

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

Government of India

Ministry of Coal

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated March, 2024

7th

ORDER

Subject: Increase in the area limits under Section 6 (1) of the MMDR Act for grant of Mining Leases to twenty-five (25) square kilometres in respect of coal blocks located in West Bengal State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority.



(Rishan Ryntathieng)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tel. No. 23073936

To,

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