

Narendra Singh Tomar Holds Discussion with North East CM's



Narendra Singh Tomar Held a Meeting with CM Tarun Gogoi, Assam

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar met Chief Minister, Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi, to discuss issues regarding development of Assam and other North-East areas in the steel & mines sector, in Guwahati on May 19, 2015. Shri Tomar was accompanied by senior officials from Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Mines.

In his opening remarks, Shri Tomar gave details of the MMDR Act 2015 and explained how it will usher in greater transparency and better ease of doing business, besides providing a mechanism in the form of District Mineral Foundation (DMF), for provision of funds for development of areas affected by mining. He also informed about setting up of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for giving due emphasis to exploration. Actions taken for implementation of the Act also came up for discussion during the meeting.

After the meeting, Shri Tomar announced setting up of a stocking facility at Silchar for SAIL products. This facility of Consignment Agent in Silchar shall improve supply of steel to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Southern districts of Assam. The Minister also offered to take up detailed exploration of minerals in the state for development of industry in this area. It is noteworthy that promising leads of rare earth minerals have been identified in parts of lower Assam.

To give further impetus to Mineral exploration in Assam, Chief Minister agreed to the formation of a committee under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Mines Assam and comprising officials from Geological Survey of India and Government of India, the committee will work to expedite

and intensify exploration activities in Assam.

On the other hand, Shri Tomar along with senior officials from Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Mines, met Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, Meghalaya to discuss issues regarding development of Meghalaya and other North-East areas, in Shillong on May 20, 2015.

In the meeting, Shri Tomar gave details of the MMDR Act 2015 and explained how it will lead to greater transparency in doing business. Besides, he also exclaimed that providing a mechanism in the form of District Mineral Foundation (DMF), is to create funds for development of areas affected by mining. He also informed about setting up of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for giving due emphasis to exploration.

The Minister also offered to take up detailed exploration of minerals in the state for development of industry in this area. To give further impetus to Mineral exploration in Meghalaya, Chief Minister agreed to the formation of a committee to expedite and intensify exploration activities in Meghalaya and to ensure quick closure of abandoned mines.

Speaking to the media following the meeting, Shri. Tomar said that although the Centre is aware about the effect of the ban on coal mining imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Meghalaya, the ruling of the Tribunal has to be accepted as the degradation of the environment is an area of critical concern and the need to protect the environment is a priority issue for the Government. However, he added that the State Government can put forward its grievances before the Tribunal.



Narendra Singh Tomar Calling on Meghalaya CM, Dr. Mukul Sangma

Stating that the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi is committed to bring the north eastern region at par with the rest of the country in all realms of development, Shri. Tomar said, the Central government and the State government will work together to bring about progress and prosperity in the State through interventions in areas such as mineral exploration.

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma stressed on the need for proper mechanisms to meet the various statutory laws to revive the mining activities as far as coal mining is concerned and added that there will be a joint exercise and some committees can be set up to look into the matter and format a mechanism to overcome the challenges. He further said that the Government is expecting full support from the Union Government in this regard and that the Ministry of Coal will also be involved in this exercise as it will have more synergy.

The Chief Minister also said that various sections and clauses from the MMDR Act, 1957 and MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 were discussed in the meeting and how those sections come in the way of traditional and customary practices. While stating, there is a need to work out the modalities to overcome such issues, the Chief Minister also said that there is a need for proper mapping for exploration of minerals so that we know what is available and what is good for the State, the Nation and the people.

Therefore, on both the occasions gratitude expressed by CM's to Shri Tomar for this initiative, and highlighted the thrust areas for the state government.