

F. No: CCT-12/1/2026-CCT
Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Ministry of Coal/ कोयला मंत्रालय
(CCT Section)

Room No. 4605, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar
New Delhi, Dated: 30th September'2026

NOTICE

Subject: Public consultation on draft amendment to rules contained in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 -reg.

It is proposed to extend the period of accreditation granted by QCI NABET for prospecting agencies and MPPA from the present three (3) years to five (5) years. This will require amendments in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (MCR, 1960).

2. The accreditation process is detailed in Schedule VI of the MCR, 1960. It is proposed to omit Schedule VI from MCR, 1960. It is proposed that accreditation shall be granted by QCI-NABET in accordance with a Scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal. Accordingly, amendments to Rules 21C and 22B (3) of the MCR, 1960 are proposed.

3. In view of the above, the draft Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, incorporating the proposed amendments to Rules 21C and 22B(3) and omission of Schedule VI of the MCR, 1960 is attached as **Annexure-I**.

4. Comments/suggestions are invited from the general public, State Governments and Union Territories, exploration and mining plan preparing agencies, industry associations, and other stakeholders concerned, on the proposed amendments and draft notification.

5. All stakeholders are requested to send their comments/suggestions by e-mail in MS-Office Word format to the following e-mail ids within 15 days of publication of this notice:

Email: nayan.pradeep@gov.in

soccnt-moc@gov.in

The subject of the e-mail should be "Comments/suggestions on the draft amendment to rules contained in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960".

8. Alternatively, comments/suggestions may also be addressed to the Under Secretary (CCT Section), Ministry of Coal, Government of India, Room No. 4615, GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, and New Delhi – 110023.

The envelope may kindly be superscripted on top with:

“Comments/suggestions on the draft amendment to rules contained in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 ”.

Digitally signed by
PRADEEP RAJ NAYAN
Date: 30-09-2026
15:45:40

(Pradeep Raj Nayan)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

E-mail: nayan.pradeep@gov.in

To,

1. Chief Secretaries of all Coal/Lignite bearing States and UTs
2. Chairman, Coal India Limited
3. CMD, Singareni Collieries Company Limited
4. CMD, Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited
5. CMD of CMPDIL, Ranchi
6. CMD, MECL, Nagpur
7. Quality Council of India (QCI) / NABET
8. Federation of Indian Mineral Industries
9. Indian Mine Planners & Consultants
10. Coal Producers Association
11. Confederation of Indian Industries
12. Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd.
13. Mining Engineers' Association of India
14. All the Notified Accredited Prospecting/Exploration Agencies

Copy to -

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Coal
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (Coal)
3. PPS to Secretary (Coal)
4. PS to AS (Coal)
5. PS to AS&NA

6. O/o all JS/EA/DDG/Adv (P)
7. All Directors/DS/US/SO
8. Sr. T.D., NIC for uploading on website of Ministry of Coal

Annexure-I

DRAFT

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART
II, SECTION 3, SUB-SECTION (i)]
MINISTRY OF COAL

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the, 2026.

G.S.R.....(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, (hereinafter referred to as the principal rules), in rule 21C,-

i. after the words “The QCI-NABET shall grant accreditation to”, the words “Accredited” shall be omitted.

ii. after the words “in accordance with”, for the words “standards and procedures specified in Schedule VI of these rules”, the words “the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by Ministry of Coal in this regard” shall be substituted.

3. In the principal rules, in rule 22B, in sub-rule (3), after the words “in accordance with”, for the words “standards and procedures specified in Schedule VI of these rules”, the words “the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by Ministry of Coal in this regard” shall be substituted.

4. In the principal rules, Schedule VI shall be omitted.

[File No. CCT-12/1/2026]

(_____)

Additional Secretary to the Government of India

Note:- The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), *vide* number G.S.R. 1398, dated the 26th November, 1960 and lastly amended *vide* number G.S.R. 150(E), dated the 27th February, 2026.

