

CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE
(CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA)

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F. No: 1-19/CEC/SC/2025-Pt. (71)

Dated: 8th April 2025

To

The Registrar
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi-110001
(Attn: PIL Writ Section)

SUB: CEC REPORT NO. 15 OF 2025 - REPORT OF THE CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON I.A. NO. 225561 OF 2023 IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 562 OF 2009 FILED BY THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN MINERAL INDUSTRIES (FIMI), SOUTHERN REGION, BENGALURU, BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA FOR DISCONTINUATION OF MPAP AND DISTRICT-LEVEL CEILING CAP IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that Report No.15 of 2025 filed in W.P.(C) 562 of 1995 of the Central Empowered Committee on the above subject is enclosed (Four copies). It is requested that the Report may please be placed before the Hon'ble Court for kind consideration.

Yours faithfully



(Banumathi. G)

Member Secretary

Copy to :

1. Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Advocate & Learned Amicus Curiae.
2. Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Sr. Advocate & Amicus Curiae.
3. Mr. Siddhartha Choudhary, Advocate & Learned Amicus Curiae
4. The Secretary, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Karnataka Forest Department, Bengaluru.
7. The Secretary to Oversight Authority, Bangalore
8. Sh. Dipak Sarmah, Chairman, Monitoring Committee, Karnataka.
9. The Director, Mines & Geology Department, Bangalore
10. Mr. Prashant Bhushan, Counsel for Petitioner in W.P(C) No. 562/2009
11. Standing Counsel for the MoEFCC, New Delhi
12. Standing Counsel for the State of Karnataka
13. Applicant through the Advocate on Record in I.A. No. 225561 of 2023

CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE

REPORT

IN

I.A. No. 225561 of 2023

IN

W.P. (C) No. 562 of 2009

Filed by:-

**FIMI, Southern Region
Bengaluru**

Dated: 8th April 2025

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CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE ON I.A. NO. 225561 OF 2023 IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 562 OF 2009 FILED BY THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN MINERAL INDUSTRIES (FIMI), SOUTHERN REGION, BENGALURU, BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA FOR DISCONTINUATION OF MPAP AND DISTRICT-LEVEL CEILING CAP IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA.

BACKGROUND

The Applicant in this I.A. filed on 30.10.2023, is the Southern Regional Branch of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, a non-profit company incorporated in 1966 under the Companies Act, 1956.

The prayer in this I.A. is as follows:

- i) Remove the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) restriction imposed on iron-ore leases in the districts of Bellary, Chitradurga, Tumkur, and Vijayanagara, Karnataka; AND*
- ii) Pass such other/further orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper, in the interest of justice.*

2. In this I.A., this Hon'ble Court, after the preliminary hearing, has on 14.03.2024 passed the order as follows:

“Keeping in view the aforesaid position, we would request the CEC, together with the Monitoring Committee and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, to undertake a complete exercise in the three districts, and the respective mining leases situated therein, and submit a report before this Court. While undertaking the said exercise, they shall keep in mind the

parameters referred to in the report dated 13.03.2012. The CEC will be entitled to take help and assistance of the scientific domain experts who will examine data, including environmental pollution data available/recorded in the districts from time to time.

A copy of the said report will be filed before this Court within a period of four months from today. While submitting the report, it shall also be examined whether sub-caps in particular areas should be fixed or caps should be increased or decreased. In other words, the CEC will also examine whether a mining cap must be imposed in an area for better compliance and regulation.

Further, the CEC, the Monitoring Committee and the Oversight Authority will examine whether any form of regulation like auctioning is required to be put in place for the sale of the mined material. While examining this question, they will take into consideration the data with regard to the royalty and other cess etc., which were recovered when e-auctioning was mandatory and post the order dated 20.05.2022, whereby private sales have been permitted.

The question of whether satellite mappings/images should be undertaken with regard to each mine for the purpose of ascertaining the mining activities including the sale and disposal of the waste etc., will be examined by the CEC, the Monitoring Committee and the Oversight Authority.

The CEC, the Monitoring Committee and the Oversight Authority will be entitled to examine any other aspect, which they feel is relevant for consideration of the issues and questions referred to them.

In view of the directions given today, the application in I.A. No. 225561 of 2023 shall await the report of the CEC. Accordingly, the application is not finally decided.”

3. The background in this matter has been traced back to 2011 when large-scale illegal mining was unearthed in three districts (Bellary, Chitradurga, Tumkur) of Karnataka, leading to the closure of mining activities and imposition of strict regulations by this Hon'ble Court. The introduction of district-level ceiling caps and the setting of Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) for individual mining leases were among the key measures implemented to prevent further environmental degradation, illegal mining, and to ensure that mining activities were carried out in a scientific and sustainable manner. The caps were also intended to maintain inter-generational equity, ensuring that natural resources would be available for future generations. In the present I.A., the Applicant has submitted that there has been substantial progress and changes in the prevailing circumstances, of mining in Karnataka, which have been acknowledged inter alia by this Hon'ble Court also. On account of this, the very continuation of MPAP limitations is no longer necessary. The Applicant has specifically highlighted the following reasons in support of his prayer:

- A. **Restoration of Normalcy:** The imposition of the Mining Production Annual Plan (MPAP) was originally necessary due to an extraordinary situation in Karnataka, as observed by this Hon'ble Court. However, various judicial and regulatory measures have since addressed these issues, restoring normalcy in the state's

mining sector. In its orders dated 20.05.2022 and 26.08.2022, this Hon'ble Court recognized significant improvements, noting that the situation had vastly changed since 2017, when the ceiling limit on mining was relaxed. this Hon'ble Court highlighted the progress made over the past decade, balancing concerns of over-excavation and intergenerational equity with the principles of sustainable development. Despite acknowledging the substantial improvements and support from stakeholders for removing the mining cap entirely, this Hon'ble Court maintained a "cautious approach" and declined the request to fully remove the MPAP limit. The decision emphasized the need for a balance between ecological conservation and economic development, even as stakeholders, including the Government of Karnataka and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), have recognized the improved conditions in the mining industry.

- B. **Improved legal framework:** Since the imposition of the Mining Production Annual Plan (MPAP) limits, several legal and regulatory advancements have significantly strengthened mining oversight. Key measures include the cancellation of leases held by Category 'C' violators, effectively reducing illegal operations. The Government of India has also enacted amendments to enhance the legal framework, including the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017, which introduced a star rating system for sustainable mining practices. Additionally, mining plans now require advanced surveying techniques such as Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) or drone surveys for more accurate monitoring and compliance. A notable enhancement is the

implementation of the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), a satellite-based monitoring mechanism that detects illegal activities around mining lease areas, automatically alerting state governments to discrepancies. Furthermore, significant legal modifications, including the auction regime and stricter penal provisions for non-compliance, ensure robust regulatory oversight. These enhanced frameworks have effectively reduced the risk of illegal mining, providing safeguards for sustainable operations in compliance with laws. However, the continued imposition of MPAP in Karnataka's four districts is seen as inconsistent with the updated national rules, leading to legal disparities and litigation, despite sufficient legal protections already in place.

- C. **Application of MPAP only in Karnataka is discriminatory:** The MPAP restrictions are unique to Karnataka and are not applied anywhere else in the country, where mining operations follow standard national laws. Production is regulated by the mining plan and additional measures like environmental clearances. Given the significant improvements in both mining and environmental conditions in Karnataka, the extraordinary circumstances that led to the imposition of MPAP's no longer exist. As the situation in Karnataka is now similar to other states, continuing to impose MPAP solely in Karnataka is unjust and discriminatory, as the state should be treated at par with the rest of the states of the country.
- D. **Iron ore production is sustainable and will not harm future generations:** There is a global and domestic surplus of iron ore, with data from the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) showing adequate iron ore

resources have continuously increased despite widespread mining. Advances in technology and exploration have generally led to the discovery of new reserves, ensuring sustainable supply. Iron ore, essential for producing steel-a recyclable commodity-supports a circular economy. Steel production and consumption are rising worldwide, but future generations can reuse steel as scrap, reducing the need for virgin iron ore. The Government of India is promoting the use of scrap for steel production, exemplified by the Vehicle Scrappage Policy 2021. Steel produced from scrap conserves natural resources by using less iron ore, coking coal, and limestone, while also consuming less energy and water, resulting in lower pollution. By 2047, India aims for steelmakers to use 50% recycled or scrap steel inputs to reduce CO2 emissions. However, the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) in Karnataka contradicts national policies. Current regulations mandate that new lessees of auctioned mines achieve at least 80% of the previous lessee's annual production. This creates a disparity where Karnataka mines are restricted by MPAP, while the rest of the country encourages increased production.

4. This Hon'ble Court in its judgment dated 14.03.2024 has directed that the CEC, together with the Monitoring Committee and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, will undertake a complete exercise in the three districts, and the respective mining leases situated therein, and submit a report before this Court. The abstract of directions of this Hon'ble Court is as follows:

- A. The CEC, together with the Monitoring Committee and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, should undertake a complete exercise in the three districts, and the respective mining leases situated therein, and submit a report before this on the issue of Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) restriction imposed on iron-ore leases in the districts of Bellary, Chitradurga, Tumkur, and Vijayanagara in Karnataka
- a. While undertaking the said exercise, the parameters referred to in the report dated 13.03.2012 should be kept in mind.
 - b. The CEC will take the help and assistance of the scientific domain experts who will examine data, including environmental pollution data available / recorded in the districts from time to time.
- B. **While submitting the report, it shall also be examined whether sub-caps in particular areas should be fixed, or caps should be increased or decreased. In other words, the CEC will also examine whether a mining cap must be imposed in an area for better compliance and regulation.**
- C. Further, the CEC, the Monitoring Committee, and the Oversight Authority will examine whether any form of regulation, like auctioning, is required to be put in place for the sale of the mined material. While examining this question, they will take into consideration the data with regard to the royalty and other cess, etc., which were recovered when e-auctioning was mandatory and post the order dated 20.05.2022, whereby private sales have been permitted.

D. The question of whether satellite mappings/images should be undertaken with regard to each mine for the purpose of ascertaining the mining activities, including the sale and disposal of the waste, etc., will be examined by the CEC, the Monitoring Committee, and the Oversight Authority.

E. Any other aspect that may be relevant

5. In compliance with the directions of this Honourable Court, the Monitoring Committee was requested to submit their reply/response. The CEC conducted detailed deliberations with the Monitoring Committee during two meetings held on 16.04.2024, in Bengaluru, and 19.07.2024, in New Delhi. The Monitoring Committee submitted its report on 19.08.2024, which is enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-1** to this report.

6. Meetings and detailed discussions were also held with the FIMI South and Karnataka Iron & Steel Manufacturers' Association (KISMA) on 16.07.2024 and 19.07.2024. The detailed submissions dated 14.8.2024 of the FIMI South and submissions dated 22.7.2024 of Karnataka Iron & Steel Manufacturers' Association (KISMA) are enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-2** and **ANNEXURE R-3**, respectively, to this Report.

7. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) was asked to provide the monitored data of Air Quality in respect of iron ore mines and their surrounding areas working in four districts, viz., Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga, and Tumkur, for the last ten years. The KSPCB by its letter dated 01.08.2024 has provided the data and informed that as per the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) Reports, in most of the cases, the Particulate Matter (size less than 10 microns) or PM₁₀ values in both Core and Buffer Zones are exceeding the stipulated standard of 100 µg/m³ i.e. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards notified by CPCB vide Notification dated 18.11.2009. A copy of the letter dated 01.08.2024 of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board is enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-4** to this Report.

REPORT OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

8. The Monitoring Committee has submitted its report dated 19.8.2024, which highlights the following points:

- i. The proposal of fixing lease-wise annual production (MPAP) for each 'A' and 'B' Category Mine was mooted by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) after having broad discussion with all stakeholders like lessees, FIMI, MoEFCC, Government Departments (Forest, Mines, Environment of Government of

Karnataka) and after research & analysis of various limiting factors. The concept with certain conditions was incorporated in the CEC Report dated 13.03.2012 for mining leases in Bellary, Chitradurga, and Tumkur districts. This Hon'ble Court accepted the said recommendations vide orders dated 13.04.2012. and 18.04.2013.

- ii. The CEC had recommended two broad categories of regulations to mitigate the adverse impact of Pollution and for Scientific and Sustainable Mining. These two categories include:
 - (a) regulations within the leased area, including encroachments; and
 - (b) regulations outside the leased area for the impact zone.
- iii. For category (a) within the leased area, the CEC had suggested/recommended for preparation of the Reclamation and Rehabilitation Plan (R&R Plan) for individual leases and suggested certain guidelines. The R&R Plan also includes the fixing of the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) as discussed in the above paragraphs.
- iv. For the areas in category (b), i.e., outside the mining leases in the impact zone, the CEC recommended the implementation of a Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) in the Impact Zone. The CEPMIZ included (a) Biodiversity Conservation Plan, (b) Afforestation and Soil Moisture Conservation Plan, (c) Physical Infrastructure Development Plan, (d) Social Infrastructure Development Plan,

and (e) Regional Monitoring Plan, and Mechanism. The said recommendations have been accepted by this Hon'ble Supreme Court in their order/s dated 13.4.2012 and 18.4.2013.

- v. After a gap of five years, number of I.A.s, namely, I.A. No. 273 of 2017 instituted by M/s Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturers Association("KISMA"), I.A. No. 103342 of 2017 filed by the Ministry of Mines, I.A. No.56562 of 2017 by FIMI South, State of Karnataka and others to seek vacation of the order of this Court for fixing an annual Ceiling Cap for districts and for further orders allowing each lessee to operate and extract iron ore as per its approved R&R Plan i.e.as per MPAP.
- vi. In this regard, the Hon'ble Court had also considered the note dated 23.08.2017 of Shri M.K Jiwrajka, the former Member Secretary of CEC (**ANNEXURE R-5**) wherein he had suggested having a consolidated Cap of 30.0 MMT excluding 'C' Category mines. The CEC Report dated 14.07.2017 read with the explanatory note thereto dated 14.10.2017 has stated about availability of the additional infrastructure consisting of some new road constructions by different lessees; construction of railway sidings at Nandihalli with track lane of 13.6 km by M/s JSW Steel Ltd. and installation of downhill conveyor belt with an annual capacity of 5.0 MMT by NMDC (presently not working). Considering the status on the R&R plans, mining reserves, dumping areas, and evacuation infrastructure, the CEC in its report dated 14.10.2017 had suggested as follows:

- a. Regarding Category 'A' & 'B' mining leases for 'District Bellary' the annual production cap for the district may be enhanced by 3.0 MMT to 28.0 MMT.
 - b. The existing ceiling of 5.0 MMT fixed for 'A' & 'B' mining leases for Districts Tumkur and Chitradurga may be enhanced to 7.0 MMT.
 - c. With regard to Category 'C' mining leases which have been e-auctioned to the end users, the production cap of individual mining leases be regulated through the limits approved in the R&R Plan without reference to the general cap fixed for the district concerned.
- vii. M/s KISMA had in IA No. 273 of 2017 petitioned before this Court to allocate a separate production cap of 10.0 MMT for auctioned Category 'C' leases, independent of the existing 30.0 MMT cap for three districts. The State of Karnataka also submitted to the Court that, in light of the growing national demand for iron ore, the existing cap should be raised from 30.0 MMT to 40.0 MMT. Additionally, the State suggested that, following significant progress in implementing the Comprehensive Environmental Plans for the Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ), the annual iron ore extraction cap could potentially increase to 50.0 MMT. However, this would be contingent upon the successful implementation of key CEPMIZ initiatives, which are currently in the early stages and have a long way to go for completion.

- viii. After thorough deliberation, this Hon'ble Court, in its order dated 14.12.2017, reviewed the facts, figures, and available infrastructure in the three districts, and decided to increase the district-wise Ceiling Cap for Category 'A' and 'B' mines to better meet industrial demands. This Hon'ble Court raised the Ceiling Cap for Bellary district (old) from 25.0 MMT to 28.0 MMT per year and for Chitradurga and Tumkur districts combined, from 5.0 MMT to 7.0 MMT. This had raised the total production limit in the three districts from 30.0 MMT to 35.0 MMT. **The criteria for setting the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) of leases remained unchanged.**
- ix. Subsequently, by its order dated 26.08.2022, this Hon'ble Court raised the iron ore production ceiling for Category 'A' and 'B' mines in Karnataka. The cap for Bellary district was increased from 28.0 MMT to 35.0 MMT, and for Chitradurga and Tumkur districts collectively, from 7.0 MMT to 15.0 MMT. While the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) recommended a full relaxation of the ceiling, the Court took a cautious approach, opting for a gradual increase to ensure scientific and sustainable mining practices. This decision has balanced environmental concerns with the need for economic growth, allowing for controlled expansion in mining activities. This Hon'ble Court also categorically held that:

“Conservation of the ecology and the environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development and the fine balance between the two goals is what is sought to be achieved even now.”

- x. Now that many “C” and expired “A” & “B” Category mines have been auctioned and their Maximum Permissible Annual Productions (MPAPs) determined, and also considering the significant unused Ceiling Cap for “A” & “B” category mines in the three districts, it is proposed that the cap for auctioned ‘C’ Category Mines and auctioned ‘A & B’ mines be combined together with the cap of operating A&B category mines. This Hon’ble Court may kindly consider this as indicated in its order dated 14.12.2017 to establish a unified Ceiling Cap for all mines in the State, including fresh leased mines.

9. The Monitoring Committee, after having detailed submission in its report dated 19.8.2024, has *inter alia* made the following recommendations; the same are reproduced herein for ready reference:

- i. *“That this Hon’ble Court has taken a consistent stand to fix the Ceiling Cap for districts and MPAP of each mining lease by taking the basic factors of (a) mineral reserves in the lease area (b) area available for overburden/waste dump(s) and subgrade dump(s) and (c) existing transport facilities vis-à-vis traffic load of the mining lease and adjoining mining leases through all the orders/judgments dated 13.4.2012, 18.4.2013, 14.12.2017 and 26.8.2022 issued in this connection considering the imperatives of the twin goals of industrial and economic development on the one hand and the safeguard for scientific mining, the protection of environment and biodiversity as also human well-being on the other hand and also looked into to*

maintain inter-generational equity issues effectively addressed. Further, after analysis of all the facts and circumstances of last 13 years, this methodology is found most trusted based on scientific, sustainable and intergenerational equity to fix the MPAP of each mine and Ceiling Cap of districts. It is the considered view of the Monitoring Committee that this methodology should be kept continue to keep the balance between development at one hand and protection of Environment and ecology, biodiversity, intergenerational equity of the other hand.

- ii. The ceiling cap approved for the Bellary district (old) is 35.0 MMT and that for Chitradurga & Tumkur Districts is 15.0 MMT thus totaling 50.00 MMT/year. The current production or allotted MPAP is around 31.240 MMT for Bellary & Vijayanagara districts and 7.846 MMT for Chitradurga & Tumkur districts thus having total MPAP of **39.086 for running A&B mines**. Hence, there is unutilized gap of **10.914 MMT/year**. This unutilized gap will further increase in the passing years due to expiry of A&B category of leases in due course of time. **During 2033-34, the unutilized gap will be about 24.0475 MMT**. With these facts and circumstances, it is recommended that the MPAP of all the four districts may be combined and a single MPAP may be fixed to bring all the categories of leases under a single umbrella as explained in detail in this report.*

- iii. *The Current MPAP of all the running mines (30 Nos.) of A&B categories is **39.086 MMT**. In addition, so far 17 C-category mines and 7 expired A- & B-category mines have been auctioned. Out of these, the total MPAP of 07 auctioned A- & B-category mines is **5.852 MMT** and the total MPAP of 17 C-category mines is **8.498 MMT**. However, out of the 24 auctioned mines, 16 are operational and the remaining eight will take time to be operational; the total MPAP of the 16 auctioned, operational mines is 12.151 MMT. In addition, five mines have been auctioned after amalgamating A, B and C category mines but these mines are also not likely to be operational in the immediate future. **Presently the total assessed MPAP of the 30 operating A&B category mines and 16 (out of total 24) auctioned operating mines in A, B & C categories is $[39.086+12.151] = 51.237$ MMT.** With these facts and circumstances as explained in this report in detail, it is the considered view of the Monitoring Committee to fix a single **Ceiling Cap of 57.0 MMT** per year of all four districts for all category mines (Details are at para-A. VI. of this report of Monitoring Committee).*
- iv. *As regards the present system of sale of Iron ore by the lessees themselves, **Monitoring Committee is of the opinion that the status-quo may be maintained for the present.***
- v. *The drone survey mappings/images of each running mines should be undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the mining activities including sale and disposal of the waste,*

etc. This exercise may be made mandatory irrespective of the size of the lease. The survey should be carried out twice a year (November-December and May-June) by each lessee and the processed output [digital elevation model (DEM) and Orth mosaic] images obtained from such survey or likewise be submitted to Mine and Forest departments. This activity is in addition to the activities required to be carried out by the lessees in pursuance to the provisions of Rule 34A of Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

- vi. That the assessment of annual reserve quantity to be extracted/exploited on sustainable basis is being done by dividing the total available reserve by twenty for fixing of MPAP in the R&R plans. This practice was in vogue at a time when the leases were granted /renewed for a period of twenty years. Presently, during the time of ore enhancement also, the further/subsequent explored reserve is being divided by twenty and MPAP is re-fixed. This results in shortening of the life of the mine and may not reach fifty years. Now, after Amendment in MMDR Act 2015, the lease period is fixed for fifty years. Hence it is recommended that the available ore reserve should be divided by fifty at the time of enhancement of MPAP, for maintaining intergeneration equity and also for sustainable and scientific mining.*

- vii. *The guideline issued by GOI vide notification dated 16.07.2018 has no applicability on ore-loaded vehicles while they are plying on mine roads, village /district roads, mud roads and other intermediate roads joining the State/ National Highways. Such roads are not scientifically or properly consolidated. This notification dated 16.07.2018 should not be considered for road capacity enhancement for fixing the MPAP in these four districts. **This is causing a lot of consequential negative effects/severe damages to such roads.** This is not permissible and it is prayed that this Hon'ble Court may issue direction to stop the practice forthwith.*
- viii. *The implementation of SPV/CEPMIZ as of now is in preliminary stage and will take some time to become effective. Additional infrastructure capacities which were required to be created have not been substantially developed to bear the additional transportation load etc. This Hon'ble Court may direct to State that enhancement of the MPAP of already running mines should only be considered till the CEPMIZ becomes operational at field and additional infrastructure capacities are found to have been created at the satisfaction of CEC/Monitoring Committee.*
- ix. *The MPAPs of M/s Vedanta Ltd. (ML No. 2677), M/s. R. Praveen Chandra (ML No. 2294) and M/s. JSW Steel Ltd (ML No. 0014 Old ML No. 2346) in Chitradurga district may be ordered to be reassessed because of having severe dust pollution (PM_{10}) as shown in **ANNEXURE R-6.**"*

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

10. As mentioned in para 4 above, this Hon'ble Court by its order dated 14.03.2024 has directed that the CEC, together with the Monitoring Committee and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, will undertake a complete exercise in the three districts, and the respective mining leases situated therein, and submit a report before this Court. A total of five points were identified and the point-wise observations and analysis is being submitted in the following paragraphs:

A. Comprehensive assessment regarding the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) restrictions on iron ore leases in Bellary, Chitradurga, Tumkur, and Vijayanagara districts.

11. The concept of fixation of MPAP was conceived as *sine qua non* for the protection of the environment and scientific mining, following the discovery of large-scale illegal mining and environmental degradation in the districts of Bellary, Chitradurga, and Tumkur. This Hon'ble Court has then, as *parens patriae*, imposed these caps to protect the natural resources while ensuring that the principle of sustainable development and protection of the environment is followed, which this Hon'ble Court has long upheld as *jus naturelle*.

12. It has been observed that the following should be considered to make any recommendations on the prayer of the Applicant in this I.A.

(i) **This Hon'ble Court has on 21.03.2017 inter alia held as under:**

"22.....However, at the same time, we must convey our approval to the integrated mining and part of the railway infrastructure that is proposed, namely, construction of the conveyor belt system; railway sidings and railway sub-lines. It is only once a decision is taken on raising the aforesaid infrastructure and noticeable headway in the matter of execution thereof is reached, that the other ameliorative and mitigative socio-economic measures can have any relevance. This is because it is the limited infrastructure that have been indicated above i.e. conveyor belt, railway sidings and railway sub-lines which would constitute the most significant steps towards controlling the environmental pollution that persists on account of open movement of iron ore by road. It is only after controlled and regulated movement of iron ore is achieved that the other socio-economic measures should be undertaken so as to produce meaningful results.

.....

24.....All that we deem fit for the present is to call upon State of Karnataka and the CEC to submit a detailed proposal with regard to implementation of the Scheme of construction of conveyor belt system in respect of existing leases and the details of the project relating to the construction of railway sidings and railway sub-lines."

(ii) **This Hon'ble court vide order dated 13.09.2017 had also observed as under:**

"3. By our previous order dated 21.03.2017, we have made it clear that the truncated scope of consideration, insofar as implementation of CPMIZ is concerned, would be the issues of relating to a conveyor belt system; railway sidings and railway sub-lines. Consideration of all other aspects of the Scheme recommended by the CEC was deferred.

4. Having now considered the matter, we are of the view that what has been stated by Shri Jiwrajka in paragraph 24 of the note submitted to the Court is a suggestion that the Court would like to act upon. The said suggestion is to the effect that as nine mines mentioned in paragraph 24 produces about 80% of the iron-ore in the Districts of Bellary and Chitradurga, the primary concentration of the Court to control pollution and ensure a safe environment should be, in the first instance, in respect of the aforesaid nine mines. The names of leases and the other particulars asset out in the note of Shri Jiwrajka is extracted below:-

S.No	Name of the Lease	District	MPAP
1	NMDC Ltd.(ML No.1111)	Bellary	6.00 MMT
2	NMDC Ltd.(ML No.2396)	Bellary	6.00 MMT
3	MML (ML No.2605)	Bellary	1.06 MMT
4	MML (ML No.2629)	Bellary	3.00 MMT
5	Sesa Goa (ML No.2677)	Chitradurga	2.29 MMT
6	MSPL (ML No.2416)	Bellary	1.80 MMT
7	SMIORE (ML No.2580)	Bellary	1.60 MMT
8	B.Kumar Gowda (ML No.2516)	Bellary	1.26 MMT
9	VESCO (ML No.2296)	Bellary	1.10 MMT
	TOTAL		24.11 MMT 79%

5. Out of the aforesaid nine mines two mines of NMDC can be left out of consideration for the present as there is a conveyor belt system already operating therein. Insofar as MSPL (ML No.2416) is concerned, there is a special suggestion of Shri Jiwrajka keeping in mind that the aforesaid lease is expiring in 2022 which is to the effect that the costs should be borne proportionately. In the remaining six mines/leases conveyor belt system should be set up by the lessees themselves. Insofar as railway sidings is concerned, it has been stated by Shri Jiwrajka that railway sidings would be required only in three of the leases, namely, MML (ML No.2605), B.Kumar Gowda (MLNo.2156) and VESCO (ML No.2296). Insofar as railway sub-lines are concerned, it is the suggestion of Shri Jiwrajka that only two sub-lines i.e. between Lakshmipur Cross and Dharmapura (about 4-5 km inlength) & between Sandur existing line and Susheel Nagar (about 11 km in length) will be required.

6. Having regard to the immediate need for environmental protection and the imminent necessity to place adequate measures as a part of the PMIZ, we are of the view that to begin with steps should be taken to examine the aforesaid proposal contained in the note of Shri Jiwrajka. To enable smooth execution of the proposal, as indicated above, we are of the view that a meeting should be convened by the CEC in which all the stake-holders should be present. All issues including who has to bear the cost, keeping in mind the long term benefits that would come to the lessees and, perhaps, in the distant future to others who are not before the Court, should be debated, discussed and attempted to be resolved in an amicable manner. The CEC will invite the seven lessees (barring NMDC), the representative(s) of FIMI (Southern Region), the representative(s) of State of Karnataka, the constituents of the SPV and also such other stake holders

who the CEC may consider, at different points of time, necessary to facilitate a resolution of the matter.

7. The Rail India Technical and Economic Services(RITES), RITES Bhawan, 1, Sector 29, Gurgaon, Haryana and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL), Gondwana Palace, Kanke Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand shall also be asked to participate in the meeting and offer their suggestions and views as to the extent of work that would be required to be done, the feasibility thereof in the light of suggestions, contentions and counter contentions that may be advanced. That the infrastructure contemplated should be an integrated one also will be kept in mind in the deliberations to be held. The CEC will thereafter submit a report to this Court indicating the feasibility of the suggestion of Shri Jiwrarka and the alterations/modifications of the said suggestions that would be required to be made to ensure due and proper implementation thereof so as to ensure that the objective behind the CPMIZ is achieved.

8. As RITES and CMPDIL are professional bodies and would be required to render professional opinion in the matter they would be entitled to their usual remuneration which will be paid by the CEC. We would expect the CEC to act promptly in the matter and submit a report to this Court within a period of six weeks from today.

(ii) The judgment dated 14.12.2017 of this Hon'ble Court

".....In the above circumstances, we are of the view that no separate cap for category 'C' mines need to be stipulated at this stage except to reiterate the fact that such an exercise may be performed at an appropriate time and a separate cap for such mines (newly auctioned) will be worked out, independent of the cap

revised by this order for the 3 districts. While doing so the infrastructure and other relevant parameters for mining and evacuation of mined material, that may become ready and available at that relevant point of time, will naturally be considered.”

(iv) Further, this Hon’ble Court took up the issue of CEPMIZ, including the Conveyor Belts, Railway Sidings, etc. on 21.04.2022 and held as under:

“1. Based on the direction of this Court dated 21.03.2018, the State of Karnataka had submitted the plan on 11.10.2018 being a “Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone(CEPMIZ)” for the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur in order to restore the environmental damage caused in the area by large scale illegal and reckless mining and to ensure that the environment in the area may not suffer from any such abuse and destruction in future. The Central Empowered Committee (‘CEC’) had recommended approval of the plan, with certain modifications, vide its reports dated 22.10.2018 and 16.4.2019.

2...(x) Implementation of the railway infrastructure as per the Railway Backbone Report, including DPRs of railway sidings and sublines submitted to this Court may be considered by the Oversight Authority and implemented as may be required.”

(v) The Hon’ble Oversight Authority, in its report dated 29.07.2022, observed as follows:

“The Oversight Authority as at present is unable to express its firm opinion in the matter in view of the conflicting reports submitted by Central Empowered Committee and the Monitoring Committee. It is not for the Oversight Authority to express any opinion as to whether the Monitoring Committee has exceeded its brief in

joining an issue with Central Empowered Committee by pleading for continuation of the ceiling limit. Be it as it may, it is just and necessary to gather some further evidence in the matter of 'current available road infrastructure', 'existing as well as improvements made to transport infrastructure'. There is no evidence as such made available for the perusal of the Oversight Authority as to what are the developments that have taken place between today and 20.05.2022 i.e. when the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed the Orders referred to hereinabove."

(vi) The Judgement dated 26.8.2022 of this Hon'ble Court

"16. This Court has generally accepted the recommendations of the CEC when it comes to the ceiling limit. In the present case, the CEC has recommended a complete relaxation of the ceiling limit. But we are not inclined to allow the same in toto. Rather, the situation merits a cautious approach, keeping in view the concerns raised and to ensure that any changes in the situation with respect to the mining activity in the State of Karnataka is brought about gradually, we are of the opinion that the ceiling limit of iron ore mining may be raised from 28 MMT to 35 MMT for District Bellary, and from 7 MMT to 15 MMT for Chitradurga and Tumkur Districts collectively."

(vii) In this I.A., this Hon'ble Supreme Court has on 14.03.2024 passed the order as follows:

"..... While undertaking the said exercise, they shall keep in mind the parameters referred to in the report dated 13.03.2012. The CEC will be entitled to take help and assistance of the scientific domain experts who will examine data, including environmental pollution data available/recorded in the districts from time to time."

13. It is evident from the submissions made in the preceding paragraph that while coming to any conclusion about MPAP, the main points to be considered are:

- (i) Encroachments in the form of pits, overburden dumps, and others by smaller/medium-sized mines.
- (ii) Resource availability.
- (ii) Status of establishment of *infrastructure, i.e. conveyor belt, railway sidings, and railway sub-lines.*
- (iii) Status of implementation of “*Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ)*”
- (iii) Status of environmental pollution in the leased/ outside leased area

These have been discussed in the following paragraphs.

14. In Karnataka, only a few iron ore mining leases exceed an area of 300.0 hectares, such as those held by M/s NMDC, M/s SMIORE, and M/s MSPL(now expired). Most leases are much smaller in area, with 117 mines are/were under 50 hectares, 27 mines between 50 and 100 hectares, 13 mines between 100 and 150 hectares, and five mines between 150 and 300 hectares. The smaller leased areas have led to widespread encroachments, such as pits and overburden dumps with restrictions /controlled administrative laws and require monitored management. The total area under encroachment in 2012, as per the

findings of the Joint Team, ordered by this Hon'ble Court, was 1723.63 ha. As a result, overburden dumps and waste management have become limiting factors for fixing the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP). Compared to larger mines in states like Odisha, Karnataka's smaller lease areas make open-ended annual production impractical, as it would encourage further encroachments and pollution load. Therefore, maintaining a Ceiling Cap with scientifically worked/fixed MPAP is essential to control production, manage overburden dumps effectively, and prevent unauthorized expansions, ensuring sustainable and scientific mining practices in Karnataka.

15. The availability of resources is a key factor in determining the Ceiling Cap for iron ore extraction in districts. For finite, non-renewable resources like iron ore, applying a strict Ceiling Cap is essential to ensure intergenerational equity and sustainable development. The Bellary district holds approximately 1,992 MMT of haematite iron ore and manganese, while Chitradurga and Tumkur districts possess 296.17 MMT and 177.37 MMT, respectively, totalling 2,465 MMT, as reported by the Mines & Geology Department, Government of Karnataka. After accounting for approximately 150 MMT removed since 2020, 2,315 MMT remains available. If extraction continues at 50 MMT per year, these reserves **and**

resources will last for 46 years. At a rate of 55 MMT per year, the reserves **and resources** would last 42 years, and at 57 MMT per year, they would last 40 years. This highlights the necessity of carefully managing extraction rates to preserve resources for future generations. Furthermore, as per the prevailing practice, the available reserves **and resources** were/are being divided by 20 years to fix MPAP, as the lease period was granted for 20 years before 2014. However, this method shortens the extractable ore of the mine's lifespan, preventing it from reaching the now-extended 50-year lease period under the MMDR Act 2015. **To ensure intergenerational equity and promote sustainable and scientific mining, it is recommended that while considering MPAP enhancement, the available ore reserve shall now be divided by 50, aligned with the current 50-year lease period.**

Note # the phrase '**and resources**' has been added at three places in this para in accordance with the 'View of the Hon'ble Oversight Authority' vide his letter dated 03.12.2024.

16. It has been observed that the road capacity for mining-related transport is currently being calculated using Indian Road Congress (IRC) guidelines, which are designed for long stretches of rural highways accommodating mixed traffic. These guidelines are improperly applied to mining roads and mud roads that connect mining leases to State and National Highways as these mining roads are not scientifically or

adequately constructed to handle the heavy traffic loads and axle weights involved in ore transportation. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India has also issued a notification on 18.07.2018 regarding maximum safe axle weights for different vehicle types, including mineral-carrying vehicles under rigid, trailer, and semi-trailer categories. However, this notification does not apply to ore-loaded vehicles traveling on unsurfaced mine roads, village, district, or mud roads, which are often poorly consolidated and unfit to bear such heavy loads. These guidelines are also being incorrectly used to justify road capacity enhancement for fixing the MPAP (Maximum Permissible Annual Production) in mining districts. The result is severe and ongoing damage to these roads, leading to safety hazards, environmental degradation, and infrastructure deterioration. **Therefore, to promote safer and more sustainable transport practices, the use of IRC guidelines and the Ministry's axle weight notifications should be discontinued when determining the road capacity of such mining roads.**

A copy of the Notification dated 18.07.2018 of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, is enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-7** to this Report.

