

# New Mining Policy - Few Suggestions

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As per Supreme Court Order in Orissa mining case filed by Common Cause, it was ordered by Honourable Supreme Court that since the Mineral Policy 2008 was outdated, the Central Government should formulate a New Mineral Policy at earliest.

Accordingly, Ministry of Mines has formulated a Committee under Mr K C Rao, which has a cross section of all stakeholders on it and it is accepting inputs