



Odisha Mining Corporation to Surrender 4 Gemstone Mines

The Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) will surrender to the state government four gemstone blocks citing low market demand due to poor quality of ore.

The OMC requested the steel and mines department to cancel lease deed of Jillingdhar, Hinjlibahal and Malipada gemstone blocks in Kalahandi district and Budhapada block in Nuapada district.

"After a preliminary study, we found that the quality of gemstones found in these four blocks to be very poor. So, the OMC board of directors has decided to surrender the four mines to the state government," OMC managing director, Girish S N said, after a meeting with chief secretary A P Padhi.

Sources in the steel and mines department said the state government would put the four gemstone blocks on auction after the OMC



surrenders. Of the 35 mines belonging to OMC, only six iron ore and chromite blocks are in the operational stage. Due to lack of statutory clearances, expertise and equipment, the state PSU has failed to extract ore from all the mines.

The mineral blocks of OMC which are in an operational stage are four iron ore blocks - Kurmitar (Sundargarh), Gandhamardhan-B and Roida Keonjhar, Daitari

(Keonjhar/Jajpur) and two chromite blocks - South Kaliapani and Sukrangi both in Jajpur districts.

"To scale up our production, we are going to partner with international agencies having expertise in mineral extraction. Our target is to produce 10 million tonne (MT) of ore by 2016-17 fiscal end," said Girish, adding the state PSU aims to produce 20 MT of ore by 2019-20.

The year-wise ore production of the state PSU was 2.4 MT (2013-14), 3.9 MT (2014-15) and 6.55 MT (2015-16). "By February 15, we have produced 5.6 MT of ore and we hope to achieve the target for the year easily," Girish added. Increasing ore production of OMC is crucial as a number of sponge iron and steel plants, that don't have captive blocks, depend on it for ore.

Uttam Value Steels gets Green Nod for Rs 3,325 Crore Expansion



The Environment Ministry has considered the application based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee and hereby decides to grant environment clearance (EC) to the proposal of expansion of steel plant subject to compliance of some specific and general conditions," an EC letter marked to the company said.

Uttam Value Steels Ltd (UVSL) has received final environment clearance to double its steel production capacity to two million tonnes per annum (MTPA) in Maharashtra, which will entail an investment of Rs 3,325 crore. "The Environment Ministry has considered the application based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (industry-i) and hereby decides to grant environment clearance (EC) to the proposal of expansion of steel plant

subject to compliance of some specific and general conditions," an EC letter marked to the company said. As per the proposal, the company will expand the capacity of steel plant from one

MTPA to two MTPA in Wardha district of Maharashtra. The total project cost of the expansion project is estimated at Rs 3,325 crore. The expansion facilities will be built within the existing premises for techno-commercial viability of entire steel complex. Among the conditions specified while giving the clearance, UVSL has been asked to install

24x7 air monitoring devices, provide concrete floor for storage of raw material to avoid leaching, carry out research and development work through an expert agency to further reduce sulphur content in the emissions through stacks and submit report to the ministry.

Besides, the company has to fulfill all the commitments made during the public hearing and keep aside a separate budget. It has been asked to provide green belt of 20-30 meters in width all around the periphery of the site and set up at least four ambient air quality monitoring stations in the downward direction. The company produces steel products such as hot rolled coils, cold rolled coils, galvanised coils and sheets and colour coated products.

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