17. The lack of proper road infrastructure is also evident from the very high number of 330 road accidents and 126 deaths in the impact zone during 2022-2024, according to the Police Department of Karnataka. Large quantities of iron ore are transported daily via roads using trucks. According to data from 2021-22, 1,05,700 to 1,58,399 MT of iron ore was transported daily, utilizing around 4000 trucks per day. The increase in dispatch from 38.84 MMT in 2021-22 to 43.56 MMT in 2023-24 (an additional 4.72 MMT) has proportionally raised the number of trucks on the road to around 5,500 per day. This heavy traffic on the roads is expected to increase, especially with more than 45.0 MMT of ore being dispatched from this year onwards. The growing number of trucks will exacerbate road congestion, potentially reverting to pre-2011 conditions. To alleviate this, switching to transportation via railways, conveyor belts, and railway sidings is essential, which can be achieved by implementing the CEPMIZ. Currently, NMDC's Dhoni mine and Nandihalli Railway siding use rail transport, but further infrastructure development is needed. The status of railway projects under CEPMIZ, as informed by KMERC, is as follows:

Sl. No.	Date	Brief Description
1	30.07.2022	Two projects approved by Hon'ble Oversight Authority 1. Providing Susheelnagar PFT (Railway Sidings and Subline) in Sandur Taluk, Ballari District- Project cost Rs. 258.72 Crores 2. Providing Dharmapura PFT (Railway Sidings and Subline) in Sandur Taluk, Ballari District- Project cost Rs. 276.99 Crores
2	23.02.2023	SWR sought consent of JSW for taking off from their existing JSW Nandihalli siding
3	08.09.2023	JSW issued No Objection Certificate (NOC) for utilizing Railway line of 8.65 Kms for transportation of ore from proposed Dharmapura and Susheelnagar PFTs
4	20.01.2024	Security deposits made to SWR for issue of approval for two sidings
5	02.02.2024	MoU signed with JSW for shared corridor
6	07.02.2024 & 08.02.2024	Detailed Project Reports & Engineering Scale Plans of Two PFTs approved by South Western Railways
7	28.02.2024	Correspondence with DC, Ballari for processing Land acquisition
8	27.06.2024	Finance Department issued 4(g) exemption for appointing RITES Ltd. for PMC services
9	29.06.2024	LOA issued to RITES for submission of draft MoU
10	31.07.2024	Draft MoU submitted by RITES
11	24.09.2024	Legal scrutiny of MoU
12	30.09.2024	Meeting with RITES for submission & finalization of MoU
13	03.10.2024	Final Draft sent to RITES for their consent

18. This Hon'ble Court has on 21.03.2017 inter alia held as under:

“22.....However, at the same time, we must convey our approval to the integrated mining and part of the railway infrastructure that is proposed, namely, construction of the conveyor belt system; railway sidings

and railway sub-lines. It is only once a decision is taken on raising the aforesaid infrastructure and noticeable headway in the matter of execution thereof is reached, that the other ameliorative and mitigative socio-economic measures can have any relevance. This is because it is the limited infrastructure that have been indicated above i.e. conveyor belt, railway sidings and railway sub-lines which would constitute the most significant steps towards controlling the environmental pollution that persists on account of open movement of iron ore by road. It is only after controlled and regulated movement of iron ore is achieved that the other socio-economic measures should be undertaken so as to produce meaningful results.

.....
 24.....*All that we deem fit for the present is to call upon State of Karnataka and the CEC to submit a detailed proposal with regard to implementation of the Scheme of construction of conveyor belt system in respect of existing leases and the details of the project relating to the construction of railway sidings and railway sub-lines.”*

The increase in MPAP for various leases will further raise truck density on the roads, as progress in developing conveyor belts and railway sidings remains limited. Several Conveyor belts were subsequently proposed to be built along with a few railway sidings and railway sub-lines. Some additional infrastructure consisting of some new road constructions by different lessees; construction of railway sidings at Nandihalli with track lane of 13.6 km by M/s JSW Steel Ltd. and installation of downhill conveyor belt with an annual capacity of 5.0 MMT by NMDC is in place (it is not operational) but overall, the progress as on date is extremely poor. JSW's

conveyor belt transports an average of 12,638 MT per day, or 385,470 MT per month, which is insufficient. Additionally, NMDC's 5.0 MMT capacity conveyor belt at Kumaraswamy mine remains non-operational, with no evacuation expected for another 3-4 years due to delays in constructing a new crushing plant.

19. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India after considering the recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), has accorded in-principle approval of the "Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ)" for the districts of Ballari, (including newly carved out district of Vijayanagara), Chitradurga and Tumkur to be implemented over a period of 10 years and appointed an Oversight Authority for approval of individual projects and supervision of its implementation on 21.04.2022 in order to restore the environmental damage caused in the area by large scale illegal and reckless mining and to ensure that the environment in the area may not suffer from any such abuse and destruction in future. As per information received from KMERC, 368 projects of value Rs.7955.49 Crores have been approved till 30.09.2024. The status of the projects, sector-wise fund allocation, approvals issued, and progress as on 30.09.2024 is as follows:

Amount in Rs. Cr.

S. No	Name of the Sector	CEPMIZ Fund Allocation	No. of Approved Proposals	Total approved Project Cost	No of Projects under Implementation	Expenditure
1	Eco-Restoration	2655.75	83	1353.31	28	36.58
2	Agriculture and Allied Activities	1602.98	74	1066.35	0	0.00
3	Roads & Communication	2559.17	53	1458.12	12	1.39
4	Education	1166.01	52	869.38	0	0.00
5	Drinking Water, Sanitation & Rural Roads	4929.84	32	866.60	3	0.14
6	Development of Vulnerable Sections	1082.64	25	383.61	0	0.00
7	Irrigation	1006.7	16	577.61	14	34.16
8	Health	1915.78	15	420.82	9	1.04
9	Skill Development	538.24	11	154.81	7	42.75
10	Housing	1193.88	4	260.95	0	0
11	Railway Infrastructure	5271.96	2	535.71	2	5.54
12	Physical Infrastructure	884.36	1	8.22	0	0.00
Total		24996.30	368	7955.49	75	121.61

District-wise fund allocation, approval issued, and progress so far are as follows:

(Amount in Rs. Cr.)

S. N.	District	CEPMIZ Fund Allocation	No. of Approved Proposals	Total approved Project Cost	No of Projects under Implementation	Expenditure
1	Ballari	14651.70	109	3572.64	17	32.95
2	Vijayanagara	3998.25	57	840.51	19	22.05
3	Chitradurga	3792.30	121	2157.37	30	43.95
4	Tumkur	2554.05	81	1384.97	9	22.67
		24996.30	368	7955.49	75	121.61

It may be noted from the above that the implementation of CEPMIZ is in the initial stage and has to go a long way. In 2012-13, it was anticipated that once the Physical Infrastructure Development Plan, covering roads, railway connections, water, and power infrastructure, was fully implemented, the permissible annual production from mining leases could increase. However, as per the above data, progress remains slow. The situation underscores the urgent need for accelerated CEPMIZ implementation. As has been noted by this Hon'ble Court in its order dated 14.12.2017, the State Government of Karnataka is also of the view that the annual cap upon iron ore extraction could be gradually increased to 50.0 MMT per year, subject to the successful implementation of the major items of the CEPMIZ.

20. Pursuant to the Hon'ble Court's order dated 05.08.2011, ICFRE prepared a Macro-EIA Plan for Bellary, Chitradurga, and Tumkur districts, highlighting significant environmental concerns. One key finding was the deterioration of Ambient Air Quality (AAQ), with Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respiratory Particulate Matter (RPM) reaching alarming levels. The situation of Ambient Air Quality has not changed much even now. Additionally, both surface and groundwater quality have also worsened. A perusal of data on Ambient Air Quality, specifically Particulate

Matter (PM₁₀), from 2013 to 2023 for active mines as obtained from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (ANNEXURE R-4) clearly indicates that in almost all cases, the situation has deteriorated. Analysis indicates critical air quality issues in mines operated by M/s Vedanta Ltd., M/s R. Praveen Chandra, and the BBH mine (M/s JSW Steels) in Chitradurga district, necessitating immediate action. Notably, high levels of MPAP in smaller leasehold areas correlate with increased dust pollution. To mitigate these issues, reducing MPAP in affected mines is recommended by the Monitoring Committee. A detailed list of mines where RPM levels are critically high is attached as ANNEXURE R-6. **Immediate interventions are essential to safeguard public health and the environment in these regions.**

21. The recommendations for lease-wise ceiling (MPAP) were based on several logistical challenges, such as clustered mines, small leased areas, limited dumping space, poor road networks, and limited reserves. Although the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) approved mining plans, environmental clearances (EC) by MoEF&CC, and consent for operation (CFO) by KSPCB often allow higher production levels. These approvals do not consider critical constraints like ore reserves, road carrying capacity, and overburden management as fixed by this Hon'ble Court on

the recommendations of CEC. As a result, extracting minerals according to these approvals would overwhelm existing infrastructure, causing heavy truck traffic, pollution, and environmental degradation, including adverse effects on forests, agriculture, and human health. The Monitoring Committee acknowledged some recent infrastructure improvements, including better roads and the installation of a conveyor belt by JSW Steel Ltd. However, many logistical bottlenecks persist, and ore transportation still largely relies on trucks, leading to a minimal reduction in vehicle traffic. Given these constraints, the Monitoring Committee has suggested maintaining the MPAP for individual leases within the district Ceiling Cap for all three Categories 'A', 'B', and auctioned 'C' as well as expired auctioned 'A', 'B' leases and new ones, subject to a pro-rata reduction if MPAPs exceed the Ceiling Cap. The district Ceiling Caps were set based on the Macro Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) plan, ensuring scientific and sustainable mining, which considers environmental protection. **The Monitoring Committee has also recommended reviewing the Ceiling Cap only after infrastructure projects by the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) are fully implemented and if sufficient reserves are available to ensure intergenerational equity.**

22. Hence given in the current situation of various related aspects of the issue explained above, to comply with the order of this Hon'ble Court passed on 26.08.2022 that “***Conservation of the ecology and the environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development and the fine balance between the two goals is what is sought to be achieved even now.***” it is necessary to continue with the system MPAP for individual leases within the overall Ceiling Cap for all three categories: ‘A’, ‘B’, and auctioned ‘C’ & “A, B” category leases, as well as auctioning of new expired leases and new fresh leases, subject to a pro-rata reduction if MPAPs exceed the Ceiling Cap. This will also provide some sort of check on the **possible over-excavation and its adverse impact on intergenerational equity.**

B. Should sub-caps be established in specific areas, or should existing caps be increased or decreased to improve compliance and regulation in mining?

23. In its order dated 26.08.2022, this Hon'ble Court has fixed an annual production limit of 35.0 MMT for Bellary (including Vijayanagara) and 15.0 MMT for Chitradurga and Tumkur, totaling 50.0 MMT for ‘A’ & ‘B’ Category mines. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) for the 24 operating mines in Bellary and Vijayanagara

is 31.240 MMT, while the six mines in Chitradurga and Tumkur collectively have an MPAP of 7.846 MMT. This results in a total MPAP of 39.086 MMT, having an unutilized gap of 10.914 MMT, which is further expected to widen in the coming years due to the regularly expiring of leases.

24. Currently, the total assessed MPAP of the 30 operating 'A' & 'B' category mines, combined with 16 out of the 24 auctioned operating mines across 'A', 'B', and 'C' categories, stands at 51.237 MMT (39.086 + 12.151). Among the remaining eight auctioned mines, two are likely to be cancelled (MPAP=0.25), while six (MPAP=1.949) will take time to commence operations (details are given in para 9 of the recommendations of the report of the Monitoring Committee).

25. As time progresses, the total MPAP of 'A' & 'B' category mines across all four districts is anticipated to decline, reaching 38.196 MMT by 2026-27; 36.148 MMT by 2027-28; 36.103 MMT by 2029-30 and 25.9525 MMT by 2033-34. Consequently, the unutilized part of the district Ceiling cap (50 MMT) will further increase from the current 10.914 MMT to 24.0475 MMT per year within next 10 years. Conversely, the MPAPs of the auctioned 'C' category mines, as well as those of auctioned expired 'A' & 'B' category mines, are expected to rise.

26. It is submitted that the production and supply of iron ore for domestic consumption is crucial for maintaining a balance between development and environmental protection, including the preservation of local ecology and biodiversity. To assess this balance, dispatch data from the last three years for all active leases ('A' & 'B', auctioned 'C' category, and auctioned 'A' & 'B' category expired mines) across four districts has been analysed. As per information given by DMG during the meetings, there is a marginal increase in dispatches/consumption of all category mines put together from 38.54 MMT in 2021-22 to 43.01 MMT in 2023-24. As per information received on 05.04.2025, this year (2024-25), the total dispatch of iron ore from all categories of mines is about 42.69 MMT.

Note # This last line was not in the draft sent to the Hon'ble Oversight Authority and has been added subsequently.

27. In this context, the issue of revision of the ceiling, if any, was also discussed with industry representatives. A Note dated 22.07.2024 from KISMA (ANNEXURE R-3), requesting 75.0 MMT for 2025, was received. However, it is unrealistic and excessively high. Notably, since 2011, the dispatches or domestic consumption of iron ore in Karnataka have never exceeded 43.0 MMT across all mines. Additionally, it should be emphasized that the iron ore purchased by beneficiation and pellet plants is reinvested back into the steel industry, yet this is not reflected in the

steel industry's demand calculations. Consequently, dispatches from the mines are often misrepresented as consumption figures.

28. To ensure the judicious use of mineral resources for sustainable development and intergenerational equity, it is crucial to establish an overall ceiling for MPAP across all mining leases, including 'A' & 'B' category leases, auctioned 'C' category leases, expired and auctioned 'A' & 'B' category leases, and any newly granted leases. **It is important to note that, based on existing facts and circumstances, the overall MPAP for all leases in all districts is unlikely to reach 55.0 MMT in the next decade.** After extensive deliberations with the Monitoring Committee and other stakeholders, it is proposed that the overall ceiling cap for all these categories may be fixed at 57.0 MMT/year, compared to the current cumulative operative MPAP of 51.237 MMT across all mines in the four districts put together.

29. This Hon'ble Court has consistently established a methodology for determining the Ceiling Cap and Maximum Production Allocation Plan (MPAP) for mining leases, taking into account several key factors:

- (a) mineral reserves in the lease area,
- (b) available space for overburden and waste dumps in the leased area, and

- (c) existing transportation facilities relative to the traffic load from both the mining lease and adjacent leases.

This approach has been reaffirmed in various orders and judgments issued on 13.4.2012, 18.4.2013, 14.12.2017, and 26.8.2022. The current framework aims to balance the dual objectives of industrial and economic development with the need to safeguard the environment, biodiversity, and human well-being, while also addressing the principle of inter-generational equity. After thoroughly analysing the relevant facts and circumstances over the past 13 years, it is concluded that this scientific and sustainable methodology remains the most reliable way to determine the MPAP for each mine and the Ceiling Cap for districts. The CEC recommends continuing this approach to effectively maintain the balance between development and environmental protection.

C. Evaluation of the auction process of e-auctioning versus private sales allowed after the order dated 20.05.2022 on the basis of data of royalty and cess, etc.

30. This Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to examine whether regulation, such as e-auctioning, is necessary for the sale of mined materials. A comparison was made between royalty revenues generated from mandatory e-auctioning during the 2021-22 fiscal year and the

revenues from private sales allowed after the order dated 20.05.2022 for A&B category mines in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

31. As per the data provided by the Department of Mines and Geology to the Monitoring Committee in 2021-22, approximately 32,527,041 MT of iron ore was e-auctioned, generating a royalty of around ₹19,749,359,475. In contrast, during 2023-24, the total quantity of privately sold iron ore was 37,621,231.63 MT, with a royalty revenue of ₹20,301,178,675. The data was provided by the Department of Mines and Geology. This indicates only a marginal difference in royalty amounts between the two periods. The issue was further discussed with the Monitoring Committee, DMG Karnataka, and other stakeholders. It is recommended that maintaining the current status quo is advisable. Further regulations may not be necessary at this stage, but ongoing assessment of the market dynamics and royalty recovery by DMG is recommended to ensure that there is no loss of revenue.

D. Should satellite mapping be conducted for each mine to monitor mining activities and waste disposal?

32. It has been felt that the drone survey mappings/images of each running mine should be undertaken for ascertaining the mining activities, including the sale and disposal of the waste, etc. This exercise may be

made mandatory irrespective of the size of the lease. The survey should be carried out twice a year (November-December and May-June) by each lessee, and the processed output, like Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and Ortho Mosaic images obtained from such survey, or likewise be submitted to the Mine and Forest and IBM departments. This activity is in addition to the activities required to be carried out by the lessees in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 34A of the Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

E. Other relevant aspects

33. The data of pollution levels (PM_{10}) and others recorded by KSPCB/CPCB within the leased area shall be analysed each year, and in cases where the pollution level crosses above the moderate level, the MPAPs of such mining leases should be reassessed by the CEC. This exercise may be carried out mandatorily twice in each year (April-May and November-December) in each mine, and if it is found exceeded, as per the CPCB/KSPCB moderate level, the last enhanced MPAP may be reduced from immediately next year. The KSPCB may be directed to record the pollution data and send a report to the CEC through the Monitoring Committee as stated herein.

ISSUES RELATED TO AMALGAMATION OF MINES

34. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 30.07.2015 has allowed the State Govt to Auction Category "C" mines, cancelled by judgment and order dated 18.04.2013 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 562 of 2009 and fixed certain conditions which govern the e-auction in addition to all requirements spelt out by the amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. The relevant part of the order is reproduced herein for ready reference. The 15 mining leases that were ready for auction at that time are stated as:

- "1. Deccan Mining Syndicate (P) Ltd. 2525
2. Karthikeyas Managanese 2559
3. Hothur Traders 2313
4. V.S. Lad & Sons 2290
5. B.R. Yogendranath Singh 2186
6. M/s Lakshminarayan Mining Co. 2487
7. Rama Rao Paol 2621
8. Ramgad Mines & Mineral Pvt. Ltd. 2451
9. M/s Channakeshava Reddy 2566
10. M/s Nidhi Mining Company 2433
11. M/s S.B. Minerals 2393
12. M/s Srinivasalu Mines 2631
13. M/s Tungabhadra Minerals Pvt. Ltd. 2365
14. M/s Tungabhadra Minerals Pvt. Ltd. 2366
15. M/s Mineral Mines and traders 2185."

The modalities which would govern the auction would be as follows:

“1. The lease boundary of each of the mining lease will be as approved by this Court by judgment and order dated 18th April, 2013.

2. Only the end-users engaged in production of sponge iron and/or pig iron and/or steel and/or pellets will be eligible to take part in the auction. The end-users will include Public Sector Undertakings;

3. The reserve price under Rule 8(1) Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 will be specified in the tender documents at 35%.

4. The permissible annual production will be as prescribed under the approved R&R Plan prepared until such time that the same is modified by this Court. 5

5. The successful bidder/lessee will be required to produce and dispatch every year at least 50% of the permissible annual production as prescribed under the approved R&R Plan. Whenever the dispatch in a year is below the guaranteed dispatch as indicated above in that case irrespective of the quantity actually dispatched the total amount payable during the year will be based on the guaranteed dispatch. In addition, the lessee may also be required to surrender the lease. This condition will not be applicable during the initial period of 18 months provided to the successful bidder/lessee to obtain the statutory approvals;

6. The successful bidder/lessee will be required to implement the prescriptions/provisions of the approved R&R Plan in accordance with the guidelines approved by this Court. The cost incurred for this will be reimbursed by the State Government to the successful bidder/lessee after recovering the same from the erstwhile lessee;

7. Consortium of end-users will not be eligible to participate in the auction;

8. The existing statutory approvals/clearances in favour of the lessee of the erstwhile Category 'C' mining leases will be transferred in favour of the new lessees. The concerned authority will take expeditious action for the grant of the statutory approvals such as the environmental clearance and approval/TWP under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

9. The State of Karnataka will be at liberty to reduce the reserve price for the mining leases for which no bid above the reserve price is received;

10. The sale proceeds of the auction, for the present, will be credited to the Consolidated Fund to the extent of 75% and 25% to the account of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). This will be subject to such further orders as may be passed;"

The above conditions will naturally be in addition to all requirements spelled out by the amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015.

In this context, the following is brought to the kind attention of this Hon'ble Court:

- (a) The State Government has so far auctioned 17 leases based on the above regime/directions of the Hon'ble Court. The list is enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-8** to this Report.

- (b) The State govt had filed its status report, and the matter was heard on 16.08.2017 in IA No.268/2016. After hearing the matter, it was directed to the State to submit all particulars of Category "C" of mines. The relevant para of the order in this regard is reproduced herein:

*"Having considered the status report of the second phase of auction of Category 'C' mines filed on behalf of the State of Karnataka, we are of the view that time has come for the State to disclose to the Court the particulars of all Category 'C' mines, along **with full details there of** which according to the State is economically not viable to be worked upon.....Needless to say, that there shall be no further auction of Category 'C' mines without leave of the Court."*

- (c) The State Government had further filed the status report of all C-category of mines, but when the matter came for discussion, the report was withdrawn. The relevant para of the order dated **13.09.2017** of the Court in this regard is reproduced herein:

"Shri Raju Ramchandran, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the State of Karnataka prays for liberty to withdraw the report on economic viability of auction of 'C' category mines with liberty to approach this Court once again on the same subject matter, if the need arises. Liberty, as prayed, is granted. Report on economic viability of auction of 'C' category mines is treated as withdrawn. We make it clear that it will be open for the State of Karnataka to auction such of the Category 'C' mines which, according to the State, are viable and can be auctioned."

(d) The State has not approached this Hon'ble Court to date for any modification of the order/s of this Court. Despite clear orders of the Hon'ble Court, the State Govt went ahead and amalgamated other categories of mines and also fresh virgin forest area with the C-category of mines and auctioned them in violation of the Hon'ble Court order dated 30.07.2015. The auction process has been completed. The details of the blocks auctioned in violation are given as under:

(i) **Vyasanakere Iron Ore Mine block**

Sl. No	Lessee Name & ML No	Category	Total Extent (Ha)	Extent taken for amalgamation (ha)
1	M/s MSPL Limited, ML No. 2416	Expired lease	354.56	354.56
2	Smt. Shanthalakshmi Jayaram, ML No. 2553	Cancelled C category	32.72	32.72
3	Additional virgin area	-	18.12	18.12
Total			405.4	405.4

(ii) **Jaisinghpura South Block**

Sl. No	Lessee Name & ML No	Category	Total Extent (Ha)	Extent taken for amalgamation (ha)
1	M/s S B Minerals, ML No. 2550	Cancelled C category	39.56	34.91
2	S V Srinivasulu, ML No. 2604	Expired lease	60.22	42.05
3	M/s Balaji Mines and Minerals, ML No. 2564	Expired lease	24.26	24.26
4	M/s Muneer Enterprises, ML No. 2339	Expired lease	36.23	1.95
5	M/s Ramghad Mines and Minerals Limited (Dalmia), ML No. 2010	Cancelled lease	325.75	185.77
6	Additional virgin area	-	8.44	8.44
Total			494.46	297.38

(iii) Jaisinghpura North Block

Sl. No	Lease Details	Category of lease	Expiry/ Cancellation date	Original Extent of leases (Ha)	Extent taken for amalgamation (Ha)
	Ramghad Mines and Minerals Limited, ML No. 2010 (Dalmia)	A1	12.03.2015	325.75	124.86
	M/s Trident Minerals, ML No. 2315	C	12.09.2013	32.38	32.38
	M/s Trident Mining Co, ML No.1732	C	12.09.2013	5.45	5.45
	Sri. N Manzoor Ahmed	C	12.09.2013	15.7	12.4
	M/s Veeyam Pvt Ltd, ML No.2615	C	12.09.2013	19.99	2.16
	M/s P Vengannashetty & Bros, ML No. 2587	B	31.03.2020	49.27	15.89
	Sri. K Bramhananda	B	31.03.2020	55.91	14.52
	M/s Muneer Enterprises, ML No. 2339	B	31.03.2020	36.23	34.25
	M/s Mineral Syndicate, ML No 2320	B	31.03.2020	2.26	2.26
	M/s S V Srinivasulu, ML No. 2604	B	31.03.2020	60.22	17.98
	Additional virgin area	-	-	0	36.44
Total				603.16	298.59

(iv) Somanahalli Block

Sl. No	Lessee Name & ML No	Category	Total Extent (Ha)	Extent taken for amalgamation (ha)
1	M/s Mysore Stone ware pipes & Potteries Pvt Ltd, ML No. 2521	Cancelled C Category	125.13	122.12
2	M/s Deepchand Kishanlal, ML No. 2348	Cancelled C Category	122.72	44.34
3	M/s Karntakalimpo, ML No. 2650	Cancelled C category	6.47	6.47
4	Additional virgin area	-	17.2	17.2
Total			271.52	190.13

(v) H.R Gaviappa, ML No. 2483 block

Sl. No	Lease Details	Category of lease	Original Extent of leases (Ha)	Extent taken for amalgamation (Ha)
1	H.R Gaviappa, ML No. 2483	B	32.34	32.34
	Additional virgin area	-	0	7.70
	Total			40.04

(e) From the above five auctioned blocks, the following observations have been made:

- i. The regime of C-category mines is different than to A, B, and virgin fresh forest lands.
- ii. The Virgin Forest area to the extent of 87.90 ha has been included in all five blocks, and they are auctioned.
- iii. Some leases have been split into two parts and included in separate blocks (for example- Dalmia mine) and auctioned
- iv. Some part/s(areas) of C- C-category of mines have been left out and not included in the auctioned blocks. The left-out parts are left without Rehabilitation and Reclamation of the lease. Such left-out parts will not be rehabilitated in the future also.
- v. The blocks are auctioned in violation of this Hon'ble Court order/s dated 18.04.2013, 30.07.2015, 16.08.2017, and 13.09.2017.
- vi. All the auctioned blocks are the amalgamation of different parcels of different regimes of forest lands. It may not be possible to give uniform approvals under the various statutes/laws.

- (f) Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturing Association (KISMA) has filed an I. A No..... dated 18.08.2024 before this Hon'ble Court, for the said five blocks, praying for issue of directions for immediate commencement of the mining operations by the new lessees of the amalgamated blocks. Since the blocks are auctioned in violation of orders dated 18.04.2013, 30.07.2015, 16.08.2017, and 13.09.2017, this I.A may not be maintainable and may be rejected forthwith.
- (g) Taking into consideration the above facts and circumstances, the State Govt may be directed to review the Auctions of all the five blocks and take action as per the directions issued by this Hon'ble Court in above said orders.

35. In view of the facts and circumstances as narrated above in detail, the CEC submitted its draft recommendations to the Hon'ble Oversight Authority which are enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-9** to this Report.

THE VIEWS OF THE HON'BLE OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY AND COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE AND THE CEC ON THESE VIEWS

36. The draft report of the CEC as per para 1 to 35 was submitted to the Hon'ble Oversight Authority vide letter dated 10.10.2024 for their views/comments. The view of the Hon'ble Oversight Authority was

received on 03.12.2024. A copy of the same is enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-10** to this Report.

37 The Hon'ble Oversight Authority disagrees with the draft recommendation of the CEC and the Monitoring Committee regarding the upper unified Ceiling Cap of all mining leases (irrespective of their categories and for all districts). The CEC and the Monitoring Committee have recommended of unified Ceiling Cap for all categories of leases in all four districts as 57.0 million Metric Ton (MMT) per year, keeping into consideration the present MPAP of all running mines and Iron ore resources presently available. **The Hon'ble Oversight Authority has, for reasons given in detail, recommended that the Ceiling Cap be kept at 20.0 MMT per year, keeping the available Iron ore Reserve in consideration and intergeneration equity and other factors.**

38. The views of the Hon'ble Oversight Authority on ceiling cap are produced as under for ready reference

- a. *The current production in 2023-2024 has reached about 43 MT while the maximum Level reached during the peak of illegal mining in 2007-2008 was 49 MT.*
- b. *The damage to roads and communications inflicted by illegal mining has not yet been remedied. In fact, the condition of the roads in the mining affected area have further*

deteriorated because the number of trucks carrying the 43 MT of iron ore is 5,500 Lorries per day, each of 20 tons capacity. fpp.38 and 39—para 21 of CEC Draft Report). These trucks are not now going to the far away ports of Krishnapatnam and Belikere for export but are carrying ore mainly to the railhead at Tornagal in Bellary district and also to the palettization plants in the State and neighbouring areas thereby using the Local area roads more intensively and hence all the more damage.

- c. Conveyor belt system which the Court had directed to be created by the bigger mine leaseholders, has not yet materialized. The Monitoring Committee has reported that even the conveyor belt of NMDC which existed earlier, is not working now. Similarly, the 'Railway Backbone' as directed by the Court has not yet started. It is in the preliminary stage of acquisition of land for which KMERC has just now, in October 2024, kept 50% advance of the 'Consent Award' estimate in the "Child" account of KMERC to be utilized as and when the Land Acquisition Officer passes the Consent Award. Thus, neither the roads, nor the conveyor belt system. nor the railway network has even started on the ground.
- d. According to the findings of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, forming part of the CEC Draft Report (pp 110 to 132), the air pollution in the mining affected area has actually increased and in some cases the RSPM10 is 60 times higher than the permissible Limit (p 128). Though the KSPCB has adequate powers to prevent such air pollution under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and even to close down the mining operations of the defaulters, it has not taken any such action. (The powers to take stringent action against erring agencies under the KSPCB Act is vested in its chairman who, in Karnataka, are non-officials who come under no Conduct Rules. On the other hand, the Karnataka Government has now amended the hitherto legal qualification of 'experience in environmental administration'

and has diluted it to a 'holding of an Engineering Degree'. Besides, there is always a litigation about lack of eligibility whenever a chairman is appointed to the KSPCB on extraneous consideration.] Obviously, enhancing the MPAP will only increase the Level of air and water pollution in the already severely mining-affected and still further deteriorating area.

- e. As the 'Inter-generational Equity' should cover at least three generations namely, 75 years, the available Reserves of iron ore in Karnataka State in the districts of Bellary, Vijayanagar, Chitradurga and Tumkur, at the current MPAP of 50 MT will be exhausted in just 20 years or less than one generation and much before the current lease period of 50 years.*
- f. As "Resources" are not yet economically feasible, only proven "Reserves" should be taken as available with certainty. At the rate of the current ceiling of 50 MT per year, the Reserves of 1,023 MT will last for only 20 years which is less than one generation. Secondly, as the mine-lease period is now 50 years, the Reserves of 1,023 MT should be divided by 50 years in which case annual production can be only 20.46 MT. Therefore, the MPAP should be only 20 MT and not the currently fixed 50 MT.*

39. However, with due respect and regard to the Hon'ble Oversight Authority and his valuable opinion, the CEC and the Monitoring Committee remain of the view that the decision to fix the Ceiling Cap at 57.0 MMT is justified. This justification has been reached after carefully considering all present and future factors and issues, as outlined below:

- a) The total assessed MPAP of the 30 operating A&B category mines and 16 (out of a total of 24) auctioned operating mines in A, B & C categories is $[39.086 + 12.151] = 51.237$ MMT. In the remaining 8 auctioned mines, two may be cancelled (MPAP=0.25) and six (MPAP=1.949) will take time to commence operations (Page 97 of this Report). As regards the other five mines, which were auctioned in 2023 after amalgamation, they will take another 3 to 4 years to start operation (Page 100 and also para 34 of this Report).
- b) With the passage of time, the total MPAP of the 'A' and 'B' category mines of all four districts will keep on coming down to 38.196 MMT during 2026-27, to 36.148 MMT during 2027-28; to 36.103 MMT during 2029-30; 25.9525 MMT during 2033-34, and so on as against the present total MPAP of 50.0 MMT (Page 95 of this Report ANNEXURE-1); thereby the unutilized portion of the district Ceiling Cap (50 MMT) will increase from 10.914 MMT as at present to 24.0475 MMT in about ten years.
- c) On the other hand, the MPAPs of the auctioned 'C' category mines, as well as the auctioned expired 'A' & 'B' category mines, will keep on increasing. To ensure that the mineral resources of the State are utilized frugally keeping the future in mind for sustainable development and intergeneration equity, it will be necessary to specify the overall ceiling of MPAP for all the mining leases together, i.e., the 'A' and 'B' category leases, 'C' category auctioned

leases, expired 'A' & 'B' category auctioned leases and freshly granted leases, if any.

d) The present consumption of Karnataka iron ore dependent industries is about 43.01 MMT in 2023-24, and the MPAP of running mines is about 51.237 MMT from all categories of mines from all districts.

e) Para 17 of the order dated 26.08.2022 in W.P. (C) No. 562/2009 of this Hon'ble Court may be seen wherein it has been emphasized that: ***“Conservation of the ecology and the environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development and the fine balance between the two goals is what is sought to be achieved even now.”***

Considering the above, the CEC and Monitoring Committee are still of the opinion that the overall ceiling cap for all the three above-mentioned categories (non-auctioned and auctioned working mines) and fresh mines may be fixed at 57.0 MMT/year as against the present cumulative operative MPAP of 51.237 MMT for all mines in all the four districts.

40. On the issue of the need for mandatory e-auction and the current system of free sale of iron ore, the Hon'ble Oversight Authority has mentioned that:

- a) *The Court had directed to check whether there is any revenue loss to the government because of this hybrid system. The Monitoring Committee in their report, shown on page 80 of CEC's draft report, has mentioned that during 2021- 22. from the mandatory c-auctioning of 32.5 MT the royalty collected was Rs.1,975 crores; during 2023-24 when there has been no compulsion of e-auctioning, the royalty received from sale of 37.6 MT through the hybrid system was Rs.2,030 crores. The Monitoring Committee and the CEC have concluded that there is only a marginal difference in the royalty collected and therefore the present status quo may be continued.*
- b) *However, a simple calculation will show that if the royalty received for 32.5 MT was Rs.1,975 cr. with mandatory e-auctioning, the royalty due on 37.6 MT (with the same market price) without compulsory e-auctioning, should be Rs.2,285 Cr. $[(37.6 \div 32.5) \times (1975) = 2,28]$ But the royalty received in 2023-24 was only Rs.2,030 Cr. which is Rs.255 Cr. less or 13% less. This is a significant loss and not marginal. (However, to make a precise estimate the average selling price should also be compared).*
- c) *In any event, the most transparent method of sale is by auction as the practice of under and over-invoicing is rampant in trade, especially in high-value iron ore. The fact that, even though there is no compulsion for e-auction, many leaseholders still choose to go through e-auction through MSTC is indicative of the higher price that can be fetched through the transparent practice of e-auction.*

- d) *Besides, a close reading of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order would show that in 2022 the petitioners had approached the Court for direct sale because their iron ore could not be sold through e-auction in spite of as many as three attempts and there were sizeable unsold stock. However, the CEC Report of 18-7-2019 quoted in the Supreme Court Order of 20-5-2022 on page 26 says as follows [Quality-wise, the rank of iron ore is, Lump, Fine, and Dump, in that order]:*
- e) *It is not in dispute that the "iron ore lumps" are in demand and get sold at market price. As such the issue before this Hon'ble court is with regard to the sale of "iron ore fines" which is not taking place specially from the mines located in districts Tumkur and Chitradurga. The mining lease of the Applicant is also one such mine located in district Chitradurga. The quality of the iron ore fines from these two districts is also of concern as they have higher Manganese content and other impurities. All this adversely affect the demand for the iron ore fines so much so that even at the reserve price at Rs. 450 tonne the material is not getting sold in consecutive auctions.*
- f) *It is also relevant that the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 20-5-2022 was for the Dumps (which quality wise is the last after Lumps and Fines) accumulated over a period of time and remained unsold by e-auction even after three attempts.*

The Hon'ble Oversight Authority has thus opined that the reasonable recommendation should be that all iron ore, whether Lumps, Fines, and Dumps, should for the first time be brought for mandatory e-auction through the Monitoring Committee. If any of the said categories of ore remain unsold during the first e-auction, then the lease-holder may be allowed to sell it directly to whomever he chooses. But the first

auction-attempt should be mandatory through the Monitoring Committee. This will be the most reasonable solution to ensure transparency of a valuable natural resource and to avoid under- and over-invoicing malpractice, which is quite common in trade.

41. The above-mentioned observations of the Hon'ble Oversight Authority are based on the comparative Royalty collections for the years 2021-23 through E-auction by the Monitoring Committee and the year 2023-24 by lessees themselves (without E-auction). Since the data of royalty collection is available now for the year 2024-25, therefore, a comparison has been made for the royalty collections (without E-auction) for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. A copy of information received from the Department of Mines & Geology of Karnataka is enclosed as **ANNEXURE R-11** to this Report. The same is tabulated as below (for all A&B working mines in all four districts through sale by lessees themselves):

S.N.	Year	Dispatch of Iron ore (in MMT)	Collection of Royalty (in crores)	Royalty per MT of the dispatch of Iron ore (in Rs.)
1	2023-24	37.62	1974.94	524.97
2	2024-25	33.86	2114.76	624.56

From the above data, it is observed that there is an improvement in the collection of royalties in these A&B non-auctioned working mines in the year 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24. After the Monitoring Committee stopped E-auctions as per Supreme Court orders, the royalty on iron ore from all A, B working mines in Karnataka is charged at 15% of the average sale price published by the IBM for the respective month, as per section 9 r/w schedule-II of the MMDR Act, 1957.

42. The CEC and the Monitoring have recommended for continuation of the status quo. It is submitted that dual sale of ore (through E-auction as well as by lessees themselves) will bring a situation wherein, in the first E-auction, no buyer will purchase the ore and wait for sale by the lessee himself at a low price. That will result in a loss of royalties to the State. With whatever experience that has been gained by the CEC and the Monitoring Committee, it is felt that there shall be one practice of the sale of ore. The dual system of sale will also attract the audit para of the Accountant General of India. Further, as observed from the table above, there is improvement in the collection of royalties in addition to factors as stated herein, the CEC and the Monitoring Committee would like to recommend for continuation of the present **status quo**, which may be reviewed after some time, if need be. Furthermore, the order of this

Hon'ble Court dated 20.05.2022 may also be taken into consideration, wherein E-auction by the Monitoring Committee has been done away.

43. Regarding control of pollution in the leased area, CEC and the Monitoring Committee agree with the views of the Hon'ble Oversight Authority to take action under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, even to close down the mining operations of the defaulters. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has not taken any such action. This Hon'ble Court may direct KSPCB to take action against the lessees as and when the situation arises. The relevant para of the report of the Hon'ble Oversight Authority is reproduced as under :

“According to the findings of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, forming part of the CEC Draft Report (pp 110 to 132), the air pollution in the mining affected area has actually increased and in some cases the RSPM10 is 60 times higher than the permissible Limit (p 128). Though the KSPCB has adequate powers to prevent such air pollution under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and even to close down the mining operations of the defaulters, it has not taken any such action. (The powers to take stringent action against erring agencies under the KSPCB Act is vested in its chairman who, in Karnataka, are non-officials who come under no Conduct Rules. On the other hand, the Karnataka Government has now amended the hitherto legal qualification of ‘experience in environmental administration’ and has diluted it to a ‘holding of an Engineering Degree’. Besides, there is always a litigation about lack of eligibility whenever a chairman is appointed to the KSPCB on extraneous consideration.] Obviously, enhancing the MPAP will only increase the Level of air and

water pollution in the already severely mining-affected and still further deteriorating area.”

In this regard, it is submitted that the CEC and the Monitoring Committee have found that the air quality levels are alarming in some of the mines and need immediate attention (Pages 190-191 of this Report) and have recommended for reduction of MPAP of such leases.

44. No other specific views/opinions have been suggested by the Hon'ble Oversight Authority on the other points/issues included in the reports of the CEC and the Monitoring Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

45. In view of the facts and circumstances as narrated above in detail:

- i. It is recommended that, in the present circumstances, the system of MPAP for individual mine and District Ceiling Cap shall not be done away with. Instead, a single unified upper Ceiling Cap shall be set for all four districts, covering all lease categories and freshly granted leases under one framework/umbrella.
- ii. It is recommended that the upper unified Ceiling Cap of unified MPAP of all leases shall fixed for the present as 57.0 MMT per year.

- iii. Since the lease period has been extended to 50 years as per the MMDR Act 2015, it is recommended that to ensure sustainable & scientific mining and maintain intergenerational equity, the ore reserves shall be divided by 50 years when any enhancement of the MPAP for the leases of all categories.
- iv. As regards the present system of sale of Iron ore by the lessees themselves, it is recommended that the status quo shall be maintained for the present.
- v. It is recommended that a mandatory drone survey mapping of all running mines shall be conducted twice a year (in November-December and May-June) to monitor mining activities, including waste disposal and sales. This shall apply to all mines, regardless of lease area. The lessees must submit processed outputs, such as Digital Elevation Models (DEM) and Ortho Mosaic Images, to the Mine, IBM, and Forest Departments regularly as explained in this report.
- vi. This requirement of drone survey mapping shall be in addition to the obligations outlined under Rule 34A of the Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2021. The drone surveys ensure more accurate monitoring and regulation of mining operations and environmental compliance.

- vii. It is recommended that the data of pollution levels (PM_{10}) and others recorded by KSPCB/CPCB within the leased area shall be analysed each year and in cases where the pollution level crosses above the permissible level, the MPAPs of such mining leases should be reassessed by the CEC and shall be reduced to the last enhanced MPAP from immediate next year.
- viii. The MPAP of those leases wherein the construction of the Conveyor Belt is made applicable by the order of this Hon'ble Court (leases with MPAP of one million tons and above/year) shall not be enhanced till the system is made fully operational by the lessee. It shall be in addition to recommendations at para vii above.
- ix. The Notification dated 18.07.2018 issued by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India regarding maximum safe axle weights for different vehicle types, including mineral-carrying vehicles under rigid, trailer, and semi-trailer categories shall not be considered for mining roads in the concerned four districts for the enhancement of MPAP in the mines as explained in para 16 of this report.

- x. Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances submitted in para 34 above, the State Govt of Karnataka shall be directed to review the Auctions of all the five blocks and take action as per the orders issued by this Hon'ble Court from time to time in this regard.

This Report has the approval of the Chairman and all Members of the CEC and is submitted for the kind consideration of this Hon'ble Court.


(Banumathi. G)
Member Secretary

Dated: 8th April 2025

Ref. No. MONCOM/E-Auction/2024-25/CEC

Office of the Monitoring Committee,
(Appointed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India),
Dept. of Mines and Geology,
No.49, 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan,
R.C. Road, Bangalore-560001.
Dated: 19/08/2024
Telephone: 080 22375346
e-mail: moncom.eauction2@gmail.com

To,
Sri. Chandra Prakash Goyal (Member),
Central Empowered Committee (CEC),
2nd Floor, Chanakya Bhavan, Chanakyapuri,
NEW DELHI – 110 021.

Sir,

**Sub: Input/Report of the Monitoring Committee on I.A. No. 225561/2023
filed by FIMI, Southern Region, Bengaluru before the Hon'ble
Supreme Court of India.**

Ref: Your letter No. 2-91/CEC/SC/2017-Pt-III dated 20.05.2024

Please refer to the captioned subject and reference. In this regard we enclose the responses of the Monitoring Committee on IA No. 225561/2023 (FIMI) along with annexures, for your kind reference.

Yours faithfully,

Dipak Sarmah
Chairman,
Monitoring Committee



INPUT/REPORT OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON I.A. NO. 225561 of 2023 FILED BY THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN MINERAL INDUSTRIES (FIMI), SOUTHERN REGION, BENGALURU, BEFORE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA FOR CONTINUATION OR OTHERWISE OF MPAP AND DISTRICT LEVEL CEILING CAP

In I.A. No. 225561 of 2023, the Petitioner, the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), has prayed for removal of the district-level ceiling (cap/s) as well as lease-wise limits of the maximum permissible annual production (MPAP) of iron ore mines in the districts of Ballari, Vijayanagara, Tumkur and Chitradurga. The Hon'ble Supreme Court after hearing the matter of the said I.A. on 14-03-2024 sought the report of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the Monitoring Committee (MC) and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority (OA) vide order dated 14-03-2024. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held as under:

"Keeping in view the aforesaid position, we would request the CEC, together with the Monitoring Committee and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, to undertake a complete exercise in the three districts, and the respective mining leases situated therein, and submit a report before this Court. While undertaking the said exercise, they shall keep in mind the parameters referred to in the report dated 13.03.2012. The CEC will be entitled to take help and assistance of the scientific domain experts who will examine data, including environmental pollution data available/recorded in the districts from time to time

"A copy of the said report will be filed before this Court within a period of four months from today. While submitting the report, it shall also be examined whether sub-caps in particular areas should be fixed or caps should be increased or decreased. In other words, the CEC will also examine whether a mining cap must be imposed in an area for better compliance and regulation.

"Further, the CEC, the Monitoring Committee and the Oversight Authority will examine whether any form of regulation like auctioning is required to be put in place for the sale of the mined material. While examining this question, they will take into consideration the data with regard to the royalty and other cess etc., which were recovered when e-auctioning was mandatory and post the order dated 20.05.2022, whereby private sales have been permitted.

Sarema



"The question of whether satellite mappings/images should be undertaken with regard to each mine for the purpose of ascertaining the mining activities including the sale and disposal of the waste etc., will be examined by the CEC, the Monitoring Committee and the Oversight Authority.

"The CEC, the Monitoring Committee and the Oversight Authority will be entitled to examine any other aspect, which they feel is relevant for consideration of the issues and questions referred to them.

"In view of the directions given today, the application in I.A. No. 225561 of 2023 shall await the report of the CEC. Accordingly, the application is not finally decided."

In this regard, the comments of the Monitoring Committee in compliance to the above said order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are submitted hereunder.

1. It is respectfully submitted that it is imperative to discuss/put up some facts and circumstances prevailing before 2011 which had necessitated the imposition of the Ceiling Cap for the districts and Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) for the individual mines of Category 'A' and 'B' by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Karnataka, along with the orders issued in this regard by the Hon'ble Court from time to time.

2. During 2011, when mining operations were stopped in the districts of Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur, there were in all 164-iron ore and two (2) manganese ore mines in the districts. Eventually, on the basis of the extent of irregularities committed in the mining leases, the mines were placed in three categories: A-category (43+1 manganese), B-category (70+1 manganese) and C-category (51). While the C-category mines were canceled and confiscated in favor of State, the A- and B-category mines were allowed to resume mining operations subject to the fulfillment of certain specific conditions. The Monitoring Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of permitting resumption of mining in the A- and B-category mines after scrutiny of records and on satisfactory implementation of the Reclamation and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plans in the mines.

[Signature]



3. The Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 05-08-2011, directed the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Forest Survey of India (FSI) and the other domain experts to undertake Macro level EIA study in respect of Districts Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur and submit the same within three months. Pursuant to Hon'ble Court order dated 05-08-2011, the ICFRE prepared the Macro-EIA Plans for three districts and submitted to CEC for consideration of this Hon'ble Court. Some of the important observations and recommendations made in the Reports of the ICFRE are stated below for ready reference. [Note: The Vijayanagara district was earlier a part of Bellary district and has been carved out as a separate district in 2021].

- i) in district Bellary severe and significant damage has been caused to the environment by the small lease holders and this has been compounded by the blatant / illegal unscientific mining operations;
- ii) a large number of leases have violated the stipulated conditions on which (a) the environment clearance, (b) approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and (c) Mining Plans were approved / granted;
- iii) the mining leases have encroached the adjoining land illegally and, in the process, have damaged the environment;
- iv) the environmental safeguards and the stipulated conditions have been flouted in the greed to mine greater areas and earn more profits;
- v) in order to mitigate the damage, it is necessary to take stringent punitive action against such mining leases. The defaulting lessees should be made to pay for the damage caused to the environment by resorting to unscientific mining;
- vi) during the period 2000 - 2011, about 8.9 sq. km of the forest area has been converted to other land-use and the mining-related activities have impacted about 43.4 sq km of area and spread significantly outside the designated mining lease boundaries;
- vii) mining in an unsustainable and unscientific manner has been carried out on a large scale often after giving a go by to the environmental parameters and conditions set out in the various clearance processes mostly for mining of higher quantity of ore to cash in on the boom in the demand for ore abroad;



- viii) Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) has deteriorated. The Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and the Respiratory Particulate Matter (RPM) levels have either exceeded or have attained alarming levels. The quality of the surface as well as ground water has deteriorated.
- ix) presently mining is confined to the top hillocks. After mining reaches the deeper levels and if the pit level goes below the ground level, the water re-charge will undergo changes
- x) there has been sharp increase in the mining related diseases in the area,
- xi) the mining operations have adversely affected the floral and faunal diversity and have caused both habitat fragmentation and degradation along with the invasions of the exotic weed species in the forest as well as in agriculture eco system;
- xii) the imperatives of the twin goals of industrial and economic development on the one hand and the safeguard for the environment and biodiversity as also human well-being on the other hand would need to be looked at if the inter- generational equity issues are to be effectively addressed; and
- xiii) because of sharp increase in the international demand from 2004 onwards, large quantities of iron ore were removed from District Bellary which has led to environmental degradation of the area. The IBM has granted approvals for the upward revision of the quantity of iron ore that may be mined in respect of a number of leases. The annual quantity allowed to be removed has increased from **19.768 MMT to 82.9705 MMT** and which has been decided on the basis of the data furnished by the lessees at that time.

4. The proposal of fixing lease-wise annual production (MPAP) for each A- and B-category mine was mooted by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) after having broad discussion with all stake holders like lessees, FIMI, MOEF&CC, Departments (Forest, Mines, Environment) and after research & analysis of various limiting factors. In this regard, to ensure that the mining is undertaken in a scientific and environmentally sustainable manner, the R&R Plans will fix the permissible annual production for each of the mining leases and which may be substantially lower than what is permissible as per the Environment clearance and / or Approved Mining Plan/s and / or Consent to Operate granted for the respective mining leases by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. For this purpose, the CEC had recommended that the R&R Plan for each mining lease would fix the maximum permissible annual production (MPAP)) on the basis of the: (a) Reserve of ore available in that mining lease, (b) area



available for active over burden/waste dumps and sub-grade iron ore dumps, (c) the transportation facilities vis-à-vis traffic load of the mining lease, and (d) adjustment of the Maximum Permissible Annual Production to the district level ceiling cap of the respective district. The permissible annual production would be equal to the minimum of the quantity that may be feasible based on the above three parameters. However, if the sum total of the lease-wise annual production exceeds the ceiling fixed for the annual production from all the leases in the district, then in that case the lease-wise permissible annual production will be reduced on pro rata basis in such ratio so as to ensure that the Ceiling Cap for the District/s is not exceeded. It was incorporated in CEC Report dated 13-03-2012 in regard to preparation of the R&R Plans for mining leases in Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur districts. Keeping the total MPAP of all the mines within limit of district Ceiling Cap is also required by considering status of the internal roads as well as the external roads, lack of facilities for downhill transportation of minerals through conveyor belts, status of other infrastructure facilities such as railway siding etc. The Hon'ble Supreme Court accepted the said recommendations vide orders dated 13.04.2012 and 18.04.2013.

5. The CEC in their report dated 13.03.2012 had also recommended to Hon'ble Court that lease-wise Supplementary Environment Management Plan (SEMP) to ensure environmentally sustainable mining will be prepared to provide for:

- a) permissible annual production for each mine;
- b) stabilization of the existing over burden dumps;
- c) plan for proper gradient and other protection measures for the active over burden dumps;
- d) afforestation, soil and water conservation measures and other protective measures;
- e) pre-determined parameters for assessing the successful implementation of various provisions / prescription provided in the R&R Plans; and
- f) Monitoring Mechanism.

6. It is submitted that the approved mining plans and environmental approvals given for the mining leases were found ineffective and on the higher side and, by taking note of that, this Hon'ble Court made their observations in their landmark judgment dated 18.04.2013, while



disposing of the main Writ Petition No. 562/2009 which had alleged illegal mining on a large scale in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Hon'ble Court, having perused a number of investigative reports submitted by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), had concluded that there were large-scale illegalities and rampant damages to environment, ecology and infrastructure and lives of people at large in the three districts of Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur in the state of Karnataka. The Hon'ble Court had also observed and held that there was rampant illegal mining and plundering of natural resources in the hands of a few opportunists in the State and environmental deterioration was at its lowest threshold. Further, taking into consideration various parameters for sustainable and scientific mining, sustainable environment and equi-distribution of natural resources on the principles of intergeneration equity, the Hon'ble Court, on the recommendation of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), has fixed the Ceiling Cap for District/s and Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) for individual leases and directed that total sum of all running mines should be within this Ceiling Cap fixed for the districts at any given time.

7. It is submitted that after having a broad discussion with the ICFRE, FIMI and other stake holders, the CEC had suggested a Ceiling Cap for the three districts to mitigate the adverse impact of the pollution in the area. The CEC had recommended two broad categories of regulations to mitigate the adverse impact of the pollution and for scientific and sustainable mining. These two categories include (a) regulations within the leased area including encroachments and (b) regulations outside the leased area for the impact zone. In the first category of regulations, the CEC suggested/recommended for preparation of Reclamation and Rehabilitation Plan (R&R plan) for individual lease and suggested certain guidelines. The R&R Plan also includes the fixing of the Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) as discussed in the above paras.

8. For the areas outside the mining leases in the impact zone, the CEC recommended implementation of a Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) for the area surrounding the mining leases in the Impact Zone. The CEP Miz included (a) Biodiversity Conservation Plan, (b) Afforestation and Soil Moisture Conservation Plan, (c) Physical Infrastructure Development Plan, (d) Social Infrastructure Development Plan, and (e)



Regional Monitoring Plan and Mechanism. The said recommendations have been accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their order/s dated 13.4.2012 and 18.4.2013.

9. The ICFRE, after taking into consideration various factors like large-scale degradation of environment in respect to air, water and land, total damages of roads in the impact zone, social resentments of local public, dust pollution, human health, etc. has recommended a Ceiling Cap of **25.0 million metric ton (MMT) of annual production in respect of District Bellary and 5.0 MMT for District Chitradurga and Tumkur together** and subject to the condition that all the environmental and other safeguards are in place and due diligence is exercised by the concerned agencies. It was also recommended that if the total Annual permissible limit of all mines in that district/s exceeds the Ceiling Cap, it should be prorated in all such leases to keep within the upper Ceiling Cap of that district/s. The CEC after broad discussion on the recommendations made by the ICFRE regarding the district-wise Ceiling Cap with all stakeholders found it reasonable and recommended to be accepted. Accordingly, the said recommendations were considered and submitted by the CEC in their reports dated 3.02.2012 and 13.03.2012 before the Hon'ble Court. The said recommendations were accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide orders dated 13.04.2012 and 18.04.2013. **And since then, the concept of Ceiling Cap in district/s came to exist/application for running the A&B Category resumed mines.**

10. After a gap of five years, a number of I.A.s, namely, I.A. No. 273 of 2017 instituted by M/s Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturers Association("KISMA"), I.A. No. 103342 of 2017 filed by the Ministry of Mines, I.A. No.56562 of 2017 by FIMI South, State of Karnataka, M/s Chitradurga Sustainable Mining Forum, M/s Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores Ltd. and M/s MSPL Ltd. to seek vacation of the order of this Court for fixing an annual Ceiling Cap for districts and for further orders allowing each lessee to operate and extract iron ore as per its approved R&R Plan.

11. The issues raised in various I.A.s as above related to the fixation of Ceiling Cap on maximum production by all mines in the districts, the Hon'ble Court heard along with other similar matters raising the issue as to whether the Ceiling Cap for districts should be maintained, modified or lifted. In this regard the Hon'ble Court also considered the note of Shri Jivrajka, the



former Member Secretary of CEC wherein he had suggested having a consolidated Cap of 30.0 MMT excluding C- Category mines. The report of CEC dated 14.07.2017 read with the explanatory note thereto dated 4.10.2017 has stated that of the availability of the additional infrastructure consisting of some new road constructions by different lessees; construction of railway sidings at Nandihalli with track lane of 13.6 km by M/s JSW Steel Ltd. and installation of downhill conveyor belt with an annual capacity of 5.0 MMT by NMDC. **The downhill conveyor belt with an annual capacity of 5.0 MMT of NMDC is presently closed and will continue to be so for another 3-4 years.** It has been further reported in the CEC report that out of the R&R Plan approved for leases, in 48 cases production is limited by “reserves”; in 34 cases production is limited by “dump area”; in 9 cases production is limited by “road infrastructure”, and in 3 cases the “EC limit” is found to be actually less than what is arrived at in the R&R Plan. Accordingly, the CEC had suggested that with the change of position on the ground level and the fact that R&R Plans are available for a large number of mines, inter alia, fixing permissible production limits on consideration of scientific and technical parameters and also after taking into account mining reserves, dumping areas and evacuation infrastructure, ideally, the “production cap” fixed for each of the mining leases based on R&R Plan should be the basis for the ideal overall Ceiling Cap.

Accordingly, CEC had suggested as follows:

- (i) With regard to Category ‘A’ & ‘B’ mining leases for ‘District Bellary’ the annual production cap for the district may be enhanced by 3.0 MMT to 28.0 MMT*
- (ii) The existing ceiling of 5.0 MMT fixed for ‘A’ & ‘B’ mining leases for Districts Tumkur and Chitradurga may be enhanced by 2.0 MMT to 7.0 MMT*
- iii) With regard to Category ‘C’ mining leases which have been e-auctioned to the end users, the production cap of individual mining leases be regulated through the limits approved in the R&R Plan without reference to the general cap fixed for the district concerned.*

12. It may be noted that M/s KISMA sought an order from this Court that a separate cap of 10.0 MMT be allotted to earlier category ‘C’ leases, independent of the 30.0 MMT fixed for the three districts. It may be further noted that the State of Karnataka had submitted before this Hon’ble Court that keeping in view the increased demand of iron ore across the country, the cap fixed by this Court may be raised from 30.0 MMT to 40.0 MMT. In furtherance, the State of Karnataka



also stated that after significant improvements in implementation of Comprehensive Environmental Plans for the Mining Impact Zone ("CEPMIZ"), the annual cap on iron ore extraction could be gradually increased to 50.0 MMT subject to successful implementation of the major items of the CEPMIZ, as to be approved by this Court. **It is noted here that implementation of CEPMIZ is in initial stage and has to go a long way.**

13. The Hon'ble Court had also heard Shri Prashant Bhushan, learned counsel for the petitioner in Writ Petition (C) No. 562 of 2009, whose core submission appeared to be that having regard to the availability of iron ore reserves in the three districts, the cap fixed by the Court will not call for any modification so that intergenerational equity can be maintained and the availability of iron ore can be ensured for a maximum period of time to enable the succeeding generations to enjoy the fruits thereof.

14. After hearing the matter in detail, the Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 14-12-2017, based on the facts and figures placed before it by the respective parties, and available infrastructure in the three districts, enhanced the district/s Ceiling Cap per year (for Category 'A' and 'B' mines) to meet the demands of industries, i.e. Ceiling Cap for Bellary district was raised from existing 25.0 MMT to 28.0 MMT per year and that of Chitradurga and Tumkur districts from 5.0 MMT to 7.0 MMT combined, thereby enhancing the total production in the three districts from then existing 30.0 MMT to 35.0 MMT. The criteria for fixing of the MPAP of leases remained the same. The MPAPs of C- category mines were kept out of this Ceiling Cap and all the I.As were disposed of.

15. It is submitted that as regards the C- Category mines, during 2017 only 5 mines were auctioned and their MPAP was worked out but did not resume. The remaining proposals had not been finalized. These mines are also in a different legal and business regime. Under these circumstances, this Hon'ble court had held **that it may be considered at appropriate time.** The connected para concerning category 'C' mines contained in the Judgment dated 14.12.2017 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is reproduced as under:

.....In the above circumstances, we are of the view that no separate cap for category 'C' mines need to be stipulated at this stage except to reiterate the fact that such an exercise may



be performed at an appropriate time and a separate cap for such mines (newly auctioned) will be worked out, independent of the cap revised by this order for the 3 districts. While doing so the infrastructure and other relevant 36 parameters for mining and evacuation of mined material, that may become ready and available at that relevant point of time, will naturally be considered.

16. Now that a sizeable number of C-category mines have been auctioned and their MPAPs have also been worked out, and given that there is a large unutilized gap of Ceiling Cap of the running mines fixed for A&B categories in the three old districts, the cap for C-category mines as well as that for expired A&B auctioned mines may be fixed together with that for the running A&B category mining leases. This Hon'ble Court may kindly take note of the direction of the then order dated 14.12.17 in connected IAs of WP 562/2009 and the changed facts and circumstances to fix the Ceiling Cap for C- category mines together with all other mines as narrated in this report.

17. Subsequently, after a further gap of five years, this Hon'ble Court while disposing of IA Nos. 83141/2017, 72931/2017 and 218/2014 had further raised the Ceiling Cap of districts for A&B category mines vide order dated 26.08.2022 for iron ore **from 28.0 MMT to 35.0 MMT** for District Bellary (old), and from **7.0 MMT to 15.0 MMT** for Chitradurga and Tumkur Districts collectively. While raising the ceiling cap, the Hon'ble Court has categorically held that:

Conservation of the ecology and the environment must go hand in hand with the spirit of economic development and the fine balance between the two goals is what is sought to be achieved even now.

18. The Hon'ble Court while raising the overall Cap of maximum production in three districts had also emphasized that the concerns raised by the original petitioner and the Monitoring Committee of possible over-excavation and its adverse impact on intergenerational equity must be balanced against the concerns of the other parties, as the principles of sustainable development also come into play.



19. The Hon'ble Court has also observed that generally it accepts the recommendations of the CEC when it comes to the ceiling limit. In the present case, the CEC has recommended a complete relaxation of the ceiling limit. But we are not inclined to allow the same in to. Rather, the situation merits a cautious approach, keeping in view the concerns raised and to ensure that any changes in the situation with respect to the mining activity in the State of Karnataka is brought about gradually, the Hon'ble Court raised the ceiling cap as above vide order dated 26.8.2022

A. Fixing of sub-caps or caps or to be increased or decreased in particular areas:

So far, the Monitoring Committee has permitted resumption of 47 iron ore mines. Out of these, 16 mines have stopped mining operations as their lease periods have expired in recent years. Therefore, there are presently 31 operating mines. Two mines leased to M/s RBSSN have been amalgamated and therefore, there are effectively 30 operating mines (24 in Bellary district and 6 in Chitradurga and Tumkur districts) (Annexure-1). In addition, 41 mines have come to close without resuming mining operations, as the lease periods have expired during recent years. In addition, the Government of Karnataka has cancelled four (4) mining leases and rejected the renewal of two (2) mining leases. Besides, the Department of Mines and Geology (DMG), Government of Karnataka, has recommended one mining lease for cancellation. One mining lease has been surrendered by the lease-holder. As such, there are presently 17 non-operating mines, i.e., whose leases are in currency but mining operations have not resumed because of various reasons.

II. The progress of implementation of R&R Plans is very poor in respect of the 17 non-operating mines: Six (6) mining leases have not started the R&R works and eight (8) had started but discontinued the works. Implementation of the R&R Plan is satisfactory in case of one mining lease, and another lease has shown some progress. The R&R Plan in respect of one mining lease has not been prepared. It is evident that out of the 17 non-operating mining leases, only two may be desirous of resuming mining in the future. **Mining is unlikely to resume in the remaining 15 mines.**



III. In the order dated 26-08-2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has specified the production ceiling of 35.0 million metric tons (MMT) for Bellary district (including newly created Vijayanagara district) and 15.0 MMT for Chitradurga and Tumkur districts; hence collectively, the total ceiling Cap of for the A&B Category mining leases in three districts(old) is 50.0 MMT. The total current (2024-25) MPAP of the 24 operating mines in Bellary & Vijayanagara districts is 31.240 MMT as against the ceiling cap of 35.0 MMT per year and that of the six (6) operating mines in Chitradurga and Tumkur districts is 7.846 MMT in 2024-25 as against the ceiling cap of 15.0 MMT per year. Hence, **the total MPAP of the 30 working A & B mining leases for 2024-25 is 39.086 MMT** as against the total ceiling cap of 50.0 MMT per year for the combined districts. It is expected that this figure will be about **38.196 MMT** in the year 2026 since the lease of M/s RMML (ML No. 2593) will expire during that year (**Annexure-1**). Further, the leases of M/s R. Praveen Chandra and M/s RBSSN will expire during 2027-28 and the MPAP will further get reduced to **36.148 MMT (against the 50.0 MMT approved)**. It may also be noted that the leases of M/s Karnataka Limpo Cement, M/s Susheelamma and M/s Vedanta Ltd (Sesa Sterlite Ltd.) will expire by 2032-33 and the MPAP for Chitradurga and Tumkur districts will then be reduced to only **0.03 MMT** as against the present cap of **15.0 MMT** for the two districts. Hence, from 2033 onwards, **14.97 MMT** will remain unutilized from the Cap of Chitradurga & Tumkur districts and **9.0775 MMT** from the Cap of Bellary and Vijayanagara districts [due to expiry of ML Nos. 2580/2678 (M/s SMIORE), 2682 (M/s RBSSN), 2593 (M/s RMML), 2309 (M/s ZTC) & 2488 (M/s S.A. Tawab)]. Hence in total about **24.0475 MMT** will be the unutilized gap in all four districts. This indicates that about **48.1%** of the total district Cap for A & B category mines will remain unutilized. As already mentioned, there may hardly be any resumption of the non-operating A&B mines in the coming years.

IV. It is evident from the above that in respect of A&B category running mines there will be a large unutilized gap of about **10.914 MMT** this year (2024-25) between the Ceiling Cap specified/notified by the Hon'ble Court and the total MPAP of the running mining leases in Bellary as well as in Chitradurga and Tumkur districts, and this gap will widen further in the coming years. **In view of this, it is observed that the combined Ceiling Cap of 50.0 MMT**



approved for the operating A&B Category mines in the districts of Ballari (old) Chitradurga and Tumkur is very high. To overcome this situation, Monitoring Committee is of the considered view that the MPAPs of all the mines in the three districts (old) may be merged into a single Ceiling Cap and, in addition, bring the C-category auctioned mines, A&B Category (expired) auctioned mines and freshly granted mines, if any, under a single umbrella.

V. It is submitted that the Department of Mines and Geology (DMG), Government of Karnataka, has been auctioning the expired A- and B-category mines and their MPAPs are not included in the Ceiling Cap of 50.0 MMT. Similarly, the MPAPs of auctioned C-category mines are also not included in the district-level Ceiling Cap as per this Hon'ble Court order dated 14.12.2017. So far, 17 C-category mines and 7 expired A- & B-category mines have been auctioned (Annexure-2). However, out of these 24 auctioned mines, only 16 are presently operating and the remaining eight (8) mines will take time to resume operation. In addition, during 2023, five (5) amalgamated mines (A, B and C) have been auctioned (Annexure 3). Auction of more mines is likely to take place in the future. The total MPAP of the seven (7) auctioned A- & B-category (expired) mines is 5.852 MMT. The total MPAP of 17 C-category mines has been assessed as 8.498 MMT (Annexure-2). MPAPs of the five auctioned mines (amalgamated) have not been assessed and the lease-agreements are yet to be executed. It may also be mentioned that, although the total MPAP of the 24 auctioned (17 C category and 7 expired A&B category) mines is 14.35 MMT, the total MPAP of the 16 running mines [12 in Ballari & Vijayanagara districts and four (4) in Chitradurga & Tumkur districts] is 12.151 MMT (Annexure-2)].

VI. In view of the above, it is submitted that presently the total assessed MPAP of the 30 operating A&B category mines and 16 (out of total 24) auctioned operating mines in A, B & C categories is $[39.086 + 12.151] = 51.237$ MMT. In remaining 8 auctioned mines, two may be cancelled (MPAP=0.25) and six (MPAP=1.949) will take time to commence operations (Annexure-2). As regards the other five mines, which were auctioned in 2023 after amalgamation, they will take another 3 to 4 years to start operation (Annexure-3). It is submitted that, with the passage of time, the total MPAP of the A- and B-category mines of all four districts will keep on coming down to 38.196 MMT during 2026-27, to 36.148 MMT during 2027-28; to 36.103 MMT during 2029-30; 25.9525 MMT during 2033-34, and



so on as against the present total MPAP of 50.0 MMT (Annexure-1); thereby the unutilized portion of the district Ceiling Cap (50 MMT) will increase from 10.914 MMT as at present to 24.0475 MMT in about ten years. On the other hand, the MPAPs of the auctioned C-category mines as well as the auctioned expired A- & B-category mines will keep on increasing. In order to ensure that the mineral resources of the State are utilized frugally keeping the future in mind for sustainable development and intergeneration equity, it will be necessary to specify the overall ceiling of MPAP for all the mining leases together, i.e., the A- and B-category leases, C-category auctioned leases, expired A- & B-category auctioned leases and freshly granted leases, if any. The Monitoring Committee has after long deliberations come to the conclusion that the overall ceiling cap for all the three above-mentioned categories and fresh mines may be fixed at 57.0 MMT/year as against the present cumulative operative MPAP of 51.237 MMT for all mines in all the four districts. It may be noted that with the available facts and circumstances, the overall MPAP of all the leases of all the districts may not reach 55.0 MMT in coming 10 years.

VII. It is submitted that there are very few mining leases of iron ore having lease hold area of more than 300.0 hectares, such as M/s NMDC, M/s SMIORE and M/s MSPL. There are 117 mines with lease hold area less than 50.0 hectares, 27 mines with lease hold area between 50 and 100 hectares, 13 mines with lease hold area between 100 and 150 hectares, and five (5) mines with lease hold area between 150 and 300 hectares. Because of small lease hold areas, there were large-scale encroachments in the form of pits, overburden dumps and others. The details are given in the table below. Therefore, it is imperative to manage the overburden dumps/waste dumps, etc. within the small lease hold area by controlling production through fixing less annual production (MPAP) within fixed upper Ceiling Cap of districts. It may be noted that after examination in detail of encroachments in various leases; overburden dumps/waste dumps were taken as one of the limiting factors for fixing MPAP. The mines in the States like Odisha and others have bigger lease hold areas, and these mines cannot be compared with the mines in Karnataka which generally have smaller lease hold areas. Open ended Annual production in Karnataka State will act as a catalyst for encroachments. Hence, Ceiling Cap in the State is imperative/necessary.



Table indicating encroachments as per the findings of the Joint Team in the districts of
Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur

Districts (old)	Area encroached for mining pits (ha)	Area encroached for overburden dumps (ha)	Area encroached for other purposes (ha)	Total encroachments (ha)
Bellary	282.16	388.68	543.83	1,214.67
Chitradurga	42.48	35.23	72.02	149.73
Tumkur	81.15	61.77	216.31	359.23
Total	405.79	485.68	832.16	1,723.63

VIII. It is submitted that the approvals of mining plans and environmental approvals under the Environment Protection Act 1986 are biased towards commercial considerations, with less consideration/respect being shown towards the environmental and infrastructure-related factors (roads, railway sidings, conveyor belts etc). Because of such lopsided considerations, there was sharp increase in the production of iron ore in the mines in addition to illegal mining. It is relevant to state here that before 2011 (when the present exercise for fixing MPAP began) the annual quantity allowed to be removed had been increased from **19.768 MMT in 2004 to 82.9705 MMT in 2010**. Therefore, mining plans and environmental clearances alone cannot be taken as criteria for having open ended Ceiling Cap.

IX. Resource availability: Availability of resources is one of the primary/main factors for determining the Ceiling Cap in the districts. Applying the maximum Ceiling Cap is imperative/necessary for the finite irreversible resources like iron ore for maintaining Inter-generation equity for sustainable development. Bellary district has mainly haematite iron ore and manganese deposits estimated to be 1,992.0 MMT, followed by Chitradurga and Tumkur districts with approximately 296.17 MMT and 177.37 MMT, respectively (Information provided by the Mines & Geology Department, Government of Karnataka). This comes to a total of 2,465.0 MMT. After taking into consideration the 150.0 MMT (approximately) already removed since 2020, the balance available is 2,315.0 MMT. This will last for 46 years if iron ore is



removed/extracted at the rate of 50.0 MMT/year or for 42 years if removed at the rate of 55.0 MMT/year, and for 40 years if removed at the rate of 57.00 MMT/year.

X. It is submitted that large quantities of ore are being transported daily through roads by trucks. A representative sample in this regard is given in a table at **Annexure-4**. It is observed from the table and similar data that on an average 1,05,700 MT to 1,58,399 MT (during 2021-22) of iron ore was transported through trucks from the mining leases and beneficiation plants to various destinations using 3,709 to 5,921 trucks per day. This indicates very heavy traffic on the roads on all days. The number of trucks and the traffic on roads are likely to increase further due to the dispatch of more than 45.0 MMT of ore from this year onwards. Relief can be met only by switching over to transportation of ore through Railways, Conveyor-belts and Railway sidings. This can be achieved only by implementing the CEPMIZ. Presently, transportation of ore from Dhoni mine of NMDC and Nandihalli Railway siding takes place through Rail. **Increase of the Ceiling Cap unreasonably and corresponding MPAP will further increase the Road traffic and may reach situations that prevailed before 2011.** Here it may be mentioned that the above data of total number of vehicles moving per day on roads pertain to the year of 2021-22 when the overall dispatch was about 38.84 MMT. Now, the dispatch for the year 2023-24 has increased to 43.56 MMT or more (an increase of 4.72 MMT) which is likely to increase further in the coming years. Proportionately the number of trucks on the move would be on an average around 5500 per day.

B. With regard to the withdrawal/removal of the lease-wise ceiling (MPAP), the Monitoring Committee would like to submit the following.

XI. The recommendations regarding lease-wise ceiling (MPAP) were made in view of a number of logistical handicaps/bottlenecks such as location of several mines in clusters, small lease areas, shortage of dumping space within the lease areas, poor road-network and available reserve, etc. The permissible production figures given in the IBM-approved mining plan (MP), environmental clearance (EC) or consent for operation (CFO) of the mining leases were often much higher and unachievable due to these constraints. These approvals do not take cognizance



of the said vital factors like ore reserve, management of overburden dump, carrying capacity of roads, infrastructure/others .

XII. The Monitoring Committee is of the view that, although some improvement has taken place in the recent years in the road-network and other related infrastructure, the logistical handicaps/bottlenecks mentioned here in this report continue to exist. Allowing each mining lease to extract as per the IBM-approved mining plan, environmental clearance (EC) and consent for operation (CFO) will result in extraction of much larger volume of mineral than what the present infrastructure can handle, leading to heavy truck traffic, dust pollution, adverse effect on forest biodiversity & agriculture and human health. A review of the presently proposed Ceiling Cap of districts may be made only after all the works of development of infrastructure such as conveyor belt, railway sidings, road development, etc. which have been initiated by the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC), are completed if the **available reserves of iron** are sufficient to maintain inter-generation equity. As the prevailing conditions are more or less similar for most of the impact Zone area, MPAP for individual lease should be continued together with the district Ceiling Cap for all the three categories, namely, the A- and B-category leases, the auctioned C-category and the expired A- & B-category leases, including new leases, if any, subject to application of the pro rata principle if the total MPAPs exceed the combined Ceiling cap for all the four districts.

XIII. It was expected during 2012-13 that, as and when the Physical Infrastructure Development Plan for improving the quality of the existing roads, construction of the new roads, railway siding, railway connectivity, railway transportation, water and power infrastructure, etc. and Social Infrastructure Development Plans would be prepared and successfully implemented, the permissible annual production from a number of mining leases may increase based on the approved guidelines (for Reserves, Roads carrying capacity, Over burden dumps). Therefore, it is desirable for the State to put more emphasis on early implementation of the **CEPMIZ**. The implementation of CEPmiz started during 2023-24, and it may take some time before the targets are achieved. The level of activities such as road construction, railway siding, social infrastructure development, railway connectivity, railway transportation, etc. is below the required level of infrastructure development in the Impact



Zone. This is evident from the large number of road accidents (330) wherein 126 deaths took place in the impact zone during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 as provided by the Police department (Annexure-5). The data pertains to only one Police Circle and reflects a matter of serious concern.

XIV. The permissible annual production (MPAP) is being fixed on three criteria based on 1) reserve, 2) road carrying capacity and 3) dumping area available in the lease, and taking minimum of these three. It may be noted that the assessment of annual reserve quantity to be extracted/exploited on scientific and sustainable basis is being done by dividing the total available reserve by twenty for fixing of MPAP in the R&R plans. This figure of twenty was fixed because, at that point of time, the leases were granted /renewed for a period of twenty years. Presently, during the enhanced period also, the available reserve (after exploration) is being divided by twenty and MPAP is re-fixed. **This results in shortening the life of the mine which may not reach fifty years of the lease period.** Now, after Amendment in the MMDR Act 2015, the lease period is fixed for fifty years. Hence it is recommended that the available ore reserve should be divided by fifty each time while considering enhancement of MPAP of a lease, for maintaining inter-generation equity and also for sustainable and scientific mining.

XV. It is submitted that the Ceiling Caps for the districts have been fixed by taking into consideration the Macro EIA plan of ICFRE including the then existing infrastructure, pollution load in the area and related factors for scientific and sustainable mining. Sustainable mining includes sustainable ecology and environment. It is stated here that the implementation of CEPMIZ is in the preliminary stage and has to go a long way in the four (earlier three) districts in regard to infrastructure. Except for improving some intermediate small roads and establishing one Conveyor belt (conveyor belt installed by the JSW Steel Ltd.) the condition of infrastructure remains the same. Even feeding of ore to the above-mentioned JSW Conveyor belt is done through transportation of ore by trucks only; no conveyor belt has been established from the mining lease to the feeders of this Conveyor belt. Hence, there is not much reduction/relief in the movement of the vehicles/trucks in the Impact Zone. The condition of the roads used for transportation of iron in Chitradurga district is very poor. There have often been problems of transportation of the ore. The Monitoring Committee received regular complaints



in this regard. At one point of time, Monitoring Committee was forced to suspend the E-auction of ore belonging to two mines of Chitradurga district because of bad roads and other impediments. The conditions have not changed even today. The Monitoring Committee inspected the two mines of M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. (Vedanta Ltd) and M/s R Praveen Chandra on 31.7.2024 and noted that the condition of the roads has not improved at all.

XVI. The recommendation of the CEC in their Report dated 13.3.2012 for the methodology of fixation of MPAP in respect of individual lease for the process of implementation of the scientifically written R&R Plan was accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 13.4.2012 in SLP 7366/2010 read with WP 562/2009. **This order of the Hon'ble Court paved the way for scientifically fixing iron ore production limits thereby ensuring scientific and sustainable mining after taking into consideration the mineral resources assessed to be available within the lease area.** This also ensures environment-friendly mining and compliance with the standards stipulated under the various environmental and mining statutes.

XVII. Taking into consideration the above facts and circumstances as highlighted in the preceding paragraphs, Monitoring Committee is of the considered view/opinion that the criteria approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for scientific fixing the Maximum Permissible Annual Production limits (MPAP) to individual mining lease is the most trusted methodology and should be continued and regulated as per the approved R&R Plans of the respective mining leases as suggested in the reports of CEC and accepted by the Hon'ble Court to meet scientific and sustainable mining, pollution free environment, balance load on the infrastructure and to maintain the intergenerational equity

XVIII. Over burden dump management is one of the important activities in mining for scientific and sustainable protection of environment and prevention of encroachments. After having a lot of research and analysis of data, study carried out for macro-environment assessment by ICFRE and the large area under encroachments due to dumping as found by Joint Team, it was a conscious decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court based on the CEC report dated 13.3.2012 to consider the dump quantity/over burden dumps which is generated in mining as one of the limiting factors for fixing of MPAP of the mine. It is relevant to state here that before 2011 when mining was done based on the approved mining plans and environmental approvals granted by



MOEEF&CC, there was hardly any control on the upper limits of annual production and encroachments. Large extents of forest land had been encroached. In this regard, as already indicated in an earlier paragraph (para A. VII.), the Joint Team appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court had found that 1,723.63 hectares of land were encroached by the lessees outside their allotted lease hold areas for various purposes such as mining pits (for illegal mining), over burden dump / waste dump, and others (areas under illegal enjoyment but where no mining activities have been physically found to have been undertaken), etc.

XIX. It is submitted that pursuant to the Hon'ble Court order dated 05-08-2011, the ICFRE had prepared the Macro-EIA Plans for the districts of Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur, and submitted to the CEC for consideration of this Hon'ble Court. One of the important observations made in the Report of the ICFRE was regarding the deterioration in the "Ambient Air Quality (AAQ)". The Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and the Respiratory Particulate Matter (RPM) levels have either exceeded or have attained alarming levels. The quality of the surface as well as ground water has also been reported to have deteriorated. In this regard, the Ambient Air quality data of Particulate Matter (PM₁₀, micro gram per cubic meter) for the period from 2013 to 2023 in respect of the working mines has been obtained from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. On analysis of the data, it is found that the air quality levels are alarming in the mines of M/s Vedanta Ltd., M/s R. Praveen Chandra and BBH mine (M/s JSW Steels) of Chitradurga district and some other mines need immediate attention (**Annexure-6**). It is also observed that the high MPAP in small lease hold area is directly proportional to the high dust pollution. The reduction of MPAP in these mines is one of the options to be exercised. A list of mines where the Respiratory Particulate Matter (RPM) levels have either exceeded or have attained alarming levels is enclosed (**Annexure-6**).

XX. It is submitted that production and supply of iron ore for domestic consumption is one of the criteria for keeping the balance between development and protection of environment and ecology, biodiversity of the area. For this purpose, the dispatches during last three years from all running leases (A&B; Auctioned C-category and Auctioned A&B category expired mines) of four districts have been taken into account, and it has been found that it has increased from 38.54 MMT in 2021-22 to 43.01 MMT in 2023-24. This data is provided by the Department of



Mines and Geology. A demand note dated 11.07.2024 submitted by KISMA for requirement of 75.0 MMT during 2025 is found quite unrealistic and very high. It is pertinent to note that since 2011 the dispatch/domestic consumption of iron ore has never crossed 43.0 MMT from all the mines of Karnataka. It is further stated that the iron ore purchased by Beneficiation plants and Pellet plants plough back to the Steel Industry. This is not accounted for by Steel industry while raising their demand. The dispatches from the mines have been taken as consumption.

XXI. That this Hon'ble Court has taken a consistent stand to fix the Ceiling Cap for districts and MPAP of each mining lease by taking the basic factors of (a) mineral reserves in the lease area (b) area available for over burden / waste dump(s) and sub grade dump(s) and (c) existing transport facilities vis-à-vis traffic load of the mining lease and adjoining mining leases through all the orders/judgments dated 13.4.2012, 18.4.2013, 14.12.2017 and 26.8.2022 issued in this connection considering the imperatives of the twin goals of industrial and economic development on the one hand and the safeguard for the environment and biodiversity as also human well-being on the other hand, and also addressed the issues relating to maintenance of inter-generational equity. Further, after analysis of all the facts and circumstances of last 13 years, this methodology is found to be the most trusted based on scientific, sustainable and inter-generational equity to fix the MPAP of each mine and Ceiling Cap for the districts. It is the considered view of the Monitoring Committee that this methodology should be continued to keep the balance between development on one hand and protection of environment, ecology and biodiversity on the other.

XXII. It is relevant to submit here that the proposal of enhancement of production was initiated by the CEC in a meeting dated 01.12.2015 wherein one of the clarifications has been mentioned as: *"Increase of infrastructure capacity except in respect of roads within the mining lease will be considered only after the SPV becomes operational and additional infrastructure capacities are found to have been created."* However, as of now SPV/CEPMIZ is in preliminary stage, has not been effectively implemented and also no substantial additional infrastructure capacities have been created. This may be taken note of by this Hon'ble Court.



XXIII. The road capacity in general is being calculated as per the Indian Road Congress (IRC) guidelines which are applicable for long stretch of rural highways for all purpose roads with no control of access and a heterogeneous mix of fast- and slow-moving vehicles. However, the IRC guidelines are taken as a reference to fix the road capacity for mining roads/mud roads connecting the mining leases to the State Highways/National Highways nearby. This should be stopped.

XXIV. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India has issued notification on 16.07.2018 on the maximum safe axle weight for various axle types of transport vehicles wherein the upper limit of weightage of mineral carrying vehicle is also considered to be included under Axle Row and Tandem axle for rigid vehicles, trailer & semi-trailer category. The guideline issued by GOI has no applicability on ore-loaded vehicles when they are plying on mine roads, village /district roads, mud roads and other intermediate roads joining the State/ National Highways. Such roads are not so scientifically or properly consolidated. It is also observed that the same is being considered for road capacity enhancement for fixing the MPAP in these four districts. This is causing consequential negative effects/severe damages to such roads. It is submitted that this Hon'ble Court may issue direction to stop this practice forthwith.

XXV. The increase of MPAP of various leases will again increase the truck density on roads. There is not much progress in laying of conveyor belt/s and Railway siding/s in the districts except for the Conveyor belt by JSW whose daily average transportation is measured as 12,638 MT or monthly average of 385,470.0 MT, which alone is not sufficient.

XXVI. It is observed from the data submitted by Senior Geologist, Bellary, that during this financial year there is no evacuation through the 5.0 MMT capacity Conveyor belt of the Kumaraswamy mine of NMDC and the same is not likely to commence in another 3-4 years till the new crushing plant is ready. M/s NMDC has submitted that there is no evacuation through conveyor belt due to insufficient crushing capacity of Dhoni crushing plant and other infrastructure/logistic problems to handle ores of both mines together etc. Hence the entire ore of a quantity of 8.628 MMT of Kumaraswamy mine of NMDC is moved through roads and is causing extra pressure on road transportation.



XXVII. It is submitted that as per information submitted by M/s NMDC, the trucks carry from 20.0 MT to 32.5 MT of iron ore from the Kumaraswamy mine (ML No. 1111). If the lorry weight of 10-12 MT dead weight is added, the total load will be from 29-30 MT to 40-43 MT. In the ICFRE report, an average truck load of 21.0 (20.67) MT is contemplated/considered for road capacity. As per the data provided by the DCF, Bellary, on truck-wise log sheet, the maximum net tonnage carried by the trucks is from 30.0 to 36.0 MT but most of the trucks out of the log sheet of around 132 trucks carried 34.0 to 35.0 MT. It may be noted that taking into consideration 21.0 MT per truck load and 300 working days in a year, there is likely to be 3,83,333 trucks/year or 1278 trucks per day at the road/s in this area for evacuation of iron ore from ML No. 1111 of NMDC alone. On examination of the RR Plan of NMDC approved by the ICFRE for ML No. 1111, it is observed that except for sections R10, R12, and R13 (Swamihalli junction to SH 40 road), all other sections/roads are either Tar Road or Mud road which are unfit for use by heavy truck loads resulting in heavy dust pollution in the area and severe damages to the roads. The R-6 section (CC road) is not helpful since other sections of this road are either tar road or mud road. Hence, use of trucks of more than 21.0 MT gross weight loads may be prohibited.

C. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to examine whether any form of regulation like auctioning is required to be put in place for the sale of the mined material. In this regard data of royalty recovered when e-auction was mandatory against the total sale of iron ore of all types during 2021-22 from the A&B mines and similar data whereby private sales have been permitted (post order dated 20.05.2022 of A&B mines) for the year 2023-24 were compared. It is observed that there is very marginal difference in the royalty amounts for cumulative auctions/sales. During 2021-22, from A & B category mines, a cumulative total quantity of about 32,527,041 MT was e-auctioned recovering Royalty of about Rs. 19749,359,475/-, while during the year of 2023-24 a quantity of 37,621,231.63 MT was privately sold recovering Royalty of Rs 20301,178,675/-. The data is supplied by the Department of Mines and Geology. Therefore, Monitoring Committee is of the opinion that presently the status-quo may be maintained.



D. The drone survey mappings/images of each running mine should be undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the mining activities including the sale and disposal of the waste, etc. This exercise may be made mandatory irrespective of the size of the lease. The survey should be carried out twice a year (November-December and May-June) by each lessee and the processed output [digital elevation model (DEM) and Orth mosaic] images obtained from such survey or likewise be submitted to Mine and Forest departments. This activity is in addition to the activities required to be carried out by the lessees in pursuance to the provisions of Rule 34A of the Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

In view of the facts and circumstances as narrated above in detail of this report the Monitoring Committee recommends the following points for the kind consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court/CEC for appropriate orders:

1. That this Hon'ble Court has taken a consistent stand to fix the Ceiling Cap for districts and MPAP of each mining lease by taking the basic factors of (a) mineral reserves in the lease area (b) area available for over burden / waste dump(s) and sub grade dump(s) and (c) existing transport facilities vis-à-vis traffic load of the mining lease and adjoining mining leases through all the orders/judgments dated 13.4.2012, 18.4.2013, 14.12.2017 and 26.8.2022 issued in this connection considering the imperatives of the twin goals of industrial and economic development on the one hand and the safeguard for scientific mining, the protection of environment and biodiversity as also human well-being on the other hand and also looked into to maintain inter- generational equity issues effectively addressed. Further, after analysis of all the facts and circumstances of last 13 years, this methodology is found most trusted based on scientific, sustainable and intergenerational equity to fix the MPAP of each mine and Ceiling Cap of districts. It is the considered view of the Monitoring Committee that this methodology should be kept continue to keep the balance between development at one hand and protection of Environment and ecology, biodiversity, intergenerational equity of the other hand.
2. The ceiling cap approved for the Bellary district (old) is 35.0 MMT and that for Chitradurga & Tumkur Districts is 15.0 MMT thus totaling 50.00 MMT/year. The current production or



allotted MPAP is around 31.240 MMT for Bellary & Vijayanagara districts and 7.846 MMT for Chitradurga & Tumkur districts thus having total MPAP of **39.086** for running A&B mines. Hence, there is unutilized gap of **10.914 MMT/year**. This unutilized gap will further increase in the passing years due to expiry of A&B category of leases in due course of time. **During 2033-34, the unutilized gap will be about 24.0475 MMT.** With these facts and circumstances, it is recommended that the MPAP of all the four districts may be combined and a single MPAP may be fixed to bring all the categories of leases under a single umbrella as explained in detail in this report.

3. The Current MPAP of all the running mines (30 Nos.) of A&B categories is **39.086 MMT**. In addition, so far 17 C-category mines and 7 expired A- & B-category mines have been auctioned. Out of these, the total MPAP of 07 auctioned A- & B-category mines is **5.852 MMT** and the total MPAP of 17 C-category mines is **8.498 MMT**. However, out of the 24 auctioned mines, 16 are operational and the remaining eight will take time to be operational; the total MPAP of the 16 auctioned, operational mines is **12.151 MMT**. In addition, five mines have been auctioned after amalgamating A, B and C category mines but these mines are also not likely to be operational in the immediate future. **Presently the total assessed MPAP of the 30 operating A&B category mines and 16 (out of total 24) auctioned operating mines in A, B & C categories is $[39.086+12.151] = 51.237$ MMT.** With these facts and circumstances as explained in this report in detail, it is the considered view of the Monitoring Committee to fix a single **Ceiling Cap of 57.0 MMT** per year of all four districts for all category mines (Details are at para A. VI. of this report).
4. As regards the present system of sale of Iron ore by the lessees themselves, Monitoring Committee is of the opinion that the status-quo may be maintained for the present.
5. The drone survey mappings/images of each running mines should be undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the mining activities including sale and disposal of the waste, etc. This exercise may be made mandatory irrespective of the size of the lease. The survey should be carried out twice a year (November -December and May-June) by each lessee and the processed output [digital elevation model (DEM) and Orth mosaic] images obtained



from such survey or likewise be submitted to Mine and Forest departments. This activity is in addition to the activities required to be carried out by the lessees in pursuance to the provisions of Rule 34A of Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

6. That the assessment of annual reserve quantity to be extracted/exploited on sustainable basis is being done by dividing the total available reserve by twenty for fixing of MPAP in the R&R plans. This practice was in vogue at a time when the leases were granted /renewed for a period of twenty years. Presently, during the time of ore enhancement also, the further/subsequent explored reserve is being divided by twenty and MPAP is re-fixed. This results in shortening of the life of the mine and may not reach fifty years. Now, after Amendment in MMDR Act 2015, the lease period is fixed for fifty years. Hence it is recommended that the available ore reserve should be divided by fifty at the time of enhancement of MPAP, for maintaining intergeneration equity and also for sustainable and scientific mining.
7. The guideline issued by GOI vide notification dated 16.07.2018 has no applicability on ore-loaded vehicles while they are plying on mine roads, village /district roads, mud roads and other intermediate roads joining the State/ National Highways. Such roads are not scientifically or properly consolidated. This notification dated 16.07.2018 should not be considered for road capacity enhancement for fixing the MPAP in these four districts. This is causing a lot of consequential negative effects/severe damages to such roads. This is not permissible and it is prayed that this Hon'ble Court may issue direction to stop the practice forthwith.
8. The implementation of SPV/CEPMIZ as of now is in preliminary stage and will take some time to become effective. Additional infrastructure capacities which were required to be created have not been substantially developed to bear the additional transportation load etc. This Hon'ble Court may direct to State that enhancement of the MPAP of already running mines should only be *considered till the CEPIMIZ becomes operational at field and additional infrastructure capacities are found to have been created at the satisfaction of CEC/Monitoring Committee.*



9. The MPAPs of M/s Vedanta Ltd. (ML No. 2677), M/s. R. Praveen Chandra (ML No. 2294) and M/s. JSW Steel Ltd (ML No. 0014 Old ML No. 2346) in Chitradurga district may be ordered to be reassessed because of having severe dust pollution (PM_{10}) as shown in Annexure-6.

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) may please consider the above report and may submit before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in compliance of the order dated 14.03.2024 in IA No. 225561 of 2023 filed by the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), Southern Region, Bengaluru.



Chairman,
Monitoring Committee



ANNEXURE-1

Current and Projected MPAP of A&B mines of Bellary district(old)									
Sl. No	Name of the Lessee	ML No	Lease Validity	MPAP (MMT)					
				2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Bellary & Vijayanagara Districts									
1	BKG Mining Pvt.Ltd	2516	13.03.2056	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
2	M/s. Nadeem Minerals	2526	18.07.2056	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41
3	M/s. VESCO	2296	16.02.2051	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
4	M/s SMIORE	2580/ 2678	31.12.2033	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.81
5	M/s. ZTC	2547	26.04.2057	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
6	M/s. Gavisiddeshwara Minerals	2552	02.07.2057	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260
7	M/s MML TIOM	2605	26.12.2045	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
8	M/s.VNK Menon	2543	21.03.2057	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
9	M/S Hanumantha Rao (S.M.Block)	2505	11.12.2055	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226
10	M/s.RMML*	2593	23.02.2026	0.897	0.897	0	0	0	0
11	RBSSN*	2682	23.06.2026	0.243	0.243	0.243	0	0	0
12	Allum Prashant	2289	01.12.2050	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09
13	M/s. Lakshmi Minerals	2551	17.06.2057	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
14	MML SIOM	2629	12.04.2049	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34
15	Allum Prashant	2352	20.07.2050	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
16	HN Premkumar	2538	27.02.2057	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118
17	M/s. H.G.Rangan Gouda	2549	04.08.2042	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114
18	M/s. NMDC	1111	17.10.2042	8.628	8.628	8.628	8.628	8.628	8.628
19	M/s. SKME	2141	23.01.2042	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
20	S.A. Tawab	2488	03.08.2031	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675
21	M/s. Lakshmi Minerals	2545	17.04.2057	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09
22	M/s NMDC	2396	03.11.2038	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
23	M/s. VESCO	2160	18.10.2042	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
24	M/s. ZTC	2309	18.04.2029	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
TOTAL (A) Fe				31.24	31.24	30.35	30.10	30.10	30.10
Chitradurga & Tumkur Districts									
25	M/s R. Praveen Chandra	2294	03.02.2027	1.798	1.798	1.798	0.000	0.000	0.000
26	M/s Vedanta Ltd	2236/ 2677	27.10.2032	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.89
27	M/s Garudadhri Impex	2583	30.05.2058	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03



28	M/s. V.Susheelamma (Doddabyaladakere)	2626/2639	14.04.2031	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062
29	M/S Goa Sponge (Dindahalli)	2658	04.02.2061	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021
30	Karnataka Limpo Cement Industry	2028	30.01.2028	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000
TOTAL				7.846	7.846	7.846	6.048	6.003	6.003
GRAND TOTAL				39.086	39.086	38.196	36.148	36.103	36.103

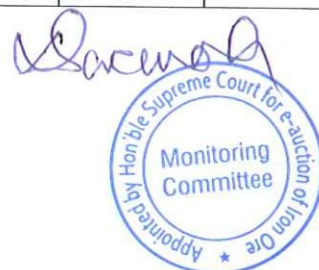
Susheelamma



ANNEXURE -2

Status of Auctioned A, B, C mines with their MPAP; operative (running) /non-operative in all the districts.

Status of auctioned leases in Karnataka									
Sl. No	Name of Lessee	New ML No	Extent in Ha	Estimated Resources in MMT	NIT Date	Date of e-auction	STATUS	Date of grant of mining lease	MPA P in MMT
Auction of 'C' category mines									
1	JSW STEEL LIMITED (Rama Rao Paol, ML No 2621)	9	33.8	31.532	22.12.2015	01.10.2016	Running	13.12.2019	1.31
2	MSPL Limited (M/s Lakshmi Narayana Mining Company, ML No 2487)	10	86.12	14.709	22.12.2015	03.10.16	Running	01.02.2020	0.51
3	JSW STEEL LIMITED (Tungabhadra Minerals Pvt Ltd, ML No 2365)	7	130.53	33.89	22.12.2015	04.10.16	Running	27.05.2019	1.44
4	JSW STEEL LIMITED (Tungabhadra Minerals Pvt Ltd, ML No 2366)	4	33.21	6.939	22.12.2015	04.10.16	Running	12.01.2018	0.3
5	MSPL Limited (Karthikeyas ML 2559)	Not executed	26.71	28.472	22.12.2015	05.10.16	Not Running	-	0.319
6	JSW STEEL LIMITED (Hothur Traders, ML No 2313)	5	21.61	10.026	22.12.2015	05.10.16	Running	17.03.2018	0.705
7	JSW STEEL LIMITED (V.S Lad & Sons, ML No 2290)	6	100.54	28.619	22.12.2015	06.10.16	Running	22.12.2018	1.29
8	M/s Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited. (M/s Bharath Mines & Minerals, ML No 2245)	16	24.47	7.577	30.01.2018	04.09.2018	Presently stopped	08.03.2021	0.124



9	M/s Minera Steel and Power Pvt Ltd. (M/s Nidhi Mining Company, ML 2433)	22	29.49	10.024	30.01.2018	04.09.2018	Running	Executed	0.314
10	M/s JSW Steel Ltd. (M/s Mysore Minerals Limited, ML No 995)	8	32.89	9.708	30.01.2018	05.09.2018	Presently Stopped	11.11.2019	0.34
11	M/s MSPL Limited (M/s KanhaiyalalDudheria , ML No 2563)	24	30.09	9.26	30.01.2018	05.09.2018	Running	Executed	0.23
12	M/s MSPL Limited (Sri. H G Rangangouda, ML No 2148)	23	60.66	63.33	30.01.2018	06.09.2018	Not Running	Executed	0.77
13	Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited (M/s Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Mining Co), ml 2566)	Not executed	7.57	3.179	26.09.2018	05.12.2018	After completion of auction and certain stage of compliance by bidder, came to know that the auctioned area falls in "Uttaregudda Wildlife Sanctuary".		0.13
14	Hothurlspat Pvt Ltd. (M/s Mineral Miners and Traders, ml 2185)	11	44.42	9.88	26.09.2018	05.12.2018	Running	20.03.2020	0.31
15	RBSSN Private Limited. (Sri M Srinivasulu, ml. 2631)	Not executed	75.14	9.88	11.07.2022	02.09.2022	Not running		0.17
16	Udayshivakumar Infra Private Limited (M/s RMM (P) Ltd,ml2451)	Not executed	24.04	2.137	11.07.2022	01.09.2022	Not running		0.094
17	B L Ranisamyuktha (M/S Thangavelu& Others, Ml No - 2585)	21	60.92	3.303	11.07.2022	01.09.2022	Running	01.08.2023	0.142
TOTAL				282.465					8.498
Auctioned expired A&B iron ore leases									
18	JSW STEEL LIMITED (M/s Mineral Enterprises Limited, ML No 2346)	14	93.6	61.217	08.03.2019	24.07.2019	Running	30.07.2020	3.66



19	JSW STEEL LIMITED (M/s Zeenath Transport Company ml 2239)	13	43.58	12.207	08.03.2019	24.07.2019	Running	30.07.2020	0.18
20	JSW STEEL LIMITED (M/s Narayan Mines Private Ltd, ml 1602)	12	107.51	21.79	08.03.2019	25.07.2019	Running	30.07.2020	1.112
21	MSPL Limited (M/s Ashwathanarayana Singh & Co, ML 2531)	15	56	3.567	08.03.2019	25.07.2019	Applied for surrender	12.08.2020	0.12
22	Baig Trading Company (M/s Gogga Gurushanthaiah and Brothers, ML No 2586)	18	15.25	0.562	15.09.2021	19.01.2022	Not running	30.03.2022	0.036
23	M/s Minera Steel and Power Pvt Ltd. (Auro Minerals, ml 2584)	19	32.05	6.72	15.09.2021	21.01.2022	Running	22.04.2022	0.184
24	GVPR Engineers Ltd (M/s Tiffin's Barytes and Asbestos Paints Limited, ML No 2293)	25	191.3	18.381	15.09.2021	03.02.2022	Not Running	Executed	0.56
TOTAL				124.444 (A,B,C)	FOR RUNNING MINES (16 Nos., including two presently stopped)				12.151
TOTAL				406.909 (A,B,C)	FOR RUNNING, NON-RUNNING, ETC. (24 Nos.)				[12.151 +2.199] = 14.35



ANNEXURE-3

Status of Amalgamated (ABC) auctioned leases in Karnataka

Sl. No	Name of Lessee	New ML No	Extent in Ha	Estimated Resources in MMT	NIT Date	Date of Issue of Letter of Intent	Date of issue of Successful Bidder letter	Remarks
1	Somanahalli Block		190.13	26.34	17.01.2023	03.07.2023		Amalgamated with C category mines
2	Jaisinghpura South Block		297.38	32.08	17.01.2023	23.05.2023	02.01.2024	Amalgamated with Part of B, C and part of Dalmia cancelled A1 category mines
3	Vyasanakere Iron Ore Mine		405.4	27.22	17.01.2023	05.07.2023	02.01.2024	Amalgamated with C category mines
4	Block No. 04 (H.R Gaviappa-2483)		40.04	5.32	27.03.2023			Expired lease with virgin area
5	Jaisinghpura North Block		298.59	17.66	16.05.2023	20.11.2023	15.06.2024	Amalgamated with Part of B, C and part of Dalmia cancelled A1 category mines
TOTAL				108.62				

In the above cases lease deeds have not yet been executed.



ANNEXURE-4

**SAMPLE DATA FOR DAILY TRANSPORTATION OF IRON ORE AND VEHICLE
MOVEMENT (data from the Forest Department, electronic issue of transit passes).**

Sl. No	Date	Total quantity transported per day in Metric tonnes	Total No. Of vehicles moving per day on roads
1	01.12.2021	127472.00	5067
2	02.12.2021	115119.00	4526
3	03.12.2021	158399.00	5921
4	04.12.2021	111244.00	4139
5	05.12.2021	105700.00	3709
6	06.12.2021	129303.00	4973
7	07.12.2021	129207.00	5054
8	13.02.2022	138788.00	4373
9	14.02.2022	134791.00	4763
10	15.02.2022	122151.00	4319
11	17.02.2022	127634.00	4004
12	18.02.2022	133437.00	4845
13	19.02.2022	135513.00	4491
14	01.03.2022	142320.00	4422
15	03.03.2022	139251.00	5029
16	05.03.2022	171922.00	5743
17	07.03.2022	165285.00	5627
18	08.03.2022	154637.00	5220



ANNEXURE-5

Details of accidents occurred in the jurisdictional area of Sandur police circle in the years 2022, 2023 & 2024 (Details as provided by the CPI, Sandur Circle, Sandur)

I. SANDUR LIMITS

YEAR	DETAILS OF ACCIDENTS			TOTAL NO; OF FATALITIES	TOTAL NO OF INJURIES
	FATAL ACCIDENTS	NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
2022	13	30	43	13	45
2023	09	35	44	09	59
2024	09	16	25	09	24
TOTAL	31	81	112	31	128

II. TORANAGALLU LIMITS

YEAR	DETAILS OF ACCIDENTS			TOTAL NO; OF FATALITIES	TOTAL NO OF INJURIES
	FATAL ACCIDENTS	NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
2022	20	25	60	26	35
2023	26	34	60	30	43
2024	08	29	37	08	47
TOTAL	54	88	157	64	125

III. CHORANURU LIMITS

YEAR	DETAILS OF ACCIDENTS			TOTAL NO; OF FATALITIES	TOTAL NO; OF INJURIES
	FATAL ACCIDENTS	NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
2022	09	06	15	10	23
2023	11	09	20	11	41
2024	08	05	13	10	13
TOTAL	28	20	48	31	77



Overall details of accidents in the Sandur Police circle limits

YEAR	DETAILS OF ACCIDENTS			TOTAL NO; OF FATALITIES	TOTAL NO; OF INJURIES
	FATAL ACCIDENTS	NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
2022	42	61	113	49	103
2023	46	78	124	50	143
2024	25	50	75	27	84
TOTAL	113	189	312	126	330




ANNEXURE-6

Core area monitoring data of iron ore mines for the year 2019 to 2023 (data from KSPCB).								
Sl. No.	Name of Lessee	Area in Ha of Lease	Current MPAP	Monitoring ES (Core Area)				
				2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	M/s Vedanta Limited. (SesaSterlite Ltd.,) ML.No. 2677 (did twice in a year)	161.54	5.89	99	160	124	242	303
				455	263	77	753	398
				104	229	135	173	407
				83	164	79	145	918
				1026	109	79	106	313
				51		184		320
				620		229		458
				420		778		924
				636		160		447
				556				494
				469				197
				625				660
				436				274
2	M/s. John Mines Ltd, (R Praveen Chandra) ML.No.2294	42.6	1.798	210	86	245	1971	316
				949	153	385	1225	1179
				425	73	223	1151	219
				126	60	139	231	1869
					641	121	206	329
					388	224	347	2448
					720	224		810
						90		
3	M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (BBH,MI No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346)	102.53	3.66	614			6102	199
				474			374	220
				411			1225	154
				411			375	268
				614			412	242
				474			203	139
								150
4	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, RM Block, Sandur	53.16	1.1	113				
5	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company, HospetTq,	41.33	0.18	118				
6	Chowgule&Co.Pvt Ltd Mines of Kardikolla IOM,	103.68	0.5	116				



7	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2505	17.81	0.226	113			124	
8	Jaisingapura IOM of M/s ANS	56	0.12	159				
9	Bhadra IOM of M/s JSW Steels	130.53	1.25		131		112	
10	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Mines	107.51	0.112		125		183	
11	SKME, ML No-2141	59.36	2.8			168 168		150
12	M/s Ramgad Manganese IOM of M/s SMIORE,	1863.02	3.81			128	49	
13	Dharmapura IOM of M/s VNK Menon	10.31	0.1			124		172
14	Donimalai IOM of M/s NMDC	597.54	7			168 124		302
15	Rama IOM of M/s JSW Steels	32.56	0.94				119	
16	Karadikolla IOM of M/s MSPL,	86.12	0.51				122	
17	SJMP Holdings (V.SuheelammaMinee), ML No. 2626/2639, D.B.Kere Iron & Manganese Ore Mines	40.07	0.062				194	
18	GarudadrilmpexPvt. Ltd., MI No 2583, Doddabyaladakere	20.64	0.03				334	
Good(0-50)		Minimal Impact						
Satisfactory(51-100)		Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people						
Moderate(101-200)		Heart disease, children and older adults						
Poor(201-300)		Breathing discomfort to people on prolonged exposure						
Very Poor(301-400)		Respiratory illness to the people on prolonged exposure						
Severe(>401)		Respiratory effects even on healthy people						





FEDERATION OF INDIAN MINERAL INDUSTRIES

SOUTHERN REGION

ANNEXURE R-2

East West Centre, 2nd Floor, No. 39, Nehru Circle, 4th Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020 India
Tel : +91 80 2346 0253 / 4372 8134, Email: fimisouth@yahoo.com

H.M.Khyum Ali

Director

F/GC/M-CEC/033/2024

Dated: 14/08/2024

To

Shri Chandra Prakash Goyal
Member, Central Empowered Committee,
2nd Floor, Chanakya Bhavan,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021

Respected Sir,

Sub: Regarding removal of Maximum Permissible Annual Production limits in Ballari, Tumkuru and Chitradurga districts of State of Karnataka.

Ref: 1. This office letter letter No. F/GC/MS-CEC/025/2024 Dated. 08.07.2024.
2. Meetings of Central Empowered Committee held on 16.07.2024 & 19.07.2024.

We, FIMI South, had preferred I.A. No. 225561 of 2023 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, praying that the Hon'ble Court may be pleased to remove the Maximum Permissible Annual Production restriction imposed on iron-ore leases in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga, Tumkur, and Vijayanagara Karnataka.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide order dated 14.03.2024 directed as follows:

"Keeping in view the aforesaid position, we would request the CEC, together with the Monitoring Committee and aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, to undertake a complete exercise in the three districts, and the respective mining leases situated therein, and submit a report before this Court. While undertaking the said exercise, they shall keep in mind the parameters referred to in the report dated 13.03.2012. The CEC will be entitled to take help and assistance of the scientific domain experts who will examine data, including environmental pollution data available/recorded in the districts from time to time."

Based on the above a detail representation was submitted to your kind office vide letter as cited in reference No.1. In this regard two meeting were held on 16.07.2024 and 19.07.2024. In the above meetings, Central Empowered Committee had directed this office to provide lease wise data with supporting documents.

FIMI South filed on IA for removal of MPAP mainly on the ground of :-

Dairy No......509
Dated.....30/8/2024

- Restoration of Normalcy**
- Improved legal framework**
- Application of MPAP only in Karnataka is discriminatory**
- Iron ore production is sustainable and will not harm future generations**

In this regard we like to submit following facts for kind consideration.



1. Iron Ore Reserves/Resources of Karnataka & Individual leases of A & B category:

State Level Changes in Reserves/Resources:

The Hematite iron ore reserves & resources of Karnataka have increased drastically from the Year 2010 to 2020 as per the records of Indian Minerals Year Books (IMYB) published by Indian Bureau of Mines & details are tabled below,

Iron Ore Reserves/Resources (Haematite) in Karnataka (Unit million tonnes)			
Details	As on 01.04.2010	As on 01.04.2020	Increase (in %)
Iron Ore reserves (Haematite)	0876.866	1043.212	119%
Iron Ore Remaining resources (Haematite)	1281.811	1792.781	140%
Total resources (Haematite)	2158.678	2835.992	131%
Source	IMYB 2012 51 st edition Iron Ore (<u>Annexure-I</u>)	IMYB 2022 61 st edition Iron Ore (<u>Annexure-II</u>)	

From the above table it is evident that even after extraction of iron ore to the tune of on an average 25 million tonnes per annum after 2012, the iron ore resources have increased by 131% over a period of 10 years (2010-2020).

This increase is mainly because of following factors,

- Previously the mine lease areas were not fully explored for the iron ore reserves. Post 2012 many lessees have carried out mineral exploration and always exploration is on-going process. The exploration will add reserves/resources during life of the mine considering the detailed level of exploration & changes in cutoff/threshold limits.
- The demand and Technology derive the threshold limit of iron ore to its lower iron contents making low grade ore viable for production over the period of technological advancement of beneficiation, user industry efficiency etc., The iron ore threshold limit was lowered from 58% Fe content to 45% Fe content based on economic viability of extraction and consuming pattern of end users by Ministry of Mines on vide notification No.T-45031/CGBM/2007 dated 16.10.2009. The related notification enclosed as **Annexure-III**. On 25. 04.2018 Ministry of Mines vide Gazette notification, included the siliceous hematite iron ore (SHIO) having 35%-45%Fe content as marketable iron ore. The related notification of Ministry of Mines enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.
- The iron ore having iron content below threshold limit of economic viability at given time will be considered as waste that time but in future it will add to reserves based on technologic advancement in beneficiation and usage pattern of consuming low grade iron ore.



From the above it is evident that, exploration is ongoing process, definition of iron ore reserves are dynamic in nature based on technological advancement in beneficiation and end user requirement in steel making process. Hence resources/reserves of iron ore keep changing with time with advent of new technology. Other side the generation and recycle of scrap for steel making will reduce growing demand of iron ore for steel over a period to cater higher demands in near future.

Lease Level Changes in Reserves/Resources:

Similarly, the Reserves/Resources of Individual mining leases of A & B category mines of Karnataka are have increased over a period of time based on exploration pursued by individual lessees as evident from their subsequent enhancement after the preparation of R&R plan in 2012 & comparison of same is given below,

Lease Wise increase of Reserves from 2012 to Subsequent Enhancements							
Sl.No.	Company	Name of Mine	M.L.No.	Type of Ore	Iron ore Reserves as on 2012 (in million tonnes)	Iron ore Reserves in subsequent Enhancement (2018-2024) (in million tonnes)	Increase in %
1	M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports	Ramanadurg Iron Ore Mine	2141	Iron	23.97	60.119	251
2	M/s RPraveen Chandra	John Mines	2294	Iron	11.27	36.403	323
3	M/s Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited	Iyil Gurunath Iron Ore Mine	2593	Iron	6.40	17.94	280
4	M/s Vedanta Limited	Iron Ore Mine	2677	Iron	45.84	125.87	3
5	NMDC Limited	Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	1111	Iron	121.46	161.163	133
6		Donimalai Iron Ore Mine	2396	Iron	67.66	143.41	212
7	M/s B Rudra Gowd	Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine	2516	Iron	17.55	35.898	205
8	M/s SMIORE Ltd	Iron & Managnese ore	2678	Iron	14.81	88.94	6
9				Manganese	10.99	15.08	1
10		Manganese Ore Mine	2679	Manganese	0.67	0.899	1
11	M/s SA Thwab	SA thwab Iron Ore Mine	2488	Iron	0.69	3.11	449
12	Zeenath transport Company	Dharmapur Iron Ore Mine	2309	Iron	0.72	6.25	864
Total				Iron	310.37	679.10	219
				Manganese	11.66	15.98	137

From the above it is evident that, all major working mines of A& B category including public sector have enhanced the resources/reserves by further exploration in their mines more than double of their initial reserves/resources during preparation of R&R plan in 2012. The details of reserves/resources changes are extracted from the **Annexure-V**. The Annexure-V is compilation of changes of above 12 mines in terms of reserves, dump area, dump holding capacity, stripping ratio and production capacity based on reserves, dump & road carrying capacity. The Annexure-V is compiled based on original R&R Plan and ICFRE reports in the latest enhancement based on which production enhancements are recommended by Technical Committee (TC) and approved by Central Empowered Committee.



The individual mines R & R and ICFRE/TC reports are provided as **Annexure 1 to 25** for main **Annexure-V**.

Statutory Reforms for Reserves/Resources Updation

The Government of India has implemented following reforms for guiding of mineral exploration and reporting in the country along with sustainable Mineral Development,

- Ministry has introduced new Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules 2015 for systematic exploration of minerals other than hydrocarbon and atomic minerals with defining sets of methodology, sampling, analysis, proper geological reporting of ore reserves and resources. Refer **Annexure-VI**.
- Adoption of UNFC code for mineral reporting for its exploration confidence level, mining feasibility and economic viability. Refer Annexure-VI.
- Mandating of compulsory exploration of entire mineralised area within the lease area and establishing remaining area of lease as non-mineralised area by thorough and detailed exploration in a timeframe manner by amending Rule 12 of The Mineral Conservation & Development Rules 2017 (MCDR-2017). This rule also deals with periodic updation of reserves/resources every five years once & also periodic updation and notification of threshold limit of major minerals by Indian Bureau of Mines. The relevant extract of MCDR-2017 is enclosed as **Annexure-VII**.
- The mine plan approval system by Ministry of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines have adopted detailed scrutiny of exploration carried out, methodology adopted for resource estimation, resource and reserve estimation. They also do evaluate parameters considered for mine production and development, available waste disposing area to approve mining plan for desired level of production based on the stripping ratio and also do evaluate impact on environment and its mitigating measures. For the Plan period the environmental remedial measures are envisaged as per the state Government is also monitoring the same during the process of mine plan approval by Indian Bureau of Mines.

Under above said facts, it is clear & evident that, there is continuous change in reserves/resources position of the mine over a period based on regular and advanced exploration, changes in demand and supply, advanced beneficiation techniques and advanced metallurgical techniques, force to revise the threshold limits of the ores/minerals to consider its economic viability. The Government had also established fool proof legislation for exploration, geological reporting of ore deposits of a mine, adopting international standards and reviewing periodical reserves/resources at five years interval based on the modality developed by CEC as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, hence continuation of the procedure developed by the CEC may kindly be discontinued for such assessment.



2. **Production capacity based on dump area & its waste holding capacity and waste generation in individual leases of A & B category:**

Stripping Ratio /Ore to Waste Generation

The waste generation in any mine during the ore extraction is measured by the ratio of ore and waste in a systematic mine design/layout to develop. This waste generation is depending upon the requirement of additional waste rock removal to develop systematic mine layout design which is decided by the factors like quantity of ore, systematic bench height, width and bench slope. The Ore to Waste ratio is also known as Stripping Ratio (SR). This stripping ratio is also very dynamic in nature and depending upon the following factors,

- **The cut off grade or Threshold limit of ore.** The ore having metal content below the threshold limit (Cut of grade) is considered as part of waste. When there is changes in cutoff grade or threshold limit there will be changes in ore generation. The waste considered as ore or ore considered as waste may become vice-versa based on changes in threshold limit either lowered or raised respectively based on demand and supply need of material and technological advancement. This factor is evident in the major iron ore mines of A & B category and a comparative statement of SR in 2012 during R&R plan and subsequent production enhancement of same mine during 2020-24 for these major iron ore mines of Karnataka is tabled below,

Decrease in waste generation for one tonne of iron/ manganese ore production from 2012 to Subsequent Enhancements							
Sl.No.	Company	Name of Mine	M.L.No.	Type of Ore	Waste generation per tonne of ore as on 2012	Waste generation per tonne of ore in subsequent enhancements (2018-24)	Decrease of Waste generation in %
1	M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports	Ramanadurg Iron Ore Mine	2141	Iron	1 : 0.45	1 : 0.123	Reduced to 27.33%
2	M/s RPraveen Chandra	John Mines	2294	Iron	0.23	0.10	43.48
3	M/s Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited	Iyil Gurunath Iron Ore Mine	2593	Iron	1:0.39	1:0.25	64.10
4	M/s Vedanta Limited	Iron Ore Mine	2677	Iron	1:1.43	1:0.76	0.53
5	NMDC Limited	Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	1111	Iron	0.25	0.092	36.80
6		Donimalai Iron Ore Mine	2396	Iron	2.1	2.1	No change
7	M/s B Rudra Gowd	Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine	2516	Iron	0.60	0.018	33.33
8	M/s SMIOR Ltd	Iron & Managnese ore	2678	Iron	1:1.42	1:0.66	Reduced to 46.48%
9				Manganese	42.85	19.35	Reduced to 45.16%
10		Manganese Ore Mine	2679	Manganese	1:51.51	1:33.99	Reduced to 65.99%
11	M/s SA Thwab	SA thwab Iron Ore Mine	2488	Iron	1:0.88	1:0.28	31.82
12	Zeenath transport Company	Dharmapur Iron Ore Mine	2309	Iron	1 : 0.77	1 : 0.22	99.09



From the above table it is evident that, ore to waste generation has been reduced almost to half on an average for all the above working mines over period of 12 years 2012 to 2024. The above details are extracted from Annexure-V compiled from R&R Plan & ICFRE report as in Annexures 1-25 of Annexure-V.

Dump Area/ Backfill Area & Waste holding Capacity:

The systematic mine development aided with further exploration will increase or decrease existing dump area, identify new dump area, identify available mined out area for backfilling of same by waste. The existing waste dumps may also become as further dump mining if threshold limits of ore is lowered & such dump mining is also provisioned in the MCDR-2017. Such dump workings may make further waste dumping in such worked out dumps while increasing its waste holding capacity. Hence new dump areas, backfill areas and mined out dumps will enhance further waste holding capacity of the mine. Accordingly, production capacity of a mine will also vary by increased dump capacity and reduced stripping ratio. When waste will become as ore due to lowered threshold limits, then SR will reduce in multiple folds. This is also evident in the studies of above-mentioned major A & B category working mines of Karnataka data as on R&R plan preparation time in 2012 and in subsequent enhancements during 2018-24. The same data is compiled in Annexure-V supported by the documents as in Annexure-1 -25 (R&R Plan extracts of 2012 & ICFRE report on enhancement during 2018-2024). The summary is given below,

Increases in Dump and or backfill area of A&B Category major mines of Karnataka from 2012 to Subsequent Enhancements							
Sl.No.	Company	Name of Mine	M.L.No.	Type of Ore	Dump Area in Ha as per R&R Plan 2012	Dump Area in Ha as per ICFRE reports on enhancement during 2018-24 2012	Increase in %
1	M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports	Ramanadurg Iron Ore Mine	2141	Iron	7.75	8.96	115.61
2	M/s RPraveen Chandra	John Mines	2294	Iron	5.59	9.32	166.73
3	M/s Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited	Iyali Gurunath Iron Ore Mine	2593	Iron	3.27	4.77	145.87
4	M/s Vedanta Limited	Iron Ore Mine	2677	Iron	21.34	53.77	251.97
5	NMDC Limited	Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	1111	Iron	15.56	15.56	No change
6		Donimalai Iron Ore Mine	2396	Iron	35.12	97.50	277.62
7	M/s BRudra Gowd	Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine	2516	Iron	2.56	14.71	574.61
8	M/s SMIORE Ltd	Iron & Managnese ore Manganese Ore Mine	2678	Iron	51.19	65.14	127.25
9				Manganese	74.83	224.73	300.32
10			2679	Manganese	11.73	14.04	119.69
11	M/s SA Thwab	SA thwab Iron Ore Mine	2488	Iron	Entire mined out areas used as backfill		
12	Zeenath transport Company	Dharmapur Iron Ore Mine	2309	Iron	3.20	4.04	126.25



Increases in waste holding capacity of A&B category major mines of Karnataka from 2012 to Subsequent Enhancements							
Sl.No.	Company	Name of Mine	M.L.No.	Type of Ore	Waste holding capacity of dumps/ Backfill in million tonnes as per R&R Plan 2012	Waste holding capacity of dumps/ Backfill in million tonnes as per ICFRE reports on enhancement during 2018-24	Increase in %
1	M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports	Ramanadurg Iron Ore Mine	2141	Iron	2.46	2.54	103.25
2	M/s RPraveen Chandra	John Mines	2294	Iron	0.80	1.38	172.50
3	M/s Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited	Iyil Gurunath Iron Ore Mine	2593	Iron	1.11	1.99	179.93
4	M/s Vedanta Limited	Iron Ore Mine	2677	Iron	28.42	42.13	148.21
5	NMDC Limited	Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	1111	Iron	14.16	7.16	50.56
6		Donimalai Iron Ore Mine	2396	Iron	28.62	75.40	263.45
7	M/s B Rudra Gowd	Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine	2516	Iron	1.90	5.13	270.00
8	M/s SMIORE Ltd	Iron & Managnese ore	2678	Iron	12.22	33.10	270.87
9				Manganese	38.28	151.84	396.66
10				Manganese	1.90	5.51	289.89
11	M/s SA Thwab	SA thwab Iron Ore Mine	2488	Iron	Entire mined out areas used as backfill		
12	Zeenath transport Company	Dharmapur Iron Ore Mine	2309	Iron	1.17	2.22	189.42

From above table all mines except Sl.No.5 dump areas have increased to net double in totality. Sl.No.5 has advantage of reduced stripping ratio to enhance its production levels even though dump area and waste holding capacities are lowered.

Statutory Reforms with respect to Dumps/ backfilling

- Section 3(ac), 3(c) & 3(i) of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 (Amended as on 2022) herein after referred as MMDRA-1957 stipulate that a lessee can acquire additional non-mineralized area as a part of the mining lease for the purpose of dumping of overburden and rejects and such a land can be formed integral part of the mining lease. Further provision of Section 6(1)(c) also provides that, such area is not compact and contiguous in the interest of mineral development in the opinion of state government. Hence additional area can be acquired and made part of lease for the purpose of dumping with due permission of state government. The related extract of MMDRA-1957 is provided in **Annexure-VIII**.
- The MCDR-2017 has incorporated new chapter as of “Sustainable Mining” in which under Rule 37 of MCDR-2017 (**Annexure-IX**), storage of overburden, waste rocks etc., had been dealt with, insisting for,



- All types of overburden tailings, slimes are to be dumped separately
 - Dumps are to be properly secured to prevent its discharges to cause degradation to environment,
 - Select on impervious ground to avoid precipitations,
 - Insisting for backfilling the material in mined out land wherever possible
- The Ministry of Mines developed a credible system of evaluation of mining footprints and instituted the Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) for taking up mining activity under its umbrella, encompassing inclusive growth, without adversely affecting the social, economic and environmental well-being, at present and in future also. Further, to implement the Sustainable Development Framework (SDF), Ministry has evolved a system of Star Rating of Mines. The Star Rating is being implemented as per the provisions of Rule 35 of MCDR-2017 (**Annexure-IX**) through the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines. This will address proper dump management, Progressive Mine closure & Final Mine Closure plan and ensure proper environment safeguards are in place.
 - Indian Bureau of Mines during approval of Mining Plan under MCDR-2017 in consultation with state government ensures the availability of sufficient dumping place to accommodate the entire waste generation for proposed production capacity during the given plan period with proper safe, scientific dump design provided with sufficient environmental measures.

Hence dump area is not a constraint for mine development as it is properly scrutinised by the state government & IBM periodically and same is inspected regularly being implemented as per the approved plan by both agencies. While new non-mineralised area can be made part of mining lease for the purpose of dumping. Production capacity based on dump is integral part of the Mining Plan approval as per the above statutory reforms.

3. Production capacity based on Road & Infrastructure capacity:

During the R&R preparation time in 2012-13 the road capacities were considered at tonnage factor of 10t per Truck/dumper except few mining lease cases where 16t dumpers were being used. But over a period, the lot dumpers have reduced to 15% of fleet while 85% of vehicles are 16t dumpers/tippers with few % of 21t & 25t tippers/dumpers. Further Government of India, through Ministry of Road Transport and Highway's allowed to transport the various vehicles to higher capacities vide Gazette Notification dated 16.07.2018 (**Annexure-X**) considering the safe axle weights. As per this, 10t vehicles were allowed to carry 11.5t, 16t vehicles to carry 21t, by the Transportation Ministry. Hence Technical Committee based on actual transport pattern during 2018 arrived on average tonnage of 20. Based on these developments the Technical Committee considering the % of 10t & 16t tippers/dumpers as per actual transport pattern as in Integrated Lease management system (ILMS) and above said notification recommended to consider the Tonnage factor 20.67t per trip. As per this decision, revisions are being made in calculation of road capacities of individual lessees during enhancement of production.



Further to this, road infrastructure for ore evacuation by undertaking construction of Cement Concrete roads, Bitumen Roads, increase in road width have been undertaken under DMF by Government and some roads have been upgraded by lessees. The lessees whose production capacities are more than one million tonne per annum and having lease period for more than 6 years are also implementing Down Hill Pipe Conveyor System for transportation of ore to nearest available railway sidings in line with the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. This is also adding the enhancement of production capacity based on roads. These changes are incorporated in **Annexure-V** in case of 12 major working mining leases of A & B category. The supportive of documents of R&R plan and ICFRE reports are provided in the Annexure1 -25 of Annexure-V. the summary of road capacity changes from R&R to further enhancements are reproduced below,

Increase in production capacity based on roads/ infrastrure of A&B category major mines of Kamataka from 2012 to Subsequent Enhancements						
Sl.No.	Company	Name of Mine	M.L.No.	Type of Ore	Production Capacity based on road in million tonnes as per R&R Plan 2012	Production Capacity based on road in million tonnes as per ICFRE reports on enhancement during 2018-24 Increase in %
1	M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports	Ramanadurg Iron Ore Mine	2141	Iron	0.64	2.38(excluding additional considered 0.42) 371.88
2	M/s RPraveen Chandra	John Mines	2294	Iron	0.75	1.80 240.00
3	M/s Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited	Iyli Gurunath Iron Ore Mine	2593	Iron	0.72	0.98 135.42
4	M/s Vedanta Limited	Iron Ore Mine	2677	Iron	4.51	8.68 192.46
5	NMDC Limited	Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine	1111	Iron	6.55	20.67 315.57
6		Donimalai Iron Ore Mine	2396	Iron	8.76	8.76 100.00
7	M/s BRudra Gowd	Haddinapade Iron Ore Mine	2516	Iron	1.60	2.00 125.00
8	M/s SMIORE Ltd	Iron & Managnese ore	2678	Iron	3.39	17.96 529.33
9				Manganese	0.96	5.16 539.18
10		Manganese Ore Mine	2679	Manganese	0.40	0.40 same
11	M/s SA Thwab	SA thwab Iron Ore Mine	2488	Iron	0.228	0.228 No change
12	Zeenath transport Company	Dharmapur Iron Ore Mine	2309	Iron	0.22	0.30 136.36

Statutory Reforms with respect to Dumps/ backfilling

- Implementation of Down Hill Pipe Conveyor for iron ore transportation in line with Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directions for those mines having production capacity more than 1 million tonnes per annum and having lease period more than 6 years. This direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is now being checked for insisting as condition while granting Environmental Clearances by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Changes during appraisal by the expert Appraisal Committees.
- Tarring/asphalting/Cement Concrete of approach road, wheel wash system at the junction of mine road to public road are part of the EC conditions



With all of above, road capacity of mines is well scrutinised while granting EC and Consent for Operations by State and Central Government. Under these situation production capacities based on road are dynamic in nature and statutory provisions are well placed to address the concerns of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its R&R Plan modality for Karnataka mines. It is also evident from above enhancements also. Hence the MPAP based on road capacity may not necessary.

4. General Point:

Further the conditions of R&R measures prescribed by ICFRE and approved by the CEC nowadays part of Mining Plans and Environmental Clearance as conditions under general, specific and special based on-site specific EIA and EMP prepared for respective mining lease. The environmental measures and social development of individual mine is evaluated by the committee of experts and presented before the local public as Public Hearing proceedings. Hence the concern of environment and social development are well taken care while granting EC by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and concerned department of State Government.

The Ministry of Mines through IBM & State Governments through its Department of Mines and Geology have started monitoring online surveillance of each mine through GIS based platform to ensure mining activities are carried in line with approved mining plan. Also, Mineral dispatch system is made online thereby tracking mineral movement from mine to destination thus ensuring end to end tracking.

The transport vehicles are fitted with RFID & GPS based technology for online issuance of trip permits and monitor their movement to designed dispatch destiny supply. Every transporting vehicle has to pass through integrated check post of Department of mines and geology and forests where mineral is weighed at the weighbridge for quantity verification as per the issued mineral transit pass and quality of ore transported is sampled randomly for ascertaining its grade as per grades indicated in mineral transit pass which are thus verified and ensured. Under these stringent measures the illegal mining and irregular mining is completely controlled. State of Karnataka also has Karnataka (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage of Minerals) Rules 2011 to curb illegalities in Mining and ensure that stringent enforcement is in place.

The State pollution control board team periodically check ambient air quality in every mine to ensure the mitigating measures are well within norms. The monthly reports of environmental monitoring by the lessee is also submitted periodically to IBM, SPCB and MoEF&CC. MOEFCC is also prescribing for installations of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Stations (CAAQMS) in the amendments being made to EC's with production enhancement and link the data for CPCB server.

Exploration, identification of new areas for waste dumping/backfilling upgrading of infrastructure road/rail are continuous process during the entire life cycle of a mine and lessee will approach as and when there is scope for production enhancement which is well supported by demand from mineral consuming industries with proper environmental mitigation measures/safeguards and intended societal development works under CSR/SDF/CER lessee will approach statutory bodies of Government for required approval of EC, mining plan, consent to operate etc.,. The approval process of government agencies is now amended to incorporate concerns and observation of courts and R&R plan of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in case of Karnataka matter.



With above all reforms brought in the statutory & regulatory regime by both central and state government, nowadays systematic & scientific mining is well implemented based on various judicial pronouncements made against the PILs are filed and also based on NGO's/Expert committee inputs etc.,

Moreover, Demand and Supply will maintain the required production level in the country which will be adopted by the production capacity of mine at its marketable strength.

Hence, it is kindly requested to recommend for removal of MPAP.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
for Federation of Indian Mineral Industries

H M Khyum Ali

Encl: As stated above

Karnataka Iron & Steel Manufacturers' Association (KISMA)

ANNEXURE R-3

Vijaya Bank Building, VV Nagar, Toranagallu, Sandur Taluk, Dist: Bellary (Karnataka)

Reg No : 138/2010-II

Reg Office : Toranagallu

Ref. :

Date: 22.07.2024

President

Dr Vinod Nowal

Vice Presidents

R. K. Goyal

Rajkumar Goyal

Secretary

Ramana Kumar

Treasurer

P. K. Murugan

Members

Dinesh Singhi

R. V. Gumaste

Gourav Gupta

Rahul Mittal

Tanveer Ahmed

Madhur Goel

To,
The Member Secretary,
Central Empowered Committee,
2nd Floor, Chanakya Bhawan,
Chanakya Puri, New Delhi - 110021.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Removal of Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) Limit in the districts of Bellary, Vijayanagara, Tumkur and Chitradurga in the State of Karnataka to address the Shortage of Iron Ore supply and its implications on Steel Industries in the State of Karnataka,

At the outset, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the invitation extended to us to participate in the meeting held on 16.07.2024 featuring detailed discussion on the subject matter.

In connection to the above, we (Karnataka Iron and Steel Manufacturer's Association), on behalf of its members submit the following for your kind consideration:

The current steel manufacturing capacity of the members is about 26 MTPA in the state of Karnataka and requires about 44 MT of continuous supply of Iron Ore throughout the year. Further, the production capacity is expected to go up to 34 MTPA by the end of 2025 in view of proposed expansions of the steel manufacturing capacity in the State of Karnataka. To serve the raw material requirement for this capacity, we need 65-70 million tonnes of Iron Ore. With this expansion, there is a corresponding increase in the requirement of raw material (iron ore) by an additional quantity of around 20-25 MTPA (taking into account around 7 MTPA of iron ore being exported from the State of Karnataka).

Considering the above, the demand of iron ore by the steel and the allied industries in the State of Karnataka & adjoining states are shown in the table below:

A. Present & future requirement of iron ore by the Steel Industries in Karnataka & adjoining states.						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Annual Capacity (in MTPA)	Iron ore requirement (in million tonnes)			
			2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
1	JSW Steel Ltd., Vijayanagar Works	18.0	23.0	34.0	36.0	45.0
2	BMM Ispat Ltd.	0.80	3.5	3.5	5.0	5.0
3	Jindal SAW (Sathavahana Steel Ltd.)	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
4	Janki Corp Ltd.	0.6	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0
5	SLR Metaliks Ltd.	0.35	0.6	0.6	1.4	1.4
6	Hospet Steel Ltd. (Kalyani + Mukund)	0.65	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
7	Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd.	1.20	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
8	Minera Steel Ltd	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

R. K. Goyal

Karnataka Iron & Steel Manufacturers' Association (KISMA)

9	Arjas Steel, Andhra Pradesh (acquired by SMIORE)	0.4	0.6	0.6	2.0	2.0
10	Vedanta Ltd, Goa	0.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
11	Electrosteel Castings Ltd., AP	0.48	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
12	JSW Steel Ltd., Salem Works	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
13	Electrotherm, Gujarat	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total (in million tonnes)		25.58	39.78	50.78	57.28	66.28

B. Present & future requirement of iron ore by the Pellet Plants & Sponge Iron producing units in Karnataka.						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Annual Capacity (in MTPA)	Iron ore requirement (in million tonnes)			
			2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
B. Pellet Plants						
1	MSPL Ltd.	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.4	2.4
2	Xindia Steel Ltd.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
3	NMDC Ltd.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
4	KIOCL Ltd.	4	4	4	4	4
5	RPC	-	-	-	1.2	1.2
Total (in million tonnes)		7.2	7.2	7.2	9.6	9.6
C. Sponge Iron Producing Units						
		4	2	2	2	2

Moreover, an approximate quantity of 7.0 million tonnes of iron ore produced in the mines located in Karnataka are likely to be exported to other countries.

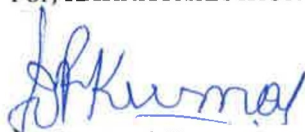
Considering the export of 7.00 million tonnes of iron ore, the requirement of raw material for the domestic steel plants is about 57 million tonnes for FY 2024-25, estimated to rise to 64 million tonnes for FY 2025-26, and further increase to 73 million tonnes by FY 2026-27.

Therefore, we request you to kindly increase the ceiling limit on the production capacity of the iron ore mines from 50 million tonnes to 70 million tonnes in the districts of Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga & Tumkur collectively in order to ensure uninterrupted supply of iron ore to the steel industries in Karnataka and its adjoining states.

Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully,

For, **KARNATAKA IRON & STEEL MANUFACTUREE'S ASSOCIATION**


Authorized Signatory.

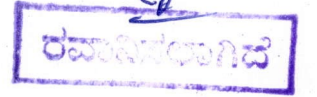


ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿ
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

“ಪರಿಸರ ಭವನ”, 1 ರಿಂದ 5ನೇ ಮಹಡಿಗಳು, ನಂ. 49, ಚರ್ಚ್ ಸ್ಟ್ರೀಟ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 001, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ, ಭಾರತ
 “Parisara Bhavan”, 1st to 5th Floor, # 49, Church Street, Bangalore - 560 001, Karnataka State, India
 //BY RPAD//

NO. KSPCB/SEO/MINES/2024-25/ 1904
 To,
 The Member,
 Central Empowered Committee,
 (Constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India)
 2nd Floor, Chanakya Bhavan,
 Chanakya Puri, New Delhi – 110021.

DATE: 01 AUG 2024



Sir,

Sub: Providing of air quality monitored data from the mining area in Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga and Tumakuru Districts, Karnataka – reg.

Ref: 1. Your letter to the KSPCB dated:16.07.2024.
 2. Letter from Central Empowered Committee (CEC), New Delhi vide F. No.2-91/CEC/SC/2020-Pt.III dated: 31.07.2024.

With reference to the above subject, as informed by the Central Empowered Committee, the monitored data of air quality in respect of iron ore mines and their surrounding areas working in four districts viz., Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga and Tumakuru for the last ten years is herewith enclosed as Annexure.

As per the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) reports, in most of the cases the Particulate Matter (size less than 10 microns) or PM₁₀ values in both Core and Buffer Zones are exceeding the stipulated standard of 100 µg/m³ i.e. National Ambient Air Quality Standards notified by CPCB vide Notification dated:18.11.2009 (copy enclosed). This is for information and further needful.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
KSPCB**

Copy to:

1. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Bengaluru for information.
2. Case file.

Member Secretary

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq, Chitradurga District.	18.04.2013 (3 locations)	98 98 96	28.08.2013 (2 locations)	6 8	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	27.08.2013 (2 locations)	19 186	-	-	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	16.01.2014 17.01.2014 18.01.2014 (3 locations)	96 95 89	-	-	-
4	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416, Vyasanakere Village, Hospet Tq	19.06.2013	68	19.06.2013	36	-
5	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416, Vyasanakere Village, Hospet Tq	22.11.2013	179	22.11.2013	163	-
6	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	19.02.2013	90	19.02.2013	32	-
7	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	20.06.2013	84	20.06.2013	25	-
8	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	15.11.2013	27	15.11.2013	29	-
9	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML No.2516, Dhmapura Village, SandurTq.	18.02.2013	56	18.02.2013	28	-
10	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML No.2516, Dhmapura Village, SandurTq.	21.06.2013	38	21.06.2013	30	-
11	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML No.2516, Dhmapura Village, SandurTq.	14.11.2013	24	14.11.2013	25	-
12	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	14.06.2013	85	14.06.2013	48	-
13	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, Devagiri, SandurTaluk,	13.06.2013	58	13.06.2013	116	-
14	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, Devagiri, SandurTaluk,	13.06.2013	122	13.06.2013	48	-
15	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, Devagiri, Sandur	16.11.2013	61	16.11.2013	33	-
16	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, Devagiri, Sandur	17.11.2013	91	17.11.2013	32	-
17	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	11.02.2013	50	11.02.2013	50	-
18	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	13.06.2013	421	13.06.2013	58	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
19	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	27.12.2013	58	-	-	-
20	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	15.06.2013	259	15.06.2013	79	-
21	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	27.12.2013	122	27.12.2013	58	-
22	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	27.12.2013	49	27.12.2013	56	-
23	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	23.11.2013	29	23.11.2013	24	-
24	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	21.02.2014	84	21.02.2014	87	-
25	Ballari	TiffenBaryties & Asbest Pains Ltd., Haraginadoni	24.06.2013	51	24.06.2013	39	-
26	Ballari	TiffenBaryties & Asbest Pains Ltd., Haraginadoni	13.12.2013	92	13.12.2013	26	-
27	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	14.11.2013	51	14.11.2013	115	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	28.11.2014 01.12.2014 02.12.2014 (3 locations)	157 135 108	-	-	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	06.12.2014 07.12.2014 08.12.2014 09.12.2014 (4 locations)	19 15 13 71	-	-	-
3	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Siddapura Village, HospetTq& Bellary District	12.04.2014	335	-	-	-
4	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company, Hospet Tq, Bellary Dist	02.06.2014	120	-	-	-
5	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Siddapura Village, HospetTq & Bellary District	19.09.2014	29	-	-	-
6	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Siddapura Village, HospetTq & Bellary District	11.11.2014	180	-	-	-
7	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416, Vyasanakere Village, Hospet Tq	07.05.2014	165	07.05.2014	79	-
8	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	12.11.2014	79	12.11.2014	41	-
9	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	10.02.2015	110	-	-	-
10	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Sandur Tq	11.02.2015	66	11.02.2015	41	-
11	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	20.02.2014	42	20.02.2014	44	-
12	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	17.06.2014	75	17.06.2014	16	-
13	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	18.09.2014	17	-	-	-
14	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG, ML No.2516,	19.02.2014	29	19.02.2014	25	-
15	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG	18.06.2014	27	18.06.2014	14	-
16	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines,	18.09.2014	28	18.09.2014	10	-
17	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	27.05.2014	310	27.05.2014	55	-
18	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	08.10.2014	107	08.10.2014	27	-
19	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	09.03.2015	79	-	-	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
20	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, Devagiri, Sandur	16.10.2014	12	16.10.2014	21	-
21	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, Devagiri, Sandur	16.10.2014	68	16.10.2014	28	-
22	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	12.03.2015	228	12.03.2015	78	-
23	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	13.03.2015	343	13.03.2015	36	-
24	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	16.06.2014	48	16.06.2014	11	-
25	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	16.02.2015	122	16.02.2015	44	-
26	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	07.10.2014	81	07.10.2014	12	-
27	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	10.03.2015	112	10.03.2015	15	-
28	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd Mines of Kardikolla IOM, ML No.1246 (2546)	10.11.2014	71	10.11.2014	36	-
29	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	14.05.2014	114	14.05.2014	30	-
30	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2504	16.09.2014	16	16.09.2014	12	-
31	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	11.03.2015	89	11.03.2015	56	-
32	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	21.04.2014	95	21.04.2014	45	-
33	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	23.12.2014	79	23.12.2014	148	-
34	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	23.12.2014	303	23.12.2014	148	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2015-16

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	Megalahalli Village	04.03.2016	-	-	179	-
2	Chitradurga	Sirigere Village	04.03.2016	-	-	59	-
3	Chitradurga	D Madakari Pura Village	04.03.2016	-	-	61	-
4	Chitradurga	Sasalu Village	04.03.2016	-	-	55	-
5	Chitradurga	Tannigihalli Village	04.03.2016	-	-	82	-
6	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	09.06.2015	53	-	25	-
7	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Sandur Tq	06.10.2015	26	-	-	-
8	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	07.10.2015	32	07.10.2015	14	-
9	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	12.02.2016	49	12.02.2016	39	-
10	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Sandur	11.02.2016	21	11.02.2016	115	-
11	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	10.02.2015	46	10.02.2015	21	-
12	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	08.06.2015	82	08.06.2015	14	-
13	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	13.10.2015	27	13.10.2015	29	-
14	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2516,	09.02.2015	35	09.02.2015	41	-
15	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2516	05.06.2015	122	05.06.2015	36	-
16	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2516	09.10.2015	43	09.10.2015	21	-
17	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2517	09.03.2015	79	09.03.2015	15	-
18	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	21.07.2015	148	21.07.2015	75	-
19	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	13.01.2016	173	-	-	-
20	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, SandurTaluk,	29.04.2015	30	29.04.2015	37	-
21	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, SandurTaluk,	29.04.2015	10	29.04.2015	18	-
22	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, SandurTaluk,	29.10.2015	125	29.10.2015	87	-
23	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, SandurTaluk,	30.10.2015	50	30.10.2015	88	-
24	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	24.01.2016	24	24.01.2016	14	-
25	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	21.01.2016	16	21.01.2016	18	-
26	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	10.06.2015	24	10.06.2015	40	-
27	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	08.10.2015	86	08.10.2015	15	-
28	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	22.07.2015	182	-	-	-
29	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	20.01.2016	150	-	-	-
30	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd , ML No.1246 (2546)	17.06.2015	21	17.06.2015	40	-
31	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd Mines of Kardikolla IOM,	16.10.2015	56	16.10.2015	36	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
32	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	18.03.2015	62	18.03.2015	63	-
33	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2504	21.07.2015	18	21.07.2015	42	-
34	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	14.11.2015	21	14.11.2015	19	-
35	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	04.05.2015	55	04.05.2015	61	-
36	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	05.05.2015	66	05.05.2015	42	-
37	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	05.05.2015	48	05.05.2015	66	-
38	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	14.05.2014	114	14.05.2014	30	-
39	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	23.07.2015	43	23.07.2015	109	-
40	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	16.01.2016	111	16.01.2016	20	-
41	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet	15.07.2015	202	15.07.2015	16	-
42	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	14.07.2015	55	14.07.2015	25	-
43	Ballari	Thimmappanagudi IOM of MML, ML No-2605,	23.12.2015	52	-	-	-
44	Ballari	Subbrayanahalli IOM of MML, ML No-2605,	01.02.2016	183	-	-	-
45	Ballari	Subbrayanahalli IOM of MML, ML No-2605,	01.02.2016	148	-	-	-
46	Tumkur	Mineral Enterprises Ltd, (Karnataka Mining Co. Ltd) (Habbigegudda Iron Ore Mines), Ml.No.2333, Sy.No.28 of Yerekatte Village, Sy.No.130 of Honnebagi & Sy.No.37 of Sondenahalli Villages, C.N Halli, Tumkur-Dist.	03.03.2016	52	-	-	Conforming to the standards
47	Tumkur	Shankareshwara Mining Industry (Ganapathi Minerals M. L. No:1700) M. L. No.2570, Sy No: 130(P) of Honnebagi Village, C.N Halli, Tumkur District	04.03.2016	19	-	-	Conforming to the standards
48	Tumkur	Balaji Produce Co., M.L. No.2208, Honnebagi Village, C.N Halli, Tumkur-Dist.	08.03.2016	20	-	-	Conforming to the standards

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2016-17

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, Ml.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	20.04.2016 (6 locations)	237 329 392 225 189 88	22.04.2016 22.04.2016 22.04.2016 27.05.2016 27.05.2016 (5 locations)	84 43 69 150 118	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	28.04.2016 (2 locations)	426 324	27.05.2016 29.07.2016 (2 locations)	92 36	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, Ml.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	25.07.2016 (5 locations)	309 174 101 63 140	29.07.2016 29.07.2016 29.07.2016 21.10.2016 21.10.2016 (5 locations)	79 149 46 145 125	-
4	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	27.07.2016 27.06.2016	307 70	21.10.2016 (2 locations)	175 22	-
5	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	23.12.2016 (2 locations)	417 558	09.12.2016 (2 locations)	174 209	-
6	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, Ml.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	11.01.2017 (6 locations)	192 223 183 284 163 161	09.12.2016 09.12.2016 27.01.2017 27.01.2017 27.01.2017 27.01.2017 04.03.2017 04.03.2017 04.03.2017 04.03.2017 (10 locations)	564 355 86 78 95 87 388 254 126 267	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
7	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Sandur	16.09.2016	139	-	-	-
8	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	24.05.2016	43	24.05.2016	36	-
9	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	20.07.2016	82	-	-	-
10	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	29.09.2016	74	29.09.2016	64	-
11	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	29.09.2016	84	-	-	-
12	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	27.6.2016	11	-	-	-
13	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	22.11.2016	40	22.11.2016	26	-
14	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL,	20.01.2017	116	20.01.2017	45	-
15	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	04.02.2016	151	04.02.2016	68	-
16	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	10.06.2016	35	10.06.2016	14	-
17	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	06.10.2016	26	06.10.2016	31	-
18	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2516,	09.02.2016	88	09.02.2016	63	-
19	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2516,	07.06.2016	50	-	-	-
20	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML 2516,	07.10.2016	52	07.10.2016	18	-
21	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	22.07.2016	110	22.07.2016	20	-
22	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	19.11.2016	22	19.11.2016	139	-
23	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, Devagiri, SandurTaluk,	14.06.2016	13	14.06.2016	20	-
24	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, Devagiri, SandurTaluk,	14.06.2016	22	14.06.2016	42	-
25	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, SandurTaluk,	19.11.2016	49	19.11.2016	22	-
26	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, SandurTaluk,	19.11.2016	34	19.11.2016	29	-
27	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, SandurTaluk,	14.02.2017	19	14.02.2017	53	-
28	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, SandurTaluk,	14.02.2017	24	14.02.2017	95	-
29	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	26.11.2016	87	26.11.2016	32	-
30	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	25.11.2016	38	25.11.2016	38	-
31	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	25.11.2016	47	25.11.2016	38	-
32	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	21.04.2016	84	21.04.2016	19	-
33	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	27.10.2016	39	27.10.2016	22	-
34	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	23.07.2016	68	23.07.2016	36	-
35	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	28.11.2016	25	28.11.2016	140	-
36	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd ML No.1246(2546)	14.10.2016	25	14.10.2016	23	-
37	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd Mines of Kardikolla IOM	01.02.2017	36	01.02.2017	27	-
38	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	30.4.2016	87	30.4.2016	94	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
39	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2504	07.10.2016	25	07.10.2016	43	-
40	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk	23.11.2016	213	23.11.2016	61	-
41	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet	27.5.2016	112	27.5.2016	112	-
42	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet	19.09.2016	65	19.09.2016	92	-
43	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet	21.01.2017	65	21.01.2017	45	-
44	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk	22.12.2016	79	-	-	-
45	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	28.05.2016	72	28.05.2016	106	-
46	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	15.09.2016	217	15.09.2016	13	-
47	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	19.01.2017	116	19.01.2017	60	-
48	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	12.01.2017	62	12.01.2017	32	-
49	Ballari	Thimmappanagudi IOM of MML, ML No-2605,	25.6.2016	34	25.6.2016	20	-
50	Ballari	Subbrayanahalli IOM of MML, ML No-2605,	28.06.2016	36	28.06.2016	26	-
51	Ballari	Subbrayanahalli IOM of MML, ML No-2605,	28.06.2016	21	28.06.2016	53	-
52	Ballari	H.N.Preamkumar Mines, ML No-2538, Hospet	20.09.2016	499	20.09.2016	14	-
53	Ballari	S.V.Chetty Iron Ore Mine, Hospet	29.12.2016	175	-	-	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	09.05.2017 (5 locations)	107 61 242 475 79	20.04.2017 (5 locations)	92 89 93 89 58	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	25.05.2017 (2 locations)	223 293	23.06.2017 23.06.2017 23.06.2017 18.08.2017 26.10.2017 26.10.2017 26.10.2017 26.10.2017 15.02.2018 15.02.2018 15.02.2018 15.02.2018 (12 locations)	30 72 46 11 92 68 62 31 63 106 52 34	-
3	Ballari	RBSSN Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	19.07.2017	88	-	-	-
4	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	13.05.2017	79	-	-	-
5	Ballari	Vyasanakere IOM of M/s MSPL, ML No. 2416,	27.10.2017	38	-	-	-
6	Ballari	Iyli Gurnath IOM of M/s MSPL, Hospet	13.05.2017	17	13.05.2017	58	-
7	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	03.02.2017	32	-	-	-
8	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq,	10.05.2017	149	10.05.2017	36	-
9	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML .2516,	17.01.2017	24	17.01.2017	25	-
10	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML .2516,	09.05.2017	57	09.05.2017	88	-
11	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML .2516,	16.10.2017	52	16.10.2017	34	-
12	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	12.06.2017	85	12.06.2017	60	-
13	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, Sandur	21.10.2017	25	21.10.2017	23	-
14	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2580, SandurTaluk,	06.06.2017	39	06.06.2017	15	-
15	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2581, SandurTaluk,	12.06.2017	114	12.06.2017	32	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
16	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	16.06.2017	40	-	-	-
17	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	15.06.2017	11	-	-	-
18	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	19.01.2017	62	19.01.2017	32	-
19	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	15.05.2017	90	15.05.2017	58	-
20	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Hospet Tq	24.10.2017	14	24.10.2017	39	-
21	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	16.06.2017	27	-	-	-
22	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	21.10.2017	26	-	-	-
23	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd ML No.1246(2546)	06.06.2017	79	-	-	-
24	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2504	20.01.2017	39	-	-	-
25	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2504	19.06.2017	72	-	-	-
26	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	20.06.2017	22	-	-	-
27	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet	15.05.2017	176	-	-	-
28	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet	14.08.2017	19	-	-	-
29	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	16.05.2017	91	-	-	-
30	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	16.08.2017	57	-	-	-
31	Ballari	Thimmappanagudi IOM of Mysore Minerals, ML No-2605, Sandur Taluk, Ballari Dist	16.11.2017	110	-	-	-
32	Ballari	Subbrayanahalli IOM of Mysore Minerals, ML No-2605, Sandur Taluk, Ballari Dist	15.11.2017	118	-	-	-
33	Ballari	H.N.Preamkumar Mines, ML No-2538, Hospet	06.03.2017	81	-	-	-
34	Ballari	S.V.Chetty Iron Ore Mine, Jaisingapura Village	11.08.2017	50	-	-	-
35	Ballari	Haraginadoni IOM of M/s Allum Prashanth	25.07.2017	51	-	-	-
36	Ballari	Sanjeevarayanakote IOM of M/s Allum Prashanth	25.07.2017	41	-	-	-
37	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML No 2678, Sandur Taluk,	16.12.2017	22	16.12.2017	32	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	05.05.2018 (2 locations)	459 369	04.05.2018 (2 locations)	98 49	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	27.06.2018	176	04.05.2018	22	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	10.09.2018 (5 locations)	133 194 229 215 133	04.05.2018 28.06.2018 28.06.2018 28.06.2018 28.06.2018 (5 locations)	37 46 182 54 84	-
4	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	26.09.2018 (3 locations)	168 167 238	27.09.2018 (3 locations)	36 32 69	-
5	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Entreprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML.No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	06.12.2018 (3 locations)	270 170 84	27.09.2018 27.12.2018 27.12.2018 (3 locations)	74 137 49	-
6	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	12.12.2018 (2 locations)	71 437	27.12.2018 (2 locations)	155 50	-
7	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	26.12.2018 (3 locations)	306 235 151	26.12.2018 (3 locations)	221 62 71	-
8	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Siddapura Village,	11.01.2018	34	-	-	-
9	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML No.2516,	28.01.2019	87	28.01.2019	75	-
10	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML No.2516,	24.08.2018	54	24.08.2018	42	-
11	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, ML No.2516,	16.02.2018	40	16.02.2018	57	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
12	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM, M/s NMDC, Devagiri	17.02.2018	46	-	-	-
13	Ballari	Donimalai IOM, M/s NMDC, Donimalai	16.02.2018	64	-	-	-
14	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	31.01.2019	335	31.01.2019	124	-
15	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	24.03.2018	66	-	-	-
16	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	20.08.2018	25	20.08.2018	31	-
17	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd Mines of Kardikolla IOM,	27.01.2018	36	-	-	-
18	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	31.01.2019	291	-	-	-
19	Ballari	Jambunatha IOM of GG Brothers, Hospet Taluk,	24.03.2018	54	-	-	-
20	Ballari	Venktagiri IOM of Lakshmi Minerals, Hospet Taluk,	10.01.2018	155	-	-	-
21	Ballari	Navalatti IOM of HRG Mines & Co, Sandur Taluk,	04.01.2018	41	-	-	-
22	Ballari	VNK Menon	29.01.2019	114	29.01.2019	61	-
23	Ballari	VNK Menon	25.08.2018	69	25.08.2018	40	-
24	Ballari	VNK Menon	17.02.2018	192	-	-	-
25	Ballari	S.V.Chetty Iron Ore Mine, Jaisingapura Village	09.01.2018	24	-	-	-
26	Ballari	Ramanadurga IOM of M/s SKME	24.08.2018	29	-	-	-
27	Ballari	Ramanadurga IOM of M/s SKME	29.01.2019	122	-	-	-
28	Ballari	Jaisingapura IOM of M/s ANS	09.01.2018	116	-	-	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2019-20

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	09.04.2019 (4 locations)	99 455 104 83	15.02.2019 22.03.2019 22.03.2019 22.03.2019 (4 locations)	75 67 781 80	-
	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	27.04.2019 (4 locations)	210 949 425 126	22.03.2019 03.04.2019 03.04.2019 (3 locations)	63 25 113	
2	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Entreprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	26.08.2019 (3 locations)	614 474 411	03.04.2019 03.04.2019 24.07.2019 (3 locations)	44 53 159	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	10.10.2019 (4 locations)	1026 51 620 420	24.07.2019 24.07.2019 22.08.2019	173 118 75	-
4	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Entreprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	13.12.2019 (3 locations)	411 614 474	22.08.2019 22.08.2019 13.12.2019	80 62 121	-
5	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	18.02.2020 (5 locations)	636 556 469 625 436	13.12.2019 13.12.2019 20.03.2020 20.03.2020	182 128 94 90	-
6	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL, Siddapura Village,	19.06.2019	67	19.06.2019	55	-
7	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, SandurTq, Bellary District	13.06.2019	71	13.06.2019	42	-
8	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, RM Block, Sandur	09.04.2019	113	09.04.2019	67	-
9	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, Devagiri, SandurTaluk, Bellary District	11.04.2019	71	11.04.2019	85	-
10	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, Devagiri, SandurTaluk, Bellary District	09.04.2019	58	09.04.2019	71	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
11	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company, Hospet Tq,	09.04.2019	118	09.04.2019	57	-
12	Ballari	Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd Mines of Kardikolla IOM,	10.04.2019	116	10.04.2019	61	-
13	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	10.04.2019	113	10.04.2019	205	-
14	Ballari	S.V.Chetty Iron Ore Mine, Jaisingapura Village	19.06.2019	86	-	-	-
15	Ballari	Jaisingapura IOM of M/s ANS	20.06.2019	159	20.06.2019	73	-
16	Ballari	SKME, ML NO-2141	26.09.2019	76	26.09.2019	67	-
17	Ballari	BKG Mines	26.09.2019	56	-	-	-
18	Ballari	P.Balasubba Shetty Mines	25.09.2019	75	-	-	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	10.09.2020 (4 locations)	86 153 73 60	20.03.2020 20.03.2020 20.03.2020 16.09.2020	88 91 92 29	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	24.09.2020 (5 locations)	28 29 40 23 39	16.09.2020 (5 locations)	27 23 31 35 61	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	05.01.2021 and 06.01.2021 (5 locations)	160 263 229 164 109	-	-	-
4	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	13.01.2021 (3 locations)	641 388 720	-	-	-
5	Ballari	P.Balasubba Shetty Mines	13.01.2020	54	-	-	-
6	Ballari	BKG Mines, ML. NO2516	20.01.2020	63	20.01.2020	78	-
7	Ballari	BKG Mines	15.12.2020	41	15.12.2020	33	-
8	Ballari	SKME, ML No-2141	15.12.2020	68	-	-	-
9	Ballari	Tunga IOM of M/s JSW Mines	21.01.2021	45	-	-	-
10	Ballari	Rama IOM of M/s JSW Mines	22.01.2021	71	-	-	-
11	Ballari	Bhadra IOM of M/s JSW Steels	21.01.2021	131	-	-	-
12	Ballari	Dharma IOM of M/s JSW Mines	22.01.2021	66	-	-	-
13	Ballari	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Mines	25.01.2021	125	-	-	-

*** Due to Covid, Monitoring is not done in Ballari

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	10.08.2021 and 11.08.2021 (5 locations)	124 77 135 79 79	09.12.2020 (4 locations)	75 55 44 96	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	21.08.2021 (4 locations)	245 385 223 139	-	-	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	10.08.2021 and 11.08.2021 (4 locations)	184 229 778 160	-	-	-
4	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	16.02.2022 (4 locations)	121 224 224 90	16.02.2022 (4 locations)	61 114 107 124	-
5	Ballari	BKG Mines	16.12.2021	39	16.12.2021	52	-
6	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of M/s Zeenath Transport	14.12.2021	58	14.12.2021	47	-
7	Ballari	SKME, ML No-2141	16.12.2021	168	16.12.2021	48	-
8	Ballari	M/s Ramgad Manganese IOM of M/s SMIORE,	14.12.2021	128	14.12.2021	52	-
9	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, RM Block,	14.12.2021	73	14.12.2021	48	-
10	Ballari	Dharmapura IOM of M/s VNK Menon	16.12.2021	124	16.12.2021	52	-
11	Ballari	Ramanadurga IOM of M/s SKME	16.12.2021	168	16.12.2021	41	-
12	Ballari	Nandi IOM of M/s JSW Steels	09.02.2022	83	-	-	-
13	Ballari	Tunga IOM of M/s JSW Mines	08.02.2022	63	08.02.2022	49	-
14	Ballari	Rama IOM of M/s JSW Mines	10.02.2022	69	-	-	-
15	Ballari	Bhadra IOM of M/s JSW Steels	07.02.2022	53	07.02.2022	77	-
16	Ballari	Dharma IOM of M/s JSW Mines	10.02.2022	76	-	-	-
17	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526, Sandur	07.02.2022	79	07.02.2022	65	-
18	Ballari	M/s Ramgad Manganese IOM of M/s SMIORE,	08.02.2022	82	08.02.2022	56	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
19	Ballari	P.Balasubba setty & Sons	14.02.2022	79	-	-	-
20	Ballari	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Mines	09.02.2022	71	09.02.2022	53	-
21	Ballari	Devadari IOM of M/s JSW Steels	09.02.2022	76	-	-	-
22	Ballari	Donimalai IOM of M/s NMDC	28.02.2022	168	28.02.2022	83	-
23	Ballari	Donimalai IOM of M/s NMDC	28.02.2022	124	28.02.2022	124	-
24	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM of M/s NMDC	02.03.2022	69	02.03.2022	74	-
25	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM of M/s NMDC	02.03.2022	87	02.03.2022	147	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	22.11.2022 and 23.11.2022 (5 locations)	242 753 173 145 106	05.03.2022 05.03.2022 27.07.2022 18.01.2023 18.01.2023	37 31 68 85 62	-
2	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Enterprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	01.12.2022 (3 locations)	6102 374 1225	18.01.2023 (3 locations)	85 75 62	-
3	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	05.12.2022 (3 locations)	1971 1225 1151	-	-	-
4	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Enterprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy. No: 3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	08.02.2023 (3 locations)	375 412 203	08.02.2023 (3 locations)	-	-
5	Chitradurga	SJMP Holdings (V.Suheelamma Minee), ML No. 2626/2639, D.B.Kere Iron & Manganese Ore Mines	02.03.2023	194	02.03.2023	-	-
6	Chitradurga	Garudadri Impex Pvt. Ltd., ML No 2583, Dodda byaladakere	02.03.2023	334	02.03.2023	-	-
7	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	21.03.2023 (3 locations)	231 206 347	21.03.2023 (3 locations)	-	-
8	Ballari	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Steels	02.12.2022	68	02.12.2022	53	-
9	Ballari	BKG Mines	04.02.2023	41	04.02.2023	45	-
10	Ballari	Ramanadurga IOM of M/s SKME	07.02.2023	52	07.02.2023	66	-
11	Ballari	Tunga IOM of M/s JSW Steels	15.02.2023	57	15.02.2023	47	-
12	Ballari	Rama IOM of M/s JSW Steels	17.02.2023	119	17.02.2023	174	-
13	Ballari	Bhadra IOM of M/s JSW Steels	15.02.2023	112	-	-	-
14	Ballari	Dharma IOM of M/s JSW Steels	17.02.2023	65	-	-	-
15	Ballari	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Steels	22.02.2023	63	-	-	-
16	Ballari	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Steels	22.02.2023	183	-	-	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
17	Ballari	Devadari IOM of M/s JSW Steels	16.02.2023	33	-	-	-
18	Ballari	Nandi IOM of M/s JSW Steels	16.02.2023	53	-	-	-
19	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL,	03.02.2023	52	-	-	-
20	Ballari	Karadikolla IOM of M/s MSPL,	22.02.2023	122	-	-	-
21	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No.2526,	06.02.2023	57	-	-	-
22	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, RM Block,	03.02.2023	58	-	-	-
23	Ballari	M/s Ramgad Manganese IOM of M/s SMIORE,	03.02.2023	49	03.02.2023	331	-
24	Ballari	Dharmapura IOM of M/s VNK Menon	04.02.2023	45	04.02.2023	45	-
25	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	06.02.2023	65	-	-	-
26	Ballari	Kardikolla IOM of Chowgule & Co.Pvt Ltd	13.02.2023	52	13.02.2023	28	-
27	Ballari	M.Hanumatharao Mines ML No.2503	02.03.2023	124	02.03.2023	56	-

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA OF IRON ORE MINES FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

SI No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
1	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	24.05.2023 and 25.05.2023 (5 locations)	303 398 407 918 313	02.06.2023 02.06.2023 02.06.2023 07.06.2023 07.06.2023 (5 locations)	123 51 57 143 25	-
2	Chitradurga	M/s. Mineral Entreprises Ltd)	24.05.2023 and 25.05.2023	260	07.06.2023	25	-
3	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Entreprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	01.06.2023 (3 locations)	199 220 154	07.06.2023 07.06.2023 10.10.2023 (3 locations)	20 49 73	-
4	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	16.06.2023 (3 locations)	316 1179 219	16.06.2023 (3 locations)	45 48 31 85	-
5	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Entreprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	30.10.2023 (3 locations)	268 242 139	30.10.2023 (3 locations)	58 96 63	-
6	Chitradurga	M/s. John Mines Ltd, ML.No.2294 Sy No.21 of Megalahalli, Sy no:35 of Tanigehalli and Sy no:01 of Chowdenahalli Village, Megalahalli Village, Chitradurga & Holalkere Tq	27.12.2023 (4 locations)	1869 329 2448 810	27.12.2023 (4 locations)	67 78 63 85	-
7	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	29.12.2023 and 30.12.2023 (4 locations)	320 458 924 447	29.12.2023 and 30.12.2023 (4 locations)	142 90 157 134	-
8	Chitradurga	M/s. Mineral Enterprises	29.12.2023 and 30.12.2023	329	-	-	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
9	Chitradurga	Bhomman (BBH) Iron Ore Mine of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (Formerly BBH Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Mineral Enterprises Ltd) ML No:0014 (Old ML..No. 2346) Sy No:3,4,5,9,18,20,21 & 107/P	15.02.2024 (3 locations)	150 389 230	-	-	-
10	Chitradurga	M/s Vedanta Limited. A Narrain Iron Ore Mine, ML.No. 2677 , Megalahally Office Complex, Near Megalahally Village, Bheemasamudra-577520	19.02.2024 and 20.02.2024 (4 locations)	494 197 660 274	-	-	-
11	Ballari	BKG Mines	26.06.2023	57	26.06.2023	41	-
12	Ballari	SMIORE Mines	27.06.2023	43	27.06.2023	53	-
13	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML.No-2678	27.06.2023	43	27.06.2023	67	-
14	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML.No-2678	12.02.2024	66	12.02.2024	67	-
15	Ballari	M/s SMIORE, ML.No-2679	12.02.2024	87	12.02.2024	57	-
16	Ballari	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, RM Block,	25.08.2023	66	-	-	-
17	Ballari	Iyli Gurunath IOM of M/s MSPL,	25.08.2023	64	-	-	-
18	Ballari	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company,	28.08.2023	48	-	-	-
19	Ballari	P.Balasubba Setty Mines, Kariganur Village, Hospet Tq	28.08.2023	62	-	-	-
20	Ballari	Haddinapade IOM of M/s BKG Mines, Dharmapuar Village, Sandur Taluk	03.02.2024	66	03.02.2024	68	-
21	Ballari	Ramgad Manganese & IOM, ML No-2679	03.02.2023	49	-	-	-
22	Ballari	Ramgad Iron ore mine of M/s Zeenath Transport Company, ML no-2547, Sandur Tq,	03.02.2023	64	-	-	-
23	Ballari	Ramanadurga IOM of M/s SKME, ML NO-2141, Sandur Tq	05.02.2024	150	-	-	-
24	Ballari	Dharmapura IOM of M/s VNK Menon, ML.no-2543,Sandur Tq	05.02.2023	172	-	-	-
25	Ballari	Ramana Malai IOM of M/s VESCO, RM Block, ML no-2296, Sandur Tq	06.02.2023	73	06.02.2023	68	-
26	Ballari	Bhadra IOM, ML no-007	15.03.2024	73	15.03.2024	82	-
27	Ballari	Tunga IOM of M/s JSW Steel, mL No-004	15.03.2024	66	15.03.2024	60	-
28	Ballari	Rama IOM of M/s JSW Steel, ML No-009	13.03.2024	75	13.03.2024	55	-
29	Ballari	Dhrma IOM of M/s JSW Steel, ML No-0013	13.03.2024	61	13.03.2024	59	-
30	Ballari	Devadari IOM of M/s JSW Steel, ML No-006	12.03.2024	83	12.03.2024	47	-
31	Ballari	Nandi IOM Of M/s JSW Steel, ML No-005	12.03.2024	64	12.03.2024	64	-

Sl No.	District	Name and address of the Iron Ore Mine with M. L. No.	Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM)				Remarks
			Date of monitoring	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	Date of monitoring	Buffer Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	
32	Ballari	Narayana IOM of M/s JSW Steel, ML.No-0012	14.03.2024	58	14.03.2024	61	-
33	Ballari	Kumaraswamy IOM of M/s NMDC	13.02.2024	69	13.02.2024	66	-
34	Ballari	Dinimalai IOM of M/s NMDC	14.02.2024	302	14.02.2024	126	-
35	Ballari	Nadeem Minerals, ML No-2526	11.03.2024	68	-	-	-
36	Ballari	Haraginadoni IOM, ML.No-2352	26.02.2024	67	26.02.2024	56	-
37	Ballari	Sanjeevarayanakote IOM, ML No-2289	23.02.2024	78	23.02.2024	48	-

NOTE BY M.K.JIWRAJKA, FORMER MEMBER SECRETARY, CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE IN IA NO. 250 / 2016 IN / AND IA NO. 247 IN WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 562 OF 2009.

BACKGROUND

1. This Hon'ble Court by order dated 13th April, 2012, and Judgment dated 18th April, 2013 has prescribed a ceiling of 30 MMT (25 MMT for District Bellary and 5 MMT for Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur together) on total production of iron ore from all the mining leases (Category-A, Category-B and Category-C).

2. This Hon'ble Court by the above said order / judgment approved the "guidelines for preparation of R&R Plans". These guidelines Inter-alia provide for preparation and approval of lease wise R&R Plans. The R&R Plans prescribe Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) for each lease, being the minimum of that based on (a) mineral resources, (b) overburden dump capacity and (c) available infrastructure. The prescribed MPAP is to be reviewed / modified (refer para 21 of the judgement) only after (and if) additional mineral resources are found during subsequent exploration and incorporated in the Mining Plan / Scheme of Mining approved by the IBM and / or additional area for overburden dump is identified and approved by the IBM and / or additional mining related

infrastructure such as conveyer systems, railway sidings and railway lines is created.

3. This Hon'ble Court by order dated 5th August, 2011 and subsequent orders has permitted the NMDC Ltd. to annually produce 12 MMT of iron ore from its two mining leases namely ML No. 1111 and ML No. 2396. The MPAP prescribed in the subsequently approved R&R Plans of these two leases adds to 9.45 MMT (6.07 MMT for ML No. 1111 and 3.38 MMT for ML No. 2396). Thus, the presently permitted production is 2.55 MMT over and above that is prescribed in the approved R&R Plans.

This Hon'ble Court in the judgment dated 1st September, 2016 in IA Nos. 259 and 263 has stated that "*Shri Shyam Divan, learned amicus curiae, may at an appropriate stage, mention the matter so far as the issues relating the continuance of the special dispensation in favour of NMDC and norms to govern exports are concerned.*"

4. In addition this Hon'ble Court by order dated 1st September, 2014 has permitted Mysore Mineral Ltd. (M/s MML) to annually produce additional 3 MMT of iron ore (beyond the prescribed MPAPs) from its mining leases (namely ML No. 2605 and ML No. 2629). The prescribed MPAP of these two

leases adds to 1.06 MMT (0.65 MMT for ML No. 2605 and 0.41 MMT for ML No. 2629).

The Hon'ble Court in the said order has stated that *"it shall be open to either party to seek alternation of this order as and when such occasion arises."*

5. This Hon'ble Court in its order dated 24th February, 2014 in 1A Nos. 188, 194 and 204 has inter-alia directed that *"we make it clear that we will not review the cap of 30 MMT of total production of iron ore is fixed by the Court in the aforesaid judgment of this Court in Pervatan Samudaya (supra)."*

6. The modalities for the auction of cancelled Category-C mining leases have been decided by this Hon'ble Court by order dated 30th July, 2016. This Hon'ble Court in its another order dated 30th July, 2015 in Review Petition (C) No. 692 of 2014 has inter-alia directed that *"the reliefs claimed in the review petition i.e. with regard to lifting of cap of 25 Million Metric Tonnes for Bellary District and cap of 5 Million Metric Tonnes for Chitradurga and Tumkur Districts together will be considered at the appropriate time and stage."*

7. In the Note dated 3rd October, 2016 filed by the Former Member Secretary, CEC the details of the funds available with the Monitoring Committee, relevant Supreme Court orders / judgment, category wise details of the mining leases and status

of the implementation of the R&R Plans, present production, expected production and cap on total production have been dealt with. In the said Note inter-alia it was stated that

- (a) out of 94 Category-A and Category-B mining leases with approved R&R Plans, 32 mining leases (30 in District Bellary and 2 in District Chitradurga) are presently operational. The MPAP of these leases adds to 28.99 MMT;
- (b) out of the balance 62 non operating mining leases with total MPAP of 7.11 MMT, 9 mining leases with MPAP of 3.13 MMT may become operational in near future and balance 53 leases with MPAP of 3.78 MMT may not become operational. These balance 53 leases include ML No. 2010 (Dalmia Mines) with MPAP of 1.06 MMT which has been cancelled by this Hon'ble Court and is to be auctioned (after filing of the said Note M/s MEL (ML No. 2346), H.G. Rangangouda (ML No. 2549), Narayana Mines (ML No. 1602) and M/s Garudadhri Impex (ML No. 2583) have become operational. Thus presently 36 mining leases, 32 in District Bellary and 4 mining leases in District Chitradurga are operational with MPAP of 26.898 MMT and 3.618 MMT respectively. In addition,

SKME (ML No. 2141) with MPAP of 0.64 MMT is stated to have recently been permitted to become operational);

- (c) out of 51 Category-C mining leases a total of 13 mining leases are likely to be successfully auctioned. In addition, Dalmia mining lease (a Category-A lease cancelled under the directions of this Hon'ble Court's order in SLP No. 32226/2009) is likely to be successfully auctioned. The MPAP of these 14 leases is expected to be to the tune of about 13 MMT (refer para IV (vii & viii) at page nos. 12-13 of the said Note).

8. In the Report dated 29th April, 2016 of the CEC captioned "Report of the CEC regarding the scheme namely Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) prepared by the Government of Karnataka for taking ameliorative and mitigative measures in Districts Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur in the State of Karnataka, increase in the cap on production of iron ore and associated issues" and Note dated 26th September, 2016 jointly prepared by the Amicus Curiae, the CEC and M.K. Jiwrajka (former Member Secretary, CEC) following recommendations pertaining to

mining related infrastructure and cap on production have been made

"(x) the closed pipe downhill conveyor systems will be installed at their cost by;

(a) each one of the Category-A / Category-B leases with MPAP of 1 MMT and above and balance lease period of 8 years and above (six leases in District Bellary and one in District Chitradurga identified);

(b) each one of the auctioned Category-C leases and Dalmia Lease (ML No. 2010) with MPAP of 0.75 MMT and above (ten leases provisionally identified);

(c) all nine new leases proposed to be auctioned, Category-A and Category-B leases that may be auctioned after expiry of their lease periods and leases that may be granted under section 10A (2) (c) and 10A (2) (a) of the MMDR Act (presently 10 leases identified); and

(d) JSW Steel Ltd., the largest buyers of iron ore (buyer of about 70% of the iron ore

produced in these Districts) between Nandihalli to its plant at Turanagallu and linked conveyer system with a capacity for annual transportation of at least 15 MMT of iron ore.

The respective lessees / successful bidders of auctioned lease will be required to finalize the alignment within a maximum period of three months.

The area for the Right of Way (ROW) and / or the approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, will be acquired / obtained by the State Government at the cost of the respective lessees / Steel Plant. Such acquisition of ROW / approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act will not be treated as mining or related activities but for the purpose of the implementation of the CEPMIZ. The State Government and the MoEFCC will expedite the necessary clearances / approvals.

The lessees / Steel Plant will be required to install the conveyer system within

a maximum period of 18 months after the area under the ROW is made available falling which the mining operations in the concerned lease(s) will be suspended and permitted to recommence only after the conveyer system is installed.

(xi) the identified lessees dealt with above will also be required to individually / collectively construct or up-grade railway sidings so that the bulk of the mineral produced in such mining leases is transported through closed pipe conveyer systems / railways and not by road. Wherever, due to technical reasons / practical difficulties the individual lessees are not in a position to undertake construction / up-gradation of railway sidings, KMERC may undertake such construction on capital cost recovery basis;

(xii) total production of 30 MMT from operating Category-A / Category-B leases and those granted under section 10A (2) (a) and 10 A (2) (c) of the MMDR Act will be permissible i.e.,

the present cap will not apply to the auctioned leases.

Under the directions of this Hon'ble Court NMDC Ltd. has been permitted to produce 12 MMT annually from its two mining leases. The MPAP as per the approved R&R Plans for its ML No. 1111 is 6.07 MMT and for ML No. 2396 is 3.38 MMT i.e. presently permitted production, under the directions of this Hon'ble Court, is 2.55 MMT more than the total of MPAP permissible in the approved R&R Plans. In addition, the MML has been permitted under the directions of this Hon'ble Court to produce 3 MMT of iron ore beyond the MPAP as per the approved R&R Plans of its two mining leases. As and when the sum total of production from the operating Category-A / Category-B leases and section 10A (2) (a) and 10A (2) (c) leases is likely to exceed 30 MMT the production of additional 2.55 MMT from two Mines of NMDC Ltd. and additional 3 MMT from the two Mines of MML will be permissible to be reduced on pro-rata basis and to such an extent that the total

production from all the Mining Leases, does not exceed the cap.*

(xiii) additional production of 10 MMT will be permissible from the auctioned Category C and auctioned Dalmia mining leases and subject to the compliance of the prescriptions of the R&R. Plans, lease wise permissible MPAP and condition regarding installation of conveyer belt systems and railway sidings dealt with earlier.

(xiv) this Hon'ble Court may consider any further enhancement of production only after the proposed construction of conveyer belt systems for downhill transportation, conveyer belt system by JSW Steel Ltd. and the construction / up-gradation of railway sidings are completed and the objective of ensuring transportation of most of the mineral by railways / conveyer system is achieved i.e. a situation is reached on the ground where even if any further enhancement of production is permitted, the present level of transportation of mineral by road would not exceed.

*NOTE

No mining lease under Section 10A (2) (c) and 10A (2) (a) of the MMRD Act has been executed before the last date prescribed in the Act. Similarly, no new mining lease has till date been granted / executed.

9. This Hon'ble Court in its judgment dated 21st March, 2017 in IA Nos. 247, 250 and 252, after considering the above said Report / Note, approved the proposed integrated mining and part of the railway infrastructure namely construction of the conveyer belt system, railway siding and railway sub-lines stating that such infrastructure would constitute the most significant steps towards controlling the environmental pollution that persist on account of open movement of Iron ore by road. The Hon'ble Court directed the State of Karnataka and the CEC to submit a detailed proposal with regard to implementation of the scheme of construction of conveyer belt system in respect of existing leases and the details of the project relating to the construction of railway siding and railway sub-lines. The Hon'ble Court further observed that *"No sooner the said proposal/report is filed before this Court, further orders will follow."* The construction of the railway line from Tumkur to Davanagere via Chitradurga (present estimated cost is Rs.1676.595 crores) was not approved by the

Hon'ble Court for inclusion in the integrated mining related infrastructure scheme.

10. IA No. 273 / 2017 has been filed by KISMA seeking directions that auctioned Category-C mining leases be permitted to undertake production of 10 MMT of iron ore over and above the current cap of 30 MMT as per their approved R&R Plans and subject to creation of necessary infrastructure facilities namely conveyer belt system, railway sidings and railway sub-lines (mining related infrastructure). The Hon'ble Court by order dated 25th April, 2017 directed the CEC to file its Report explaining as to why in the present circumstances and in the light of developments that have taken place there is necessity to raise the cap beyond 30 MMT.

11. In the Report dated 14th July, 2017 filed by the CEC in the said matter it is recommended that the cap on production for Category-A and Category-B leases in District Bellary be increased from 25 MMT to 28 MMT and for Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur together from 5 MMT to 7 MMT. For providing greater flexibility a combined cap for all the three Districts may be prescribed. NMDC Ltd. may be allowed to continue to annually produce 12 MMT. In respect of MML, during 2017-2018 production of 2 MMT may be permitted and from 2018-2019 it be regulated as per approved R&R Plans.

The CEC has also recommended that no cap on production by auctioned Category-C leases be prescribed and such leases may be allowed to produce as per their R&R Plans.

12. This Hon'ble Court by order dated 27th July, 2017 has directed that Mr. Shyam Divan, Amicus Curiae will interact with the Members of the CEC to understand the basis on which the recommendations for lifting of the cap on production have been made.

13. In compliance of the Hon'ble Court judgement dated 21st March, 2017 the State of Karnataka has filed a detailed proposal dated 14th July, 2017 regarding the scheme of construction of conveyer belt system, railway sidings and railway sub-lines and associated matters through KMERC. Thereafter the CEC has filed its Report dated 10th August, 2017. The State Government and the CEC has recommended

- (a) laying of 9 individual closed conveyer system by the respective lessees in District Bellary namely (i) 4 by already auctioned Category-C mining leases namely Rama Rao Poal (ML No. 2621), Hothur Traders (ML No. 2313), V.S. Lad (ML No. 2290) and TML (ML Nos. 2365 and 2366), (ii) 2 by yet to be auctioned Category-C mining leases namely HRG (ML No. 2148) and BMM (ML No. 2245) (iii) 2 by

SMIORE (ML No. 2580 / 2678) and (iv) 1 by MML (ML No. 2605). The cost is to be met by the lessees;

- (b) laying of 13 common downhill closed hill system by cluster of mining leases in District Bellary (includes the leases which are not likely to become operational and also Category-C leases not likely to be successfully auctioned). Cost is to be met by the lessees;
- (c) laying of 5 common downhill closed conveyor system by cluster of mining leases in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur. The cost is to be met by the lessees;
- (d) installation of closed conveyor system over a distance of 20 km by JSW Steel Ltd. (work is stated to have already been started) the cost is to be met by the JSW Steel Ltd.;
- (e) construction of 9 new railway sidings in District Bellary (on 7 new sub-lines);
- (f) construction of 3 new railway sidings in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur (1 each on 3 new sub-lines);

- (g) construction of 7 new sub-lines in District Bellary;
- (h) construction of 3 new sub-lines in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur (2 sub-lines will connect to new Tumkur-Davanagere railway line and 1 sub-line will connect to an existing railway line);
- (i) construction of new Tumkur Davanagere railway line;
- (j) construction of 10 new roads totalling 84.50 km in length in District Bellary;
- (k) construction of 8 new roads totalling 77 km in length in District Chitradurga; and
- (l) construction of 3 new roads totalling 48.20 km in length in District Tumkur.

14. The estimated cost of the projects / works proposed to be financed by the KEMRC is estimated to be Rs. 3543.38 crores.

The details are as under:

Railway sidings / sub-lines	-	1203.60	crores
Tumkur Davanagere railway line	-	913.08	crores
Construction of roads	-	393.19	crores
Sub Total	-	2509.87	crores
Land cost for railway line	-	763.52	crores
Land cost for railway sub-lines/sidings	-	270.00	crores
Sub Total	-	1033.52	crores
Grand Total	-	3543.38	crores

15. Out of the above estimated project cost, the estimated expenditure for the construction of new railway line, 3 new railway sub-lines and 5 common conveyor systems and roads in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur is about Rs. 2554 crores. The details are as under:

S.NO.	PARTICULARS OF WORKS	ESTIMATED COST (IN CR.)
i	Tumkur to Davanagere new railway line (construction cost share)	913.075
ii	Tumkur to Davanagere new railway line (land acquisition cost)	763.52
iii	3 new railway sub-lines including 3 railway sidings	653.11
iv	Road constructions in District Chitradurga	127.79
v	Road constructions in District Tumkur	96.40
	Total	2553.895 crores

16. There are 4 operating mining leases in District Chitradurga. There is no operating mining lease in District Tumkur. The sum total of the MPAP of all the 4 operating mining leases is 3.618 MMT out of which 3.61 MMT pertains to 3 mining leases namely Sesa Goa, MEL and R.Praveen Chandra with MPAP of 2.29, 0.57 and 0.75 MMT respectively. These 3 mining leases are not planned to be connected with the railway line / sub-line by construction of conveyor systems. Only 1 operating mining lease (ML No. 2583) with MPAP of 0.008 MMT is planned to be connected.

17. In the affidavit dated 10th August, 2017 filed by Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), Southern Region a number of objections have been raised against the above said scheme.

18. The sum total of the maximum permissible annual production (MPAP), as prescribed in the approved R&R plans, of presently operating 32 mining leases in District Bellary and 4 mining leases in District Chitradurga comes to 21,348 MMT and 3,618 MMT respectively, the total being 24,966 MMT. In addition under the directions of the Hon'ble Court additional production of 2.55 MMT and 3 MMT (total being 5.55 MMT) in the mining leases of NMDC Ltd and MML respectively, beyond the MPAP's, is permissible. Thus, for the operating leases the sum total of the MPAP and the production permitted by the Hon'ble Court adds to 26,898 MMT in District Bellary and 3,618 MMT in District Chitradurga, the total being 30,516 MMT. No mining lease is operational in District Tumkur. In view of the cap of 25 MMT for District Bellary, the production presently permitted by the Monitoring Committee in each of the leases in the District, except those of the NMDC Ltd. and MML, are less than the respective lease wise MPAP's.

19. In respect of 13 mining leases the proposals for increasing the MPAP by 3.56 MMT (0.6872 MMT for leases in District Bellary and 2.868 MMT for leases in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur) are under consideration of the CEC.

The CEC has by letter dated 23rd March, 2017 sought clarification from the State Government on a number of issues. Simultaneously it has asked the Monitoring Committee to provide its observations in the matter. The response of the State Government and also that of the Monitoring Committee is stated to be awaited. The major increase recommended in the production is in respect of M/s Sesa Sterlite Ltd. (from 2.29 MMT to 4.51 MMT). Its production was earlier fixed provisionally at 2.29 MMT (as there were doubts about the extent of the minable reserves).

20. Out of 36 presently non operating mining leases with substantial progress in implementation of the R&R Plans, most do not have all the required statutory approvals and are not likely to become operational in near future. The MPAP of the leases likely to become operational may be to the tune of 1-1.5 MMT.

21. Hardly any lease out of 24 presently non operating mining leases with poor progress / no progress of R&R Plans is likely to become operational in the near future. Moreover, out of 1.8834 MMT of such leases 1.06 MMT pertains to Dalmia mining lease (ML No. 2010) which has been cancelled by the Hon'ble Court and is to be auctioned. The lease is not likely to become operational in next 3 years of so as before auction exploration of mineral will be required. Most of the other leases

do not have all the required statutory approvals particularly the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 approval and are having small deposits (the total MPAP's of all the 23 leases together is 0.8234 MMT).

22. NMDC Ltd. has completed the installation of second closed pipe downhill conveyer system and most of the production can now be transported down by conveyor system and thereafter by railways. The proposal for enhancing MPAP of its mining leases is under consideration of the CEC.

23. Out of about 28.56 MMT of iron ore sold / transported in 2015-2016 about 21.52 MMT (75.35%) pertained to JSW Steel Ltd., VJNR, BMM Ispat, Kalyani Gerdau and JSW Steel Ltd., Salem and all of whom have railway sidings in their plants (refer Statement-4 at page No. 40 of the Note dated 3rd October, 2016). Therefore, transportation of iron ore from the mining lease and upto these plants is technically feasible. However, there are a number of mini steel plants and other allied industries dependent upon the Iron ore sourced from the mining leases in these three Districts and who do not have railway sidings. In respect of such plants the transportation of iron ore by road is required to be continued particularly as the construction of railway lines / railway sidings connecting each of the plants is not practical feasible at all. Further, the construction of downhill conveyor systems / railway sidings,

whether individually or collectively, for mining leases with total permissible production say less than 0.75 MMT is not practically viable.

It may therefore be appropriate that the mining related infrastructure plan is prepared and implemented with the objective of ensuring transportation of iron ore to the tune of about 70-75% of total production by downhill conveyor system / inland conveyor system / railways and balance by road.

24. Out of 36 operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases with total MPAP (including additional quantities permitted by the Hon'ble Court) of 30.516 MMT, 24.110 MMT (79%) pertains to 9 leases. The details are as under:

S.NO.	NAME OF THE LEASE	DISTRICT	MPAP
1	NMDC Ltd. (ML No. 1111)	Bellary	6.00 MMT
2	NMDC Ltd. ML No. 2396	Bellary	6.00 MMT
3	MML (ML No. 2605)	Bellary	1.06 MMT
4	MML ML No. 2629	Bellary	3.00 MMT
5	Sesa Goa (ML No. 2677)	Chitradurga	2.29 MMT
6	MSPL (ML No. 2416)	Bellary	1.80 MMT
7	SMIORE (ML No. 2580)	Bellary	1.60 MMT
8	B.Kumar Gowda (ML No. 2516)	Bellary	1.26 MMT
9	VESCO (ML No. 2296)	Bellary	1.10
	Total		24.11 MMT (79%)

25. The construction / up-gradation of road for transportation of mineral from the mining lease to the existing public road is invariably undertaken by the lessee(s) at his cost.

26. Out of 7 Category-C mining leases which have so far been successfully auctioned, 5 mining leases pertain to JSW Steel Ltd. and where downhill closed pipe conveyor systems connecting to the railway sidings has been agreed to by the buyer (provided ROW for 1 of the mining leases namely Hothur Traders (ML No. 2313) is agreed to be provided / shared by NMDCL Ltd.). The balance 2 leases have been purchased by MSPL Ltd. Out of these 2 mining leases, the R&R Plans for LMC (ML No. 2487) with 0.51 MMT of MPAP is stated to have been prepared and wherein based on the criteria of minimum 0.75 MMT MPAP the construction of the stand alone conveyor systems may not be feasible. The estimated mineral reserves / resources of the other mining lease namely Karthikeya (ML No. 2559) is 28.47 MMT. The R&R Plan is stated to be under preparation. However, based on the mineral resources it may be feasible to prescribe / undertake construction of the conveyor system.

Thus, out of 7 successfully auctioned mining leases, construction of conveyor systems in 6 mining leases is feasible.

27. In the affidavit dated 15th July, 2017 filed by the State Government (response of the State Government to the IA No. 273 of 2017) it is stated that the iron ore requirement of the steel and allied industries dependent on the iron ore from Karnataka, as per the information provided by the Ministry of

Steel, Government of India, is 54.98 MMT (refer paragraph No. 22, page No. 8 with Annexure-1 at page Nos. 14-15 of the said affidavit). The CEC in its Report dated 14th July, 2017 in IA No. 273 has stated that the present requirement is about 35-37 MMT and which is expected to increase to 48-50 MMT on completion of the ongoing projects (refer para 23, page Nos. 15-16 of the said Report). As per the details provided by the KISMA (refer Statement-4 at page No. 40 of the Note dated 3rd October, 2016) the iron ore requirement during 2017-2018 is 37.68 MMT and which increases to 38.58 MMT in 2018-2019, 45.58 MMT in 2019-2020 and 50.43 MMT in 2020-2021.

The realistic present requirement of iron ore may be to the tune of about 35 MMT and which may increase to 40 MMT by 2020-2021.

28. As per the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 as amended with effect from 12th January, 2015, a large number of Category-A and Category-B mining leases will expire on 1.4.2020 and onwards (refer lease wise and year wise details given at Statement-2 at page Nos. 19-26 of the Note dated 3rd October, 2016). While considering any increase in cap on total production by Category-A and Category-B mining leases this aspect may also be required to be considered.

29. In Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur 5 common conveyor systems are planned to be constructed by the lessees of 28 mining leases connecting to 3 new railway sidings, 1 each connecting to 3 new railway sub-lines (out of which 2 new railway sub-lines are planned to be connected to new Tumkur - Davanagere railway line and 1 sub-line to an existing railway sub-line). Out of 28 mining leases, 12 mining leases are non operational Category-A / Category-B leases, 13 mining leases are Category-C mining leases not so far put up for auction and 2 mining leases are Category-C mining leases put up for auction but not successfully auctioned. Only 1 operating mining lease (ML NO. 2583) with MPAP of 0.008 MMT is included. The lease wise details are as under:

SN.	CONVEYOR	NAME OF LESSEE AND ML NO.	MPAP (MMT)	CATEGORY	REMARKS
1	C-1	R. Praveen Chandra (2561)	0.015	A-1	Non-Op
2	C-1	M/s Canara Minerals (P) Ltd. (2630)	-	A-1	Non-Op
3	C-1	M/s Canara Minerals (P) Ltd. (2556)	0.234	B	Non-Op
4	C-1	Allum Veerabhadrapa (2436)	-	C	Not Auctioned
5	C-1	M. Dasharatharamireddy (2560)	-	C	Not Auctioned
6	C-1	Sri Lakshminarasimha Mining Co (2565)	-	C	Not Auctioned
7	C-2	Milan Minerals (1842)	-	C	Not Auctioned
8	C-2	Bharat Ores & Chemicals (2118)	-	B	Non-Op No R&R
9	C-3	Mineral Enterprises Limited (2517)	0.016	A-1	Non-Op
10	C-3	Garudadhri Impex Pvt Ltd (2583)	0.008	B	Permitted to operate
11	C-3	Smt. V. Sushilamma (2639)	0.0227	B	Non-Op
12	C-3	Mysore Manganese Co. Ltd. (2603)	-	C	Not Auctioned
13	C-3	Smt. Razia Khanum	-	C	Not

		(2557)			Auctioned
14	C-3	M/s Tangavelu and Others (2585)	-	C	No Bids Received
15	C-3	Sri M. Srinivasulu (2631)	-	C	No Bids Received
16	C-4	S. Sudarshan Singh (2579)	-	C	Not Auctioned
17	C-4	Balaji Produce Co. (2208)	0.19	B	Non-Op
18	C-4	Latha Mining Co. (958)	-	C	Not Auctioned
19	C-4	B. R. Ganapathi Singh (2570)	0.044	B	Non-Op
20	C-4	Kamala Bai (2187)	-	C	Not Auctioned
21	C-4	Karnataka Mining Co. (2333)	0.42	B	Non-Op
22	C-4	Kamala Bai (1442)	-	C	Not Auctioned
23	C-4	Kamala Bai (1508)	0.04	B	Non-Op
24	C-4	Upendran (1957)	0.038	B	Non-Op
25	C-5	Mysore Stone Ware Pipes and Potteries (2521)	-	C	Not Auctioned
26	C-5	Deepchand Kishan Lal (2348)	-	C	Not Auctioned
27	C-5	Tumkur Minerals (2175)	0.06	B	Non-Op
28	C-5	Karnataka Limpo (2650)	-	C	Not Auctioned
		Total	1.088		

Considering that the mineral deposits in these leases are shallow, scattered and with poor Fe content, and a number of leases do not have required statutory approvals particularly the Forest (Conservation) Act approval and there are disputes regarding the lease areas being forest land or otherwise and considering that the 3 operating leases with MPAP of total 3.61 MMT are not included, majority of the mining leases are not likely to become operational / Category-C mining leases are not likely to be successfully auctioned.

In the above background the construction of the conveyor systems is not likely to be physically undertaken and

consequently the entire expenditure of more than Rs. 2500 crores planned to be incurred in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur on constructions of new railway line, new railway sub-line (and roads) for the purpose of connecting the conveyor systems with the railway networks is likely to become infructuous. In the best case scenario also not more than 1 MMT of iron ore may be transported through conveyor systems / railways.

30. In District Bellary 13 common conveyor systems (by group of lessees) and 9 individual conveyor systems (by individual lessees) and associated 7 new railway sub-lines (by KMERC) are planned to be constructed. As stated earlier, the 9 individual conveyor systems include 4 conveyor systems for 5 auctioned mining leases (C-4, C-16, C-17 and C-19), 2 conveyor systems for 2 Category-C mining leases yet to be auctioned (C-11 and C-14A), 2 conveyor systems for 1 operating Category-A mining lease of SMIORE (C-14 and C-18, though the lease numbers are stated as 2678 and 2580, both leases numbers pertain to the same lease) and 1 conveyor system for ML No. 2605 of MML (C-9).

The leases included in the common 13 conveyor systems include a number of yet to be auctioned Category-C mining leases, Dalmia mining lease (2010) which has been cancelled under the directions of this Hon'ble Court and can be auctioned

only after the mineral resources are ascertained through exploration and a number of non operating mining leases including where the lessee does not have required statutory approvals and / or the R&R Plans have not been prepared / satisfactory implemented / implementation not started. For example, in the common conveyor system C-1, 5 mining leases are included out of which ML.No. 2190 is a Category-C mining lease where even the mineral exploration work has not been started, ML No. 2416 is an operating lease with MPAP of 1.80 MMT but the lease period is expiring on 13th November, 2022 and therefore construction of the conveyor system by the lessee is not financially viable, ML No. 2515 is a Category-C mining lease and which has so far not been put up for auction (the lease is proposed to be amalgamated with other adjoining leases), ML No. 2551 is an operating mining lease with MPAP of only 0.066 MMT and ML No. 2553 is a Category-C mining lease - put up for auction but no bid received.

In common conveyor systems C-2, 7 mining leases are included out of which 4 are Category-C mining leases and which have not been auctioned (ML No. 2393 was put up for auction but no bid received) and 2 are non-operating Category-A / Category-B mining leases. Only 1 mining lease (ML No. 2593) is an operating Category-B mining lease with MPAP of 0.32 MMT.

In the above background the proposed construction of common conveyor systems may not take place at least in the near future.

OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

30. The components of the Mining Related Infrastructure Plan are closely inter linked with the production permissible in individual leases, cap on total production from Category-A and Category-B mining leases, enhancement of permissible production in the mining leases by the CEC, production permissible under the directions of this Hon'ble Court in the mining leases of the NMDC Ltd. and MML (beyond that prescribed in the respective R&R Plans), additional production, if any permissible from the auctioned Category-C mining leases and the conditions on which the Category-C mining leases are auctioned. Therefore, all these issues have collectively been dealt with in the present Note.

31. The sum total of the MPAP / additional production beyond MPAP permitted by this Hon'ble Court of the 36 operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases in Districts Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur together is 30,516 MMT. Presuming that the MPAP of additional leases that may become operational in near future is to the tune of about 1.5 MMT, enhancement to the tune of about 1.5 MMT in the MPAP of

presently operating leases is permitted by the CEC, the total permissible production of all the operating Category-A and Category-B leases would be to the tune of about 33.516 MMT ($30.516+1.5+1.5$).

If (a) the permission given by this Hon'ble Court for production of additional 3 MMT in the mining leases of MML beyond the MPAP's is allowed to be discontinued by the Monitoring Committee in a phased manner and linked to the sum total of the MPAP's of the all other operating leases, (b) the 2 mining leases of NMDC are, after the pending proposal for enhancement of MPAP's of the leases is decided by the CEC, allowed to be regulated as per the approved R&R Plans and (c) consolidated cap of 30 MMT on total production from all the operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases in Districts Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur together is prescribed by this Hon'ble Court then in that case the sum total of the MPAP of all the operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases and those that may become operational in near future and enhancement of the MPAP's that may be permitted by the CEC (including to the tune of about 2.55 MMT for the mining leases of NMDC Ltd.) would be to the tune of about 30.5 MMT and which would be almost equal to present cap of 30 MMT for Districts Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur together. It will be feasible to allow all the operating leases to produce as per their

prescribed MPAP's and by and large without any pro-rata reduction. Even if the total of the MPAP's exceed 30 MMT, since the reduction will be on pro-rata basis across all the mining leases including those of NMDC Ltd. and MML, the reduction in the individual leases will be marginal.

In the above background, the proposal for enhancing the cap for Category-A and Category-B mining leases from 30 MMT to 35 MMT is not justified. In any case, it may be appropriate that increase in the cap may be considered only after substantial progress in the implementation of the mining related infrastructure is physically made on the ground.

32. It may be appropriate that the auction of mining leases is restricted to 13 Category-C mining leases (or lesser number of mining leases as decided by the State Government) and Dalmia mining lease (a cancelled Category-A mining lease) including 7 leases already successfully auctioned, and where due to adequate mineral availability and lease area the scientific mining would be practically feasible including construction of closed / covered downhill conveyor systems and connecting railway sidings. The MPAP of such leases is likely to be to the tune of about 13 MMT.

However, in case this Hon'ble Court approves the proposed amalgamation of 2 or more Category-C mining leases

and consequent inclusion of additional Intermediary / adjoining land then in that case the number of mining leases that may be successfully auctioned may increase.

The rest of the Category-C mining leases may be kept out of auction and the areas of such mining leases may be developed as forests by undertaking fencing, assistance natural regeneration, gap planting and soil conservation works.

Additional production upto 10 MMT for the auctioned Category-C mining leases and Dalmia mining lease may be considered to be permitted particularly considering that (a) most of the production will be transported through conveyor systems / railways to the plants of the lessees (b) the entire production is only for captive use (c) the State Government will be getting substantial additional revenue by way of annual sale value of the mineral and (d) If the additional production is not permitted and all the mining leases are regulated within the cap of 30 MMT then in that case the permissible production in each of the Category-C mining leases may be to the tune of about 65% or so of the MPAP's and with which the proposed conveyor systems / railway sidings may not be viable.

33. Earlier, it was proposed that the Category-A and Category-B mining leases with MPAP of 1.MMT and above and balance lease period of at least 8 years may be required to

construct downhill closed pipe conveyor systems linked to the existing / new railway sidings. Similar provision for auctioned Category-C mining leases with MPAP of 0.75 MMT and above was proposed.

As stated earlier, there are 9 Category-A and Category-B mining leases with presently permissible annual production of 1 MMT and above including 2 mining leases of NMDC Ltd. for which 2 conveyor systems have already been constructed. The balance 7 mining leases include 2 leases of MML where the permissible production is separately being recommended to be restricted to the lease wise MPAP's. Notwithstanding the above, considering that the MML is a State Government Undertaking and has significantly benefitted by additional annual production of 3 MMT and after construction of conveyor systems the leases may be eligible for substantial enhancement in the MPAP's, it may be appropriate that the construction of the conveyor systems is also directed to be undertaken by the MML for its 2 leases.

The mining lease of MSPL (ML No. 2416) with MPAP of 1.80 MMT is due to expire on 13th November, 2022. The balance lease period is about 5 years and 3 months. After completing the construction of the conveyor system, the balance lease period will be about 3 years and 3 months. The construction of the conveyor system is therefore not financially

viable for the lessee. Moreover, the balance lease period being less than proposed minimum 8 years, the lessee is not required to construct the conveyor system. However, considering the total quantity of the annual production of mineral, it may be appropriate that (a) the conveyor system is constructed at the cost of the KMERC after inviting bids and selecting the lowest bidder from amongst the technically qualified bidders (b) the lessee is required to pay every year, till the validity of the lease period, an amount equal to the depreciation calculated on reducing capital cost basis of the conveyor system (after capitalising the notional interest @ of 9% for the construction period). The maintenance, operation and recurring cost including watch and ward and electricity will be the responsibility of the lessee. The conveyor system's ownership will be with the KMERC. The KMERC / State Government will be entitled to recover the depreciated capital cost from the successful bidder / allottee to whom the mine is assigned through auction after the expiry of the present lease period.

For construction of the conveyor systems by the above said 8 mining leases in District Bellary (1 mining lease is in District Chitradurga), construction of 2 railway sub-lines between Lakshmipura Cross to Dhamapura (about 4-5 km in length) and between Sandur existing line to Susheel Nagar ((about 11 km in length) will be required. The exact alignment

and length may be finalised at the time of the preparation of the DPR by the State Government / KMERC.

34. As stated earlier, out of 7 auctioned mining leases, in respect of 5 mining leases conveyor systems linked to the existing / new railway sidings and / or to the inland integrated conveyor system are agreed to / required as per the proposed criteria of MPAP of 0.75 MMT and above. As stated earlier, 1 out of these 5 mining leases is with MPAP of less than 0.75 MMT namely Hothur Traders (ML No. 2313) but the buyer has agreed to construct the conveyor system provided NMDC Ltd. agrees to provide / share the ROW falling in its lease area. Out of the balance 2 mining leases, 1 mining lease is, based on the estimated mineral resources, required to construct the conveyor system linked to existing / new railway siding while in 1 mining lease the same will not be obligatory.

It may be desirable that all the balance Category-C mining leases and Dalmia mining lease (ML No. 2010) are directed to be auctioned with the condition that the successful bidder / lessee will be required to construct conveyor system linked to an existing / new railway siding at its cost. The NMDC Ltd. (ML No. 1111) may be asked to consider giving consent for the required ROW (for construction of the conveyor system by SMIORE (ML No 2580 / 2678) also the proposed alignment will be partly passing through the mining lease of NMDC Ltd. (ML

No. 1111) and therefore the consent of the NMDC Ltd. for the same will also be necessary).

It may be technically and financially viable for construction of common conveyor system by SKME (ML No. 2141), VNK Menon (ML No. 2543) and VESCO (ML No. 2160) with the above proposed stand alone conveyor system by VESCO (ML No. 2296). All of them are operating / approved to become operational mining leases. This aspect may be examined by VESCO and other lessees.

35. While large scale construction of road by the KMERC for the purpose of transportation of mineral may not be necessary / required, (a) up-gradation of the existing road to tar road / RCC road from the mining lease to the public road by the lessee at his cost may be desirable and may be made mandatory in respect of mining leases with MPAP of 0.4 MMT and above, (b) the earlier proposed construction of about 11 km long dedicated mineral transportation corridor from the mining location to NH-4 and avoiding transportation through the villages in District Chitradurga at the cost of the lessees, to be implemented either by the lessees or by another identified agency, may be directed to be considered by KMERC. The State Government / KMERC may be made responsible to acquire the required land at the cost of the lessees, (c) the cost of up-gradation of a number of existing roads to RCC road / tar

road over a total distance of about 35 km in Sandur, District Bellary with the estimated cost of about Rs. 70 crores or so is stated to have been agreed to be jointly shared by the NMDC, SMOIRE, MML and JSW Steel Ltd. in a meeting convened by DC, Bellary. This road will be of significant help in reducing pollution caused during road transportation of mineral as about 40% of the production in the area is being produced and transported through these roads. The up-gradation of these roads need to be undertaken by the above said parties at the earliest. The State Government / KMERC may provide all the necessary assistance including obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act for widening of the roads (wherever required).

36. The timeframe earlier proposed by the CEC for alignment of the conveyor systems by the lessees, acquiring the ROW by the State Government at the cost of the lessees, construction of conveyor systems by the lessees at their cost i.e. 3 months each for finalising the alignment and for acquiring the ROW and 18 months for construction of the systems may be directed to be followed and the production of mineral in the defaulting leases may be directed to be automatically suspended till compliance of the above requirement. To ensure that mining does not continue for indefinite period due to delay in acquiring the ROW, the mining operations may be directed to be

automatically suspended if within a total period of 21 months the process of acquiring the ROW and construction of the conveyor systems is not completed and may be allowed to be recommenced only after the successful completion of the project. Further, in Category-C mining leases the production may be permitted to commence only after the alignment is finalised and subject to having all the statutory approvals.

Similarly, for construction of inland closed pipe conveyor systems and linked conveyor systems of minimum 15 MMT transportation capacity by the JSW Steel Ltd. the earlier proposed time limit may be directed to be followed i.e. the alignment, acquiring the ROW and construction will be completed within 3 months, 3 months and 18 months respectively. Since, this work is critical for ensuring that majority of the mineral is transported by conveyor systems / railways, this Hon'ble Court may consider directing that the additional permissible production of 10 MMT from the auctioned mining leases will be suspended in case within a period of 21 months the entire process of acquiring the ROW and construction is not completed and will be available only after successful commissioning of the project. While on the face of it the above proposal may appear to be unreasonable as due to fault of the steel plant the production in all the mining leases would be liable to be curtailed, it may be appreciated that more than 70%

of the mineral production is being purchased by JSW Steel Ltd. and 5 out of 7 successfully auctioned mining leases are with them and in the absence of the inland conveyor system the basic objective of the present exercise to avoid large scale transportation of mineral by road will be defeated.

37. As stated earlier, the construction of 5 conveyor systems, 3 new railway sub-lines in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur, new Tumkur-Davanagere railway line and a number of roads in these two Districts at estimated cost of about of Rs. 2554 crores is not likely to serve any useful purpose. There is a railway siding already constructed by MEL and Sesa Sterlite Ltd. and a majority of the present production from their mining leases is being transported through railways by using this railway siding. The cap on production in Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur together is 5 MMT, out of which MPAP intalling 3.61 MMT is permissible for the three operating leases which are not proposed to be connected to the railway sub-lines. The proposed scheme plans to cover 28 mining leases out of which 27 are presently non operating (including Category-C mining leases). The iron ore deposits are scattered, shallow and of low grade. Most of the Category-C leases are not likely to be successfully sold and most of the Category-A and Category-B mining leases are not likely to become operational due to reasons such as inadequate minable reserves, lack of statutory

approvals particularly related to disputes regarding the nature of the land, non preparation of R&R Plans and non implementation of the R&R Plans. In the best case scenario also the MPAP of the leases, out of 27 mining leases, that may finally become operational is not likely to exceed 1 MMT. The proposed project involves a very large expenditure and is not likely to result in transportation of substantial mineral through conveyor system / railway. The construction of a large number of roads has not been justified by linking it with the quantity of mineral that will be transported through such roads. The advantage of these roads passing through a number of villages and with much larger length vis-a-vis the earlier proposed 1 dedicated mineral transportation corridor of about 11 km and avoiding the villages has not been dealt with.

It may be appropriate that the proposed expenditure of Rs. 2554 crores by KMERC may not be approved.

In District Bellary for the time being except the cost of conveyor system in respect of MSPL Ltd. and construction of 2 new sub-lines, no other expenditure by the KMERC may be permitted. The construction of the new railway sidings on these 2 new railway sub-lines may also be directed to be met either individually or jointly by the concerned lessees. The amount required for construction of these 2 new railway sub-lines may be worked out by the KMERC and the Monitoring Committee

may be permitted to transfer the required amount to the KMERC.

38. As stated earlier, in respect of 13 mining leases the proposals for enhancement of MPAP by 3.56 MMT are under consideration of the CEC. It may be appropriate that a decision in the matter is taken by the CEC after receiving and considering the response from the State Government and also the Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee may provide its response to the CEC at the earliest and after carrying out the site visit of the mines (wherever required).

39. As stated earlier the proposal for enhancing the MPAP of the 2 mining leases of NMDC Ltd. is under consideration of the CEC. It may be appropriate that a decision on the same is taken expeditiously by the CEC and as per the norms prescribed in the guidelines approved by this Hon'ble Court. This Hon'ble Court may consider directing that thereafter, the production in these 2 mining leases will also be regulated strictly as per the lease wise approved R&R Plans. This Hon'ble Court may also consider directing that thereafter the e-auction of the mineral and the payments to the NMDC will also be regulated by the Monitoring Committee as per this Hon'ble Court directions applicable in respect of all the other Category-A and Category-B mining leases.

In the background that a large number of Category-A and Category-B mining leases have already become operational and additional leases are likely to become operational in near future and in order to ensure that the operating mining leases are permitted by the Monitoring Committee to operate as per the respective MPAP's, this Hon'ble Court may consider directing that (a) the Monitoring Committee will be at liberty to phase out the additional production of 3 MMT from the mining leases of MML permitted by this Hon'ble Court by order dated 1st September, 2014 in a phased manner and linked to the total of the MPAP's of all the operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases (b) as and when the total of the MPAP's of all the operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases is likely to exceed the prescribed cap, the Monitoring Committee will reduce the MPAP of all the operating leases on pro-rata basis including that of the NMDC Ltd. and MML and (c) no enhancement of MPAP in a mining lease resulting in the MPAP of the mining lease exceeding 1 MMT will be considered by the CEC unless the construction of the conveyor system linked to the railway siding has been undertaken by the concerned lessee and substantial progress in the construction of the same is made.

40. The above proposed measures if accepted (and implemented) will result in transportation of at least 70% of the

mineral through conveyor belts / railways in these 3 Districts. Even though the production will gradually increase from the present level of about 28-29 MMT to upto 40 MMT in next five years the total mineral that will be transported by road will be much less than the present level and the environmental degradation caused by transportation of mineral by road will be contained. The annual production will be adequate to meet the requirement of the steel and allied industries dependent on the mineral from the region. The additional production will primarily be from the auctioned leases and where the Government will be getting substantial additional revenue. The proposed scheme of things provide for automatic and in built safeguards to ensure that the ameliorative measures do not remain only on paper. Since the construction of the conveyor systems and railways sidings result in substantial saving on transportation cost being incurred by the lessee and the entire capital cost is likely to be recouped in about 5 years or so it is appropriate that the entire cost is met by the lessees and not by the State Government / KMERC. The only justified exception is in respect of the mining lease of MSPL that is due to expire in the year 2022. The up-gradation of individual roads and / or construction of dedicated transportation corridors result in substantial saving on transportation of mineral and therefore the capital cost should be met by the lessees.

The State Government may be directed to prepare and submit an integrated long term infrastructure development plan and taking into consideration the projected demand and production for next 10-15 years. Such a plan may be considered for implementation during Phase II and after substantial progress in respect of the construction of the conveyor systems, railway sidings and railway sub-lines is physically made.

41. To sum up the following suggestions are made for the consideration of this Hon'ble Court:

- (i) each one of the 5 Category-A and Category-B mining leases in District Bellary namely MML, (ML No. 2629), SMIORE, (ML No. 2580 / 2678), B Kumar Gouda (ML No. 2516), VESCO (ML No. 2296) and MML (ML No. 2605) and 1 lease in District Chitradurga namely Sesa Sterile Ltd. / Vedanta Ltd. (ML No. 2236 / 2677) will construct closed / covered downhill conveyer systems linked to the existing / new railway sidings. The cost of the construction of the conveyor systems and connecting railway sidings will be met by the respective lessees. The lessees are at liberty to associate one or more other lessees to participate

and share the cost of the conveyor systems and / or railway sidings required to be constructed by them;

- (ii) each one of the auctioned Category-C leases and those that may be auctioned in future and also Dalmia mining lease (ML No. 2010); except LMC (ML No. 2487), will be required to construct downhill closed / covered conveyor systems, either individually or collectively, connecting to an existing / new railway siding. The cost of the construction of the conveyor systems / railway sidings will be met by respective lessees;
- (iii) JSW Steel Ltd., the largest buyers of iron ore (buyer of about 70% of the iron ore produced in these Districts) will construct closed / covered conveyor system between Nandlhal to its plant at Toranagallu and linked conveyor systems with a capacity for annual transportation of at least 15 MMT of iron ore;
- (iv) the respective lessees / successful bidders / Steel Plant will finalise the alignment within a maximum period of three months;
- (v) the Right of Way (ROW) and / or the approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be

be completed within a period of total 21 months including a maximum period of 3 months for obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the State Government (if required). The lessee will permit the use of the forest land earlier approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act for the construction of the approach road by him. The lessee will pay every year, till the validity of the lease period, an amount equal to the depreciation calculated on reducing balance capital cost basis of the conveyor system (after capitalising the notional interest @ 9% for the construction period). The maintenance, operation and recurring cost including towards watch and ward and electricity will be the responsibility of the lessee. The conveyor system's ownership will be with the KMERC. The KMERC / State Government will be entitled to recover the depreciated capital cost from the successful bidder / allottee to whom the mine is assigned through auction after the expiry of the present lease period;

- (xi) the construction of 2 new railway sub-lines, including preparation of the DPR but excluding the construction of the railway sidings, between

Lakshmipura Cross to Dharmapura and between Sandur existing line to Susheel Nagar will be undertaken by the KMERC through railways / an agency authorised by the railways. The exact alignment will be finalised at the time of the preparation of the DPR. The funds required for this purpose will be transferred by the Monitoring Committee to the KMERC;

- (xii) a consolidate cap of 30 MMT for production by all the operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases in Districts Bellary, Chitradurga and Tumkur may be prescribed (as against the present cap of 25 MMT for District Bellary and 5 MMT for Districts Chitradurga and Tumkur together for all the leases including Category-C mining leases);
- (xiii) additional production upto 10 MMT by the auctioned leases (Category-C and Dalmia lease) may be permitted subject to compliance with the provisions of the lease wise R&R Plans, prescribed lease wise MPAP and other statutory approvals;
- (xiv) the proposal pending with the CEC regarding enhancement of the MPAP in respect of 2 leases of NMDC Ltd. will be decided within a period of

maximum of 2 months by the CEC. Thereafter, the production in these two leases will be regulated by the Monitoring Committee strictly as per the guidelines applicable to all the other leases;

(xv) the Monitoring Committee is granted liberty to phase out the additional production of 3 MMT beyond the MPAP's from 2 mining leases of MML earlier permitted by this Hon'ble Court by order dated 1st September, 2014 and linked to the sum total of the MPAP's of all the operating leases;

(xvi) the proposals pending with the CEC pertaining to enhancement of MPAP's in the mining leases will be decided by it after considering the response from the State Government and also the Monitoring Committee. The Monitoring Committee will provide its response to the CEC at the earliest and after carrying out the site visit of the mines (wherever required);

(xvii) as and when the sum total of the MPAP's of all the operating Category-A and Category-B mining leases is likely to exceed the prescribed cap, the Monitoring Committee will reduce the MPAP of all

the operating leases on pro-rata basis including that of the NMDC Ltd. and MML; and

(xviii) no enhancement of MPAP in a mining lease resulting in the MPAP of the mining lease exceeding 1 MMT will be considered by the CEC unless the construction of the conveyor system linked to the railway siding has been undertaken by the concerned lessee and substantial progress in the construction of the same is made;

This Hon'ble Court may consider the Note and consider passing appropriate directions in the matter.

(M.K.JIWRAJKA)
FORMER MEMBER SECRETARY
CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE

DATED: 23RD AUGUST, 2017

Core area Ambient Air Quality Data (AAQM) of few iron ore mines for the year 2019 to 2023 (Data from KSPCB).								
Sl. No.	Name of Lessee	Area in Ha of Lease	Current MPAP	Core Zone PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)				
				2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	M/s Vedanta Limited. (SesaSterlite Ltd.,) ML.No. 2677 (did twice in a year)	161.54	5.89	99	160	124	242	303
				455	263	77	753	398
				104	229	135	173	407
				83	164	79	145	918
				1026	109	79	106	313
				51		184		320
				620		229		458
				420		778		924
				636		160		447
				556				494
				469				197
				625				660
				436				274
2	M/s. John Mines Ltd, (R Praveen Chandra) ML.No.2294	42.6	1.798	210	86	245	1971	316
				949	153	385	1225	1179
				425	73	223	1151	219
				126	60	139	231	1869
					641	121	206	329
					388	224	347	2448
					720	224		810
						90		
3	M/s. JSW Steel Limited, (BBH,MI No:0014 (Old ML.No. 2346)	102.53	3.66	614			6102	199
				474			374	220
				411			1225	154
				411			375	268
				614			412	242
				474			203	139
								150
								389
4	Ramanamalai IOM, M/s VESCO, RM Block, Sandur	53.16	1.1	113				
5	Ramgad IOM of Zeenath Transport Company, HospetTq,	41.33	0.18	118				

Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
(Transport Division)

Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Dated, the 18th of July, 2018

To

- (i) The Chief Secretaries of All States and Administrators of UTs;
- (ii) Director Generals Police of all States/Union Territories;
- (iii) Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries (Transport) of all States/ UTs;
- (iv) Transport Commissioners of all States/ UTs.

Subject: Revision of Safe Axle Weights for Transport Vehicles and enforcement thereof.

Sir,

The permissible safe axle weights of goods vehicles were last notified in the year 1983. Over the years, significant improvements have taken place in tyre technology, vehicle design, pavement design etc. The global axle weight norms are higher as compared to the existing Indian norms. The lower axle weight has often been cited as one of the major factors responsible for high logistics cost in India and incidence of overloading. The issue of revision of axle weight was also raised in the Meeting of the Group of Transport Ministers of the States, who recommended to increase the permissible axle weight of transport vehicles.

2. The issue has been examined in the Ministry and the revised maximum safe permissible axle weight for Transport vehicles have been notified by the Ministry vide S.O. 3467E on 16th July, 2018. A copy of the notification is enclosed at **Annexure 'A'**. This notification supersedes the earlier notification dated S.O. 728(E) dated 18th October, 1996.

3. The above notification specifies the maximum permissible weight for different configurations of the axles. In order to clarify its impact on the gross vehicle weight (GVW) on vehicles with different axle combinations, an illustrative table has been prepared as a guideline for enforcement agencies. This is enclosed as **Annexure 'B'** for ready reference. It may be noted that any combination of axles in trucks, tractors and trailers would be permissible subject to overall GVW limits and approval process as per CMVR. No separate notification would be required for individual axle combination.

4. It may further be noted that the modular hydraulic trailers may be permitted to carry single indivisible loads of higher values (in terms of dimensions and weight) provided appropriate number of axle row modules are provided and route permissions are taken from the authorities having jurisdiction over area of movement.

5. With the revised permissible weight for the transport vehicles, the state enforcement Authorities are requested to rigorously enforce the regulations and take strict action against overloading by goods vehicles on roads and ensure that such vehicles are stopped and made to unload the excess load before being allowed to proceed further, in addition to levy of penalties under section 194 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Yours faithfully


(Priyank Bharti)
Director (MVL)



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, जुलाई 16, 2018/आषाढ़ 25, 1940

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NEW DELHI, MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018/ASHADHA 25, 1940

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 16 जुलाई, 2018

का.आ. 3467(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, मोटर यान अधिनियम, 1988 (1988 का 59) की धारा 58 की उप-धारा (1) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए तथा भारत सरकार के तत्कालीन जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय (परिवहन स्कंध) की दिनांक 18 अक्टूबर, 1996 की अधिसूचना संख्यांक का.आ. 728(अ) का अधिकरण करते हुए टायरों के आकार, प्रकृति और संख्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए, परिवहन यानों (मोटर कैबों को छोड़कर) के संबंध में प्रत्येक प्रकार की धुरी के अधिकतम सुरक्षा धुरी भार को निम्नानुसार अधिसूचित करती है, अर्थात् :—

अधिकतम सुरक्षित धुरी भार		
क्रम सं.	धुरी का प्रकार	अधिकतम सुरक्षित धुरी भार
1.	एक धुरी	
1.1	एक टायर के साथ एक धुरी	3.0 टन
1.2	दो टायर के साथ एक धुरी	7.5 टन
1.3	चार टायर के साथ एक धुरी	11.5 टन*
2.	टेंडम धुरियाँ (दो धुरियाँ) (जहाँ दो धुरियों के बीच की दूरी 1.8 मीटर से कम है)	
2.1	दृढ़ यानों के लिए टेंडम धुरी, ट्रेलर्स और अर्ध-ट्रेलर्स	21 टन*
2.2	हाईड्रॉलिक और न्यूमेटिक ट्रेलर्स के लिए पूलर ट्रैक्टर्स के लिए टेंडम धुरी	28.5 टन
3.	तीन धुरियाँ (तीन धुरियाँ) (जहाँ बाहरी धुरियों के बीच की दूरी 3 मीटर से कम है)	
3.1	तीन धुरियों के दृढ़ यानों, ट्रेलर्स और अर्ध-ट्रेलर्स	27 टन*
4.	धुरी पंक्ति के साथ (दो धुरियाँ प्रत्येक चार टायर) मॉड्यूलर हाईड्रॉलिक ट्रेलरों में (एक धुरी के लिए 9 टन भार अनुज्ञेय)	18 टन

*टिप्पण : यदि वाहन में न्यूमेटिक सरस्पेंशन सज्जित है तो प्रत्येक धुरी पर 1 टन अतिरिक्त भार अनुज्ञेय होगा।

2. सकल वाहन भार (जीवीडब्लू) उपरोक्त के अनुसार स्वीकार्य सुरक्षित धुरी भार की कुल योग से अधिक नहीं होगा और किसी भी मामले में इससे अधिक नहीं होगा :—

(i) दृढ़ वाहनों के मामले में 49 टन, और

(ii) मॉड्यूलर हाइड्रोलिक ट्रेलरों को छोड़कर अर्ध आर्टिकुलेटेड ट्रेलरों और ट्रक ट्रेलरों के मामले में 55 टन।

3. मॉड्यूलर हाइड्रोलिक ट्रेलर किसी भी भार की अविभाज्य प्रकृति के सामान को नियामक अनुमोदन के अधीन वहन कर सकते हैं।

स्पष्टीकरण :— इस अधिसूचना के प्रयोजनों के लिए, मोटर वाहन अधिनियम, 1988 (1988 का 59) की धारा 113 की उपधारा (3) के अनुपालन के उद्देश्य के लिए सकल वाहन भार में पॉंच प्रतिशत तक सहन अनुज्ञेय है।

[फा. सं. आर.टी.—11028 / 11 / 2017—एम.वी.एल.]

अभय दामले, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16th July, 2018

S.O. 3467(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 58 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988), and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport (Transport Wing), number S.O. 728(E) dated the 18th October, 1996, the Central Government hereby notifies the maximum safe axle weight of each axle type in relation to the transport vehicles (other than motor cabs), having regard to the size, nature and number of tyres, as under :—

Maximum Safe Axle Weight		
Sl. No.	Axle Type	Maximum Safe Axle Weight
1.	Single Axle	
1.1	Single Axle with single Tyre	3.0 tonnes
1.2	Single Axle with two Tyres	7.5 tonnes
1.3	Single Axle with four Tyres	11.5 tonnes*
2.	Tandem Axles (Two axles) (where the distance between two axles is less than 1.8 Mtr.)	
2.1	Tandem axle for rigid vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	21 tonnes*
2.2	Tandem axle for Puller tractors for hydraulic and pneumatic trailers	28.5 tonnes
3.	Tri-axles (Three axles) (where the distance between outer axles is less than 3 Mtr.)	
3.1	Tri-axle for rigid vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	27 tonnes*
4.	Axle Row (two axles with four tyres each) in Modular Hydraulic trailers (9 tonnes load shall be permissible for single axle)	18 tonnes

* **Note:** If the vehicle is fitted with pneumatic suspension, 1 tonne extra load is permitted for each axle.

2. The gross vehicle weight (GVW) shall not exceed the total permissible safe axle weight as above and in no case shall exceed—

(i) 49 tonnes in case of rigid vehicles; and

(ii) 55 tonnes in case of semi-articulated trailers and truck-trailers except modular hydraulic trailers.

3. Modular hydraulic trailers can carry goods of indivisible nature of any load subject to the regulatory approvals as may be required.

Explanation .— For the purposes of this notification, tolerance upto five per cent. in the gross vehicle weight shall be allowed for the purpose of compliance to sub-section (3) of section 113 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988).

[F. No. RT-11028/11/2017-MVL]

ABHAY DAMLE, Jt. Secy.

Revised Safe Axle Load limits for Transport Vehicles										
Sr No	Type of Vehicle	Axle Combination on Tractor	Axle Combination on Trailer	No of Axles	Single Axles	Tandem Axle	Dual Axles	Tridem Axle	Permissible GVW	Remarks
1	Two Axle Rigid Truck	Two tyres on front axle and four tyres on rear axle	-	2	1	0	1	0	19	
2	Three Axle Rigid Truck	Two tyres on front axle and eight tyres on rear tandem (two) axle	-	3	1	1	0	0	28.5	
3	Four Axle Rigid Truck	Two tyres each on two axles and eight tyres on one tandem (two) axle	-	4	2	1	0	0	36	
4	Five Axle Rigid Truck	Two tyres each on three axles and eight tyres on one tandem (two) axle	-	5	3	1	0	0	43.5	
5	Five Axle Rigid Truck	Two tyres each on two axles, four tyres on one axle and eight tyres on one tandem (two) axle	-	5	2	1	1	0	47.5	
6	Six Axle Rigid Truck	Two tyres each on four axles and eight tyres on one tandem (two) axle	-	6	4	1	0	0	49	To be capped at 49 tonnes.
7	Tractor - semi articulated trailers	Two tyres on front axle and four tyres on rear axle	Four tyres on single axle	3	1	0	2	0	30.5	
8	Tractor - semi articulated trailers	Two tyres on front axle and four tyres on rear axle	Eight tyres on tandem (two) axle	4	1	1	1	0	40	
9	Tractor - semi articulated trailers	Two tyres on front axle and four tyres on rear axle	Twelve tyres on a tridem (three) axle	5	1	0	1	1	46	
10	Tractor - semi articulated trailers	Two tyres on front axle and eight tyres on rear tandem (two) axle	Four tyres on single axle	4	1	1	1	0	40	
11	Tractor - semi articulated trailers	Two tyres on front axle and eight tyres on rear tandem (two) axle	Eight tyres on tandem (two) axle	5	1	2	0	0	49.5	
12	Tractor - semi articulated trailers	Two tyres on front axle and eight tyres on rear tandem (two) axle	Twelve tyres on a tridem (three) axle	6	1	1	0	1	55	To be capped at 55 tonnes
13	Tractor Trailer	Two tyres on front axle and four tyres on rear axle	Eight tyres on two axles	4	1	0	3	0	42	
14	Tractor Trailer	Two tyres on front axle and eight tyres on rear tandem (two) axle	Eight tyres on two axles	5	1	1	2	0	51.5	
15	Tractor Trailer	Two tyres on front axle and four tyres on rear axle	Four tyres on single axle & Eight tyres on tandem (two) axle	5	1	1	2	0	51.5	
16	Tractor Trailer	Two tyres on front axle and eight tyres on rear tandem (two) axle	Four tyres on single axle & Eight tyres on tandem (two) axle	6	1	2	1	0	55	To be capped at 55 tonnes

ANNEXURE R-8

Details of auction of C category mines without amalgamation						
Sl. No	Mining lease Name	Extent (in ha)	Resources (MMT)	First/ Attempt	Auction Date	Buyer
1	Tungabhadra Minerals, ML No 2365	130.53	33.89	First	04.10.2016	JSW Steel Ltd
2	Ram Rao Paul, ML No 2621	33.8	31.532	First	01.10.2016	JSW Steel Ltd
3	V.S Lad & Sons, ML No 2290	100.54	28.619	First	06.10.2016	JSW Steel Ltd
4	Tungabhadra Minerals, ML No 2366	33.21	6.939	First	04.10.2016	JSW Steel Ltd
5	Lakshmi Narayana Company, ML No 2487	86.12	14.709	First	03.10.2016	MSPL Ltd
6	Karthikeyas Manganese, ML No 2559	26.71	28.472	First	05.10.2016	MSPL Ltd
7	Hothur Traders, ML No 2313	21.61	10.026	First	05.10.2016	JSW Steel Ltd
8	H G Rangangouda, ML No 2148	60.66	63.33	First	06.09.2018	MSPL Ltd
9	M/s.Kanhaiyalal Dudheria, ML No 2563	30.09	9.26	First	05.09.2018	MSPL Ltd
10	Mysore Minerals ML No 995	32.89	9.708	First	05.09.2018	JSW Steel Ltd

11	Nidhi Mining Company, ML No 2433	29.49	10.024	First	04.09.2018	Minera Steel & Power Ltd
12	Bharath Mines & Minerals, ML No 2245	24.47	7.577	First	04.09.2018	Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd
13	M Channakesava Reddy , ML No 2566	7.57	3.179	Second	05.12.2018	Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd
14	Mineral Miners and Traders, ML No 2185A	44.42	9.88	Second	05.12.2018	Hothur Ispat
15	Sri M Srinivasulu, ML.No. 2631	75.14	9.88	Second	02.09.2022	Rai Bahadur Seth Shreeram Narasingdas Private Limited.
16	M/s Ramgad Minerals & Mining (P) Ltd, ML. No. 2451	24.04	2.137	Second	01.09.2022	Udayshivakumar Private Limited
17	M/S Thangavelu & Others, MI No - 2585	60.92	3.303	Second	01.09.2022	B.L Ranisamyuktha

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO
THE HON'BLE OVERSITE AUTHORITY**

- i. It is recommended that in the present circumstances the system of MPAP for individual mine and District Ceiling Cap should not be done away with. Instead, a single unified upper Ceiling Cap be set for all four districts, covering all lease categories and freshly granted leases under one framework/umbrella.
- ii. It is recommended that the upper unified Ceiling Cap of unified MPAP of all leases be fixed for the present as 57.0 MMT per year. It may kindly be noted that by 2033-34, the gap of unutilized Ceiling Cap will be about 24.0475 MMT, hence any fresh auctioning of leases by the State may not have adverse impact on annual ore production. Moreover, with the MMDR Act 2015, since the lease period has been extended to 50 years, it is recommended that to ensure sustainable & scientific mining and maintain intergenerational equity, the ore reserves be divided by 50 when enhancing the MPAP for the leases of all categories;
- iii. As regards the present system of sale of Iron ore by the lessees themselves, **it is recommended that the status quo may be maintained for the present;**
- iv. **It is recommended that a mandatory drone survey mapping of all running mines shall be conducted twice a year (in November-December and May-June) to monitor mining activities, including**

waste disposal and sales. This should apply to all mines, regardless of lease area. The lessees must submit processed outputs, such as Digital Elevation Models (DEM) and Ortho Mosaic Images, to the Mine and Forest Departments regularly as explained in this report.

- v. **This requirement of drone survey mapping shall be in addition to the obligations outlined under Rule 34A of the Mineral Conservation and Development (Amendment) Rules, 2021. The drone surveys ensure more accurate monitoring and regulation of mining operations and environmental compliance.**
- vi. It is recommended that the data of pollution levels (PM₁₀) and others recorded by KSPCB/CPCB within the leased area shall be analyzed each year and in cases where the pollution level crosses above the moderate level, the MPAPs of such mining leases should be reassessed by the CEC and to be reduced equalling to the last enhanced MPAP from immediate next year.
- vii. The MPAP of those leases wherein the construction of the Conveyor Belt is made applicable by the order of this Hon'ble Court may not be enhanced till the system is made fully operational by the lessee in addition to recommendations at para vii above herein.
- viii. The Notification dated 18.07.2018 issued by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India regarding maximum safe axle weights for different vehicle types, including mineral-carrying vehicles under rigid, trailer, and semi-trailer categories may not be considered for mining roads in the concerned four districts for the

enhancement of MPAP in the mines as explained in para 16 of this report.

- ix. Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances submitted in para 34 above the State Govt of Karnataka may be directed to review the Auctions of all the five blocks and take action as per the orders issued by this Hon'ble Court from time to time in this regard.



ANNEXURE R-10

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗಣಿ ಪರಿಸರ ಪುನಃಶ್ವೇತನ ನಿಗಮ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)

KARNATAKA MINING ENVIRONMENT RESTORATION CORPORATION
(Govt of Karnataka Undertaking) CIN:U85100KA2014NPL075114

KMERC/OA/CEC/2024-25

3rd December 2024

1933

The Member Secretary,
Central Empowered Committee,
2nd Floor, Chanakya Bhavan,
Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi
110021

Dairy No.....

Dated.....

Madam,

I am desired to forward the view of the Hon'ble
Oversight Authority pursuant to the orders dated
14.03.2024 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Thanking you,

(Sanjay Bijjur, IFS)
Managing Director.

Dairy No.....

Dated.....

Corporate Office: No.49, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,

Bengaluru-560001

Tel: 080 22354737/22354738 Email: kmmerc2014@gmail.com

Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Southern Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001

Confidential

VIEWS OF THE OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY ON THE DRAFT CEC
REPORT OF 10-10-2024

MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE ANNUAL PRODUCTION (MPAP)

1. The current MPAP fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is 50 million tons (MT—all tons after the introduction of metric system in India are metric tons of 1,000 kgs and the usage of English ton of 2,240 lbs. has long been discontinued; hence MT will refer to Million Tons since 'ton' is a metric ton and the second M in MMT is redundant). The CEC, after taking into account the opinion of the Monitoring Committee has gone along with the view that the MPAP may be increased to 57 MT. This is not logical even from the other findings mentioned by CEC in its Draft Report as follows:

(a) The current production in 2023-2024 has reached about 43 MT while the maximum level reached during the peak of illegal mining in 2007-2008 was 49 MT.

(b) The damage to roads and communications inflicted by illegal mining has not yet been remedied. In fact, the condition of the roads in the mining affected area have further deteriorated because the number of trucks carrying the 43 MT of iron ore is 5,500 lorries per day, each of 20 tons capacity. (pp.38 and 39—para 21 of CEC Draft Report). These trucks are not now going to the far away ports of Krishnapatnam and Belikere for export but are carrying ore mainly to the railhead at Tornagal in Bellary district and also to the palletisation plants in the State and neighbouring areas thereby using the local area roads more intensively and hence all the more damage.

(c) Conveyor belt system which the Court had directed to be created by the bigger mine leaseholders, has not yet materialized. The Monitoring Committee has reported that even the conveyor belt of NMDC which existed earlier, is not working now. Similarly, the 'Railway Backbone' as directed by the Court has not yet started. It is in the preliminary stage of acquisition of land for which KMERC has just now, in October 2024, kept 50% advance of the 'Consent Award' estimate in the "Child" account of KMERC to be utilized as and when the Land Acquisition Officer passes the Consent Award. Thus, neither the roads, nor the conveyor belt system, nor the railway network has even started on the ground.

Without remedying the destruction of roads and adding further to the infrastructure, there can be no case for increasing MPAP.

(d) According to the findings of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, forming part of the CEC Draft Report (pp 110 to 132), the air pollution in the mining affected area has actually increased and in some cases the $RSPM_{10}$ is 60 times higher than the permissible limit (p 128). Though the KSPCB has adequate powers to prevent such air pollution under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and even to close down the mining operations of the defaulters, it has not taken any such action. *[The powers to take stringent action against erring agencies under the KSPCB Act is vested in its Chairmen who, in Karnataka, are non-officials who come under no Conduct Rules. On the other hand, the Karnataka Government has now amended the hitherto legal qualification of 'experience in environmental administration' and has diluted it to a 'holding of an Engineering Degree'. Besides, there is always a litigation about lack of eligibility whenever a Chairman is appointed to the KSPCB on extraneous consideration.]* Obviously, enhancing the MPAP will only increase the level of air and water pollution in the already severely mining-affected and still further deteriorating area.

2. EXPLOITATION OF IRON ORE RESERVES FOR “DEVELOPMENT” (INCREASING STATE REVENUE) AND THE NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF INTER-GENERATIONAL EQUITY.

1. Difference between “Reserves” and “Resources”: The United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) consists of a three-dimensional system with the following three categories: Geological Assessment, Feasibility Assessment, and Economic Viability. The various terms used in this classification and their definitions in brief are as follows:

A. Mineral Reserve: Economically mineable part of measured and/or indicated mineral resource.

(i) Proved Mineral Reserves (Code 111)

Economically mineable part of Measured Mineral Resource.

(ii) Probable Mineral Reserves (Code 121 & 122)

Economically mineable part of indicated or in some cases, a measured mineral resource.

B. Mineral Resource

A mineral resource has a specific definition according to the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM):

“a concentration or occurrence of solid material of economic interest in or on the earth’s crust in such form, grade, or quality and quantity that there are reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction”.

This is one of the first stages of defining mineable deposits, which means that through sampling and other data geologists have found that **there is something there that could possibly be mined.** (emphasis added)

Projects with a mineral resource can still pose a risk because there are different types of resources based on confidence and work done.

What are Mineral Reserves?

As mineral resources gain more geological and economic confidence, they may be converted into a mineral reserve estimate. A mineral reserve is *“the economically mineable part of a measured and/or indicated mineral resource. It includes diluting materials and allowances for losses, which may occur when the material is mined or extracted and is defined by studies at Pre-Feasibility or Feasibility level as appropriate that include application of Modifying Factors. Such studies demonstrate that, at the time of reporting, extraction could reasonably be justified.”* (emphasis added)

A mineral reserve must be documented by at least one preliminary feasibility study, conducted during the “deposit appraisal” phase in the mineral development process. The mineral reserve is what happens when enough studying and testing has been done to determine that the mineral resource is reasonably economical to mine.

Mineral reserves are also less risky in an investing form, as often pre-feasibility and feasibility studies have been done on the deposit. **Proven mineral reserves** are the lowest risk for investors, because there is a high degree of

geological confidence and consideration of economics. **Probable mineral reserves** are a higher risk than proven reserves, but lower risk than mineral resource estimates.

The terms “Mineral Resources” and “Mineral Reserves” (classified outside of North America as “Ore Reserves”) may sound synonymous, but they are not. While the terms are sometimes - and mistakenly - used interchangeably, in fact, they refer to two distinct types of data that mining professionals and investors use to make crucial decisions about the ultimate profitability of mine sites. The distinction primarily concerns *potential* economic value and upside, as opposed to *actual* economic viability as defined in more advanced economic studies on which to base larger financial decisions and, ultimately project finance and construction decisions.

Thousands of public and private companies focus on creating value through the discovery, advancement and conversion of Mineral Resources to Reserves to lay the groundwork for future mines. Advancing projects from Resource to Reserve is vital to the mining industry, offers distinct investment opportunities, and provides the world with the minerals needed to construct our modern world.

Mineral (or “Ore”) Reserves are the smaller subset of Mineral Resources deemed economically viable for extraction. While Mineral Resources have potential economic value, the economic viability of extracting these minerals depends on factors such as market prices, extraction costs, and technological developments in metallurgy and processing. Reserves are the portion of Resources that can be realistically and economically mined based on location, quantity, grade, geological characteristics, and any other factor that impacts end product value.

Many factors influence the conversion of Resources to Reserves, from geological, metallurgical, and mineral processing considerations, to economic, marketing, legal, ESG, and even geopolitical issues. Once the feasibility and economic benefit of a Resource has been painstakingly demonstrated, the Mineral Resource—or more accurately, a portion of it—can

be classified or “converted” to a Mineral Reserve. Like Resource estimates, Reserve estimates are not static: for example, new technologies and processing techniques can make it easier (and more economically viable) to separate the valuable minerals from the waste material. It’s an iterative process. Conversely, a lasting price drop in commodity pricing can render a previously viable mineral deposit no longer economical.

3. The foregoing narration of the difference between RESERVES and RESOURCES are sourced from the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and the Mines and Metals Group. It makes it clear that while Reserves are proven to be economical to extract, Resources are not yet proven to be economically viable currently but may become economically viable on a future date.

On page 29 (para 15) of the CEC Draft Report, the following statement is made:

*“.....The Bellary district holds approximately 1.992 MT of haematite iron ore and manganese, while Chitradurga and Tumkur districts possess 296.17 MT and 177.37 MT respectfully, totaling 2,465 MT as reported by the Mines and Geology Department, GoK. After accounting for approximately 150 MT removed since 2020, 2,315 MT remains available. If extraction continues at 50 MT per year, these **reserves** (emphasis added) will last for 46 years. At a rate of 55 MT per year, the **reserves** would last 42 years, and at 57 MT per year they would last 40 years. This highlights the necessity of carefully managing extraction rates to preserve resources for future generations. Furthermore, as per the prevailing practice, the available reserves were/are divided by 20 years to fix MPAP, as the lease period was granted for 20 years before 2014. However, this method shortens the extractable ore of the mine lifespan, preventing it from reaching the now-extended 50-year lease period under the MMDR Act 2015. To ensure inter-generational equity and promote sustainable and scientific mining, it is recommended that the available ore reserve shall now be divided by 50 when considering MPAP enhancement, aligning with the currenty 50-year period.”*

4. However, the CEC has shown as the “Reserves” the availability of iron ore in the districts of Bellary (including Vijayanagar), Chitradurga and Tumkur at 2,465 MT (from page 11 of the National Mineral Inventory: An Overview as on 1-4-2020). But it is seen that CEC has included both Reserves and Resources (as if both are Reserves), as shown below:

	Reserve	Resources	Total
	<i>(in million tons)</i>		
Bellary (incl.V’Nagar)	810.439	1181.640	1992.079
Chitradurga	213.230	82.949	296.179
Tumkur	--	177.377	177.377
TOTAL	1023.669	1441.966	2465.635

As “Resources” are not yet economically feasible, only proven “Reserves” should be taken as available with certainty. At the rate of the current ceiling of 50 MT per year, the Reserves of 1,023 MT will last for only 20 years which is less than one generation. Secondly, as the mine-lease period is now 50 years, the Reserves of 1,023 MT should be divided by 50 years in which case annual production can be only 20.46 MT. Therefore, the MPAP should be only 20 MT and not the currently fixed 50 MT.

5. As the ‘Inter-generational Equity’ should cover at least three generations namely, 75 years, the available Reserves of iron ore in Karnataka State in the districts of Bellary, Vijayanagar, Chitradurga and Tumkur, at the current MPAP of 50 MT will be exhausted in just 20 years or less than one generation and much before the current lease period of 50 years.

Windfall Profit and reason for demand to increase MPAP: Though there are 45 iron-ore mine-leaseholders in Karnataka on record whose total production was 40.3 MT in 2023-2024, in reality, the mining in the state is an oligopoly with just 9 lease holders producing 87% of production as shown below:

1. NMDC	12.6 MT	
2. JSW	6.5 “	
3. Vedanta	6.0 “	
4. Kumaraswamy Min.	2.6 “	
5. SMIORE	1.8 “	
6. BKG	1.7 “	
7. Praveen Chandra	1.4 “	
8. K.State Min.Corp	1.3 “	
9. Veerabappa Sangappa	1.1 “	
	35.0 “	87% of total production
10. Other 36 lease-holders	5.3 “	13% do

TOTAL PRDN OF 45 L/H 40.3 “

The above analysis shows that just 9 lease-holders out of 45 leaseholders produce almost 90% of the annual production while 36 others produce only the balance 10%. 11 of the leaseholders produce less than 50,000 tons each. The smallest lease-holder produces only 2,000 tons. The reason why such small producers are still in this business is, there is windfall profits in iron ore mining. The average cost of production of one ton of iron ore including all taxes and the 10% levy for KMERC, is not more than Rs.2,000 while the selling price is up to Rs.5,000 per ton, the profit being about Rs.3,000 per ton. Therefore, the reason for mine-leaseholders demanding enhancement of MPAP is to exhaust the iron ore deposit in their leasehold area as quickly as possible without waiting for the end of the lease period.

6. NEED FOR MANDATORY E-AUCTIONING AND THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF FREE-SALE OF IRON ORE:

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, while disposing of a group of Interlocutory Applications in the Karnataka Illegal Mining case, praying for permission to dispose of the unsold stock of iron ore by direct sale to selected purchasers instead of through mandatory e-auction, ordered on 20 May 2020 (para 30) that the iron ore stock-pile lying unsold in stock yards in the districts of Bellary, Tumkur and Chitradurga may be sold without having to resort to the process of e-auction. Further, the Court in their order dated 14-3-2024 directed the CEC, along with the views of the Monitoring Committee, to seek the aid and advice of the Oversight Authority, and submit a comprehensive report to the Court. One such matter is the need or otherwise for mandatory e-auction. Currently, though e-auction is not mandatory by the Monitoring Committee, many lease-holders such as SMIORE, BKG, etc. are selling their iron ore by e-auction through the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC). Others like JSW and Vedanta sell directly.

The Court had directed to check whether there is any revenue loss to the government because of this hybrid system. The Monitoring Committee in their report, shown on page 80 of CEC's draft report, has mentioned that during 2021-22, from the mandatory e-auctioning of 32.5 MT the royalty collected was

Rs.1,975 crores; during 2023-24 when there has been no compulsion of e-auctioning, the royalty received from sale of 37.6 MT through the hybrid system was Rs.2,030 crores. The Monitoring Committee and the CEC have concluded that there is only a marginal difference in the royalty collected and therefore the present status quo may be continued.

However, a simple calculation will show that if the royalty received for 32.5 MT was Rs.1,975 cr. with mandatory e-auctioning, the royalty due on 37.6 MT (with the same market price) without compulsory e-auctioning, should be Rs.2,285 cr. $[(37.6 \div 32.5) \times (1975) = 2,28]$ But the royalty received in 2023-24 was only Rs.2,030 cr. which is Rs.255 cr. less or 13% less. This is a significant loss and not marginal. (However, to make a precise estimate the average selling price should also be compared).

In any event, the most transparent method of sale is by auction as the practice of under and over-invoicing is rampant in trade, especially in high-value iron ore. The fact that, even though there is no compulsion for e-auction, many leaseholders still choose to go through e-auction through MSTC is indicative of the higher price that can be fetched through the transparent practice of e-auction.

Besides, a close reading of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order would show that in 2022 the petitioners had approached the Court for direct sale because their iron ore could not be sold through e-auction in spite of as many as three attempts and there were sizeable unsold stock. However, the CEC Report of 18-7-2019 quoted in the Supreme Court Order of 20-5-2022 on page 26 says as follows [Quality-wise, the rank of iron ore is, Lump, **Fine**, and **Dump**, in that order]:

"25. It is not in dispute that the "iron ore lumps" are in demand and get sold at market price. As such the issue before this Hon'ble court is with regard to the sale of "iron ore fines" which is not taking place specially from the mines located in districts Tumkur and Chitradurga. The mining lease of the Applicant is also one such mine located in district Chitradurga. The quality of the iron ore fines from these two districts is also of concern as they have higher Manganese content and other impurities. All this adversely affect the demand for the iron ore fines so much so that even at the reserve price at Rs.450 tonne the material is not getting sold in consecutive auctions." (emphasis as in original)

It is also relevant that the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 20-5-2022 was for the Dumps (which quality wise is the last after Lumps and Fines) accumulated over a period of time and remained unsold by e-auction even after three attempts. The reasonable recommendation should therefore be, all iron ore—whether Lumps, Fines or Dumps—should for the first time be brought for mandatory e-auction through the Monitoring Committee. If any of the three categories remain unsold during the first e-auction, then the lease-holder may be allowed to sell it directly to whomever he chooses. But the first auction-attempt should be mandatory through the Monitoring Committee. This will be the most reasonable solution to ensure transparency of a valuable natural resource and to avoid under and over-invoicing malpractice which is quite common in trade.


(Justice B Sudershan Reddy)
Oversight Authority



Central Empowered Committee <cecindia202@gmail.com>

MPAP

Central Empowered Committee <cecindia202@gmail.com>
To: UV Singh <uvsingh@yahoo.com>

Sat, Apr 5, 2025 at 5:46 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **AddDir Mines** <addmindmg@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 5 Apr 2025 at 5:40 PM
Subject: Re: MPAP
To: Central Empowered Committee <cecindia202@gmail.com>

Sir

Please find attached the response of the Department on the information sought by CEC. In the above mail kindly request not to consider sheet "All". Pls consider the attachments of this mail for further action.

On Sat, Apr 5, 2025 at 5:32 PM AddDir Mines <addmindmg@gmail.com> wrote:

Sir

Kindly ignore earlier mail and consider this mail.

On Sat, Apr 5, 2025 at 5:26 PM AddDir Mines <addmindmg@gmail.com> wrote:

Sir

Please find attached the response of the Department on the information sought by CEC.

On Sat, Apr 5, 2025 at 7:46 AM Central Empowered Committee <cecindia202@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Sir,

The following information may please be provided today itself:

1. On what value Royalty is charged after stopping of Eaucution of iron ore of A B and auction mines of all categories separately
2. How much was the dispatch during 2024-25 and Royalty charged there on all categories separately from all mines.

Please treat this as most urgent.

Regards

Member Secretary
Central Empowered Committee
3rd Floor, Chanakya Bhawan,
Chanakya Puri, New Delhi-110021
Tel. No. 011-21610612, 21610613
CEC's Website: Click [here](#)

 Please consider your environmental responsibility. - Think before you print!



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With regards,

DMG

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With regards,

DMG

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With regards,

DMG

3 attachments

 **24-25 Iron ore Production, Despatch & Royalty a&b.xls**
21K

 **CEC e mail.docx**
12K

 **24-25 Iron ore Production, Despatch & Royalty CAT.xls**
23K

Replies to be furnished to CEC as per their email dated 05.04.2025

Q1: On what value royalty is charged after stopping of e-auction of iron ore of A,B and auctioned mines of all categories separately?

Ans: After the monitoring committee stopped e-auctions as per supreme court orders, the royalty on iron ore from all A,B and auctioned mines in Karnataka is charged at 15% of the average sale price published by the IBM for the respective month, as per section 9 r/w schedule-II of MMDR act ,1957.

Q2: How much was the despatch during 2024-25 and royalty charged there on all categories separately from all mines?

Ans:Despatch during the year 2024-25 is 42.69MMTs

Royalty collected there on Rs. 2408.56 Cr. (excluding premium on auctioned mines).

Details furnished in Annexure.

2024-25 Iron ore Despatch & Royalty collection details of Auctioned mines

Sl.No.	ML No.	Category	Lease Holder / Company Name	Despatch(MT)	Royalty(Cr.)
1	0004	C	JSW Steel Limited	299844	5.71
2	0005	C	JSW Steel Limited	962725	17.79
3	0006	C	JSW Steel Limited	1201173	30.38
4	0010	C	MSPL Limited	310000	6.17
5	0011	C	Hothur Ispat Private Limited	176826	3.12
6	0012	Expired	JSW Steel Limited	565359	9.65
7	0013	Expired	JSW Steel Limited	179888	10.91
8	0014	Expired	JSW Steel Limited	2438983	91.70
9	0016	C	Kirloskar ferrous industries limited	123801	7.16
10	007	C	JSW Steel Limited	792452	14.73
11	009	C	JSW Steel Limited	1244128	75.19
12	021	C	B L Rani Samyuktha	216056	5.66
13	022	C	M/s Minera Steel & Power Private Limited	272000	14.67
14	023	C	M/s MSPL Ltd	205	0.00
15	024	C	M/s MSPL Limited	20000	0.40
16	025	Expired	M/s GVPR Engineers Ltd,	23512	0.55
Grand total				8826951.06	293.80

Note: Excluding premium on auctioned mines.

2024-25 Iron ore Despatch & Royalty collection details of A,B category mines

Sl.No.	ML No.	Category	Lease Holder / Company Name	Despatch (MT)	Royalty (Cr.)
1	2658	A	Goa Sponge & Power Limited	18386	0.29
2	1111	A	M/s. N.M.D.C. Ltd. - Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mines	7713155	568.06
3	2028	A	Karnataka Limpo Cements Industries	87530	2.30
4	2289	A	Sri. Allum Prashanth	27100	0.27
5	2294	A	R. PRAVEEN CHANDRA	1703517	103.67
6	2296	A	Veerabhadrappe Sangappa & Co	870430	56.64
7	2352	A	Allum Prashanth	11050	0.17
8	2396	A	M/s. N.M.D.C. Ltd,Donimalai Iron Ore Mine	5586573	376.55
9	2516	A	B.Kumar Gowda Trfs BKG Mining Private Ltd	1525799	54.36
10	2526	A	Nadeem Minerals trfs Nadeem Minerals Private Limited	109293	0.77

11	2543	A	M/s. V.N.K.Menon(Dharmapura Iron Ore Mine)	72000	5.40
12	2547	A	M/s. Zeenath Transporting Company	454783	27.23
13	2551	A	Lakshmi Minerals	10172	0.15
14	2552	A	Shree Gavisiddeswara Minerals	168050	11.44
15	2580	A	The Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Ltd	3839036	222.91
16	2605	A	Mysore Minerals Ltd -TIOM-EA	318412	15.40
17	2682	A	Rai Bahadur Seth Shreeram Narasingh das Pvt Ltd	620757	20.90
18	2141	B	M/s. Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports(SKME) Pvt Ltd	2678716	202.54
19	2160	B	M/s. VESCO	407016	32.75
20	2236	B	Sesa Sterlite Ltd chng Vedanta Ltd	5135543	245.14
21	2309	B	M/s Zeenath Transport Co. Ltd	224411	13.34
22	2488	B	S A Thwab & Co	87811	3.82
23	2505	B	M Hanumantha Rao	107035	4.65
24	2538	B	H N Premkumar	31500	1.61
25	2545	B	M/s. Lakshmi Minerals	19779	0.65
26	2549	B	H.G. Rangana Gowda	46599	1.64
27	2593	B	Ramagad Minerals & Mining Pvt Ltd	817371	45.72
28	2629	B	Mysore Minerals Ltd - SIOM-EA	1090737	89.70
29	2639	B	SJMP Holdings LLP	5186	0.07
30	2505	A	P. Balasubbashetty (Kardikolla suresh Iron ore)	71540	6.36
31	2514	B	Smt. K M Parvatamma	4190	0.26
Grand total				33863480	2114.76

Note: Royalty collection details excludes Auction premium amount.