation units within the State.

13. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINERALS :

- 13.1 Research and Development in the mineral sector would cover the entire activities from geological survey, exploration, mining, beneficiation, extraction of minerals to development of minerals.
- 13.2 Efforts would be directed towards development of new technologies for conversion of existing mineral resources into possible economic resources. Appropriate technologies shall be developed to enable indigenous industries to utilize the mineral resources with which the State is abundantly endowed and has substitutes for minerals whose resources are poor. Research and Development efforts shall be directed to find new and alternative uses for minerals whose traditional demand is on the wane.
- 13.3 Research and development will be so oriented as to ensure maximum economic recovery of the associated minerals and valuable metals. Attention will be given to beneficiation and agglomeration techniques to bring lower grades and finer size material into use.
- 13.4 Whenever necessary, the Government may seek the assistance from professional agencies or institutions for research and development.

14. EXPORT PROMOTION:

- 14.1 For promotion of export, the State Government would make efforts for setting up of dry ports equipped with all basic amenities at suitable locations.
- 14.2 The State Government will encourage export of value added mineral products. To achieve this, it will:
- (i) promote and organize trade fairs and similar events and give wide publicity to possibilities of export of value added mineral products.
 - (ii) set up a market intelligence cell under the Department of Mining and Geology to provide and disseminate information about the demand, consumers' needs, price trends as well as incentives available under the State Industrial Policy.

15. MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT:

- 15.1 Large areas in Meghalaya fall under ecologically fragile zone. Mining that involves cutting down and leveling of hill tops and slopes may not only change the natural landscape but will also pose a serious threat to the environment and ecology. This will need careful regulation. Mining operations shall be regulated under the provisions of the existing environmental and forest bio-diversity laws.
- 15.2 Extraction of minerals within declared environmentally sensitive areas, ecologically fragile and biologically rich areas will be identified and notified by the Government and extraction of minerals in such areas to be avoided. However, in order not to impede legitimate socio economic development of such areas, special local area development plan may be formulated.
- 15.3 Appropriate measures will be taken to protect forests and maintain ecological balance in mining belts while pursuing mining activities.
- 15.4 The Environment Management Plan shall adequately provide for controlling the environmental damage, restoration and reclamation of mined areas. Planting of trees and afforestation shall proceed concurrently with mineral exploitation, as far as practicable.
- 15.5 Prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental effects due to mining operation, storage and processing of minerals, including disposal of mine-spoils shall form integral part of mining plan/ strategy in accordance with the norms and standards prescribed under the relevant Acts and Rules.

- 15.6 Mitigation measures shall invariably include prevention and control of water pollution, gaseous pollutants, soil erosion and landslides, siltation, stabilization of waste dumping sites including repairing and re-vegetation of the affected forest area and land covered by trees.
- 15.7 Mine closure plan shall emphasize adequate post mining measures on restoration of mined landscapes, control of subsidence, control of pollution of surface and ground water especially from acid mine drainage and afforestation of the mined land and surrounding areas.
- 15.8 General environment awareness campaigns to educate the people in mining areas will be organized regularly.
- 15.9 At times agricultural land is affected due to mining of minerals and extraction of stones, hill sand and soil mainly for construction purposes, resulting in erosion of agricultural land and deterioration of environment. In order to prevent any such damage to prime agricultural land, the following steps would be taken:
- a) Conversion of agricultural land especially for mining of minor minerals will be discouraged by invoking necessary provisions of law;
 - b) A system of requirement of conversion certificate from an appropriate authority in respect of mining of minerals falling within the recorded and identified prime agricultural land will be introduced.
- 15.10 Before renewal of mining leases for major and minor minerals, it will be ensured that mining has been carried out in accordance with the approved mining plan and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the lease agreement executed and other clearances granted for the purpose.
- 15.11 No industry, particularly, mineral-based industry should be set up near the human habitation, Health and Educational Institutions or close to river banks, which should not be less than, at least, half a kilometer away.

16. MINES SAFETY AND REHABILITATION OF AFFECTED PEOPLE:

- 16.1 Mining Operators shall be required to take steps for:-
- (i) Ensuring stringent safety measures for workers;
 - (ii) Tracking of miners;
 - (iii) Precautions through use of technologies to prevent accidents.

- 16.2 Mining Operations often involve acquisition of land held by individuals, clans or communities. Apart from granting compensation to the owner for acquisition of land by any authority, effort will be made to ensure that those belonging to the weaker sections, if any, and who are likely to be deprived of their means of livelihood as a result of such acquisition, get proper rehabilitation.
- 16.3 The mine owners shall be required to take full responsibility of rehabilitating the people affected by land acquisition, displacement and hazards of mining such as subsidence and environment pollution. The State Government will extend administrative cooperation for successful execution of the rehabilitation programmes.
- 16.4 The State Government will seek collaboration of the Directorate General of Mines Safety for safety in mines.

17. Stakeholder Participation:

Mining by its very nature creates many stakeholders. Many sections of stakeholders can also be adversely impacted, particularly if due care is not taken to address their concerns. These include:

- Host populations who derived benefits from alternative land use in the mining area, including forest lands.
- Local population adversely affected in terms of biotic regimes, water regimes, environmental disturbance etc.
- Impact on local population due to migrant population, including attendant problems of crime and law & order and socio-economic perturbations.

Mining activities in the State shall be carried out in a way that minimizes adverse impact particularly to vulnerable sections including tribals, poor, women and children. To ensure this:

- Mining Plans and Mine Closure plans shall be approved after adequate scrutiny in terms of stakeholders impact.
- All mines will be asked to put in place Corporate Social Responsibility Schemes, setting aside 3% of their net profit of the previous year. Mines will be encouraged to form partnerships with the District Administration, local bodies and NGOs for implementation of local area development programmes, maintenance of community assets and creation of on-mine and off-mine employment opportunities.

18. Reclamation & Restoration:

18.1 Mining activity will need to be done in a manner that does not permanently degrade the land. The State shall ensure that the mines in their mine closure plans make adequate provision for reclamation and/or restoration of the land to the best possible potential in collaboration with local communities, and for their use. Land after closure shall be returned to the original landowners.

18.2 Reclamation/restoration efforts shall specifically address issues of

- Bringing land into productive use;
- Reducing soil erosion through vegetative means;
- Dealing with chemical pollutants of soil and water;
- Improving the water regime and recharge potential; and
- Mitigating the adverse visual impact.

18.3 Mine closure including progressive mine closure processes will be closely monitored and it will be ensured that stakeholders are taken into confidence at all stages through a transparent process facilitated by the State Government.

18.4 Old and disused mines dating to prior to regulated Mine Closure shall be restored or rehabilitated using funds generated from royalties so as to enable local communities to regain the use of such lands.

19. JOINT VENTURE:

19.1 In the era of globalization and open markets, joint ventures are an accepted mode for exploration, exploitation and marketing of minerals including coal.

The Government will facilitate setting up of Joint Ventures. The Government will also set up Single Window Agency for screening mineral based Industries.

19.2 The incentives offered under the State Industrial Policy (SIP) will be available to eligible mineral based industries including power generation as well.

20. WELFARE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

To ensure active involvement of various agencies, organizations, institutions, industries, etc. engaged in mineral development sector in welfare and socio-economic development of mineral bearing and its surrounding areas :-

- (a) The State Government will set up a Mineral Advisory Committee comprising of technical experts and professional institutions to advise undertaking welfare and socio-economic development of mineral bearing and its surrounding areas.
- (b) The mine owners would be required to provide health care, education, drinking water, safe and hygienic conditions of living and welfare facilities to the mine workers and their families, as envisaged under the relevant Labour Laws.
- (c) The mine owners would be required to set up health centers specially equipped to cater to the needs of women and children in and adjoining mining areas.
- (d) The Government shall make all out efforts through its administrative machineries or otherwise to prevent any type of Child Labour as envisaged in the prevalent Acts and Regulations in the Country on the subject.
- (e) All Industries should ensure to provide maximum job opportunity to local people, particularly in skill labour and in clerical-staff jobs.

21. MEGHALAYA MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FUND:

The Government has also initiated to constitute the 'Meghalaya Minerals Development Fund' with a view/objective to develop the mineral laden areas, including welfare programmes for the people engaged in mineral activities.

22. MINERAL RELATED TOURISM:

- 22.1 Mineral related tourism would be promoted with a view to create awareness, educate the masses and provide employment opportunities to the local people.
- 22.2 Geological Parks would be set up in the State wherever and whenever feasible.

23. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:

- 23.1 State Government will implement this policy and ensure that all mine owners/developers follow the policy guidelines latest within one year from the date of notification of this policy. An Empowered Committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary will be constituted to monitor and periodically review the implementation of the State Mines and Mineral Policy, 2012.

- 23.2 All concerned Departments and institutions shall issue follow-up notifications to give effect to the provisions of this policy after its declaration.
- 23.3 The Empowered Committee shall also look into the difficulties or problems, if any, with respect to the implementation of this policy.
- 23.4 A Master Plan will be prepared for exploration, exploitation, marketing and other related issues in respect of all the minerals of the State.

24. EXEMPTION: - Nothing in this Policy, shall apply to –

- (a) extraction of minor minerals by a person from his or her private land exclusively for his or her personal use;
- (b) extraction of minor minerals from agriculture field or from small stray deposits for betterment of the agricultural land by the agriculturists or for their bonafide agricultural purposes or for the construction of their personal dwellings;
- (c) extraction of ordinary clay or ordinary sand by hereditary artisans who prepare earthen pots on a cottage industry basis; and
- (d) excavation of masonry stones and ordinary clay from areas which are not occupied by leases or otherwise, for bonafide personal requirements of the inhabitants of the area.

25. POWERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT:

Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing paragraphs of the Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012, the State Government by issuance of notification in the Official Gazette may amend or withdraw any of the provisions and/or the schemes mentioned herein above.

JAI P. PRAKASH,
Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Mining and Geology Department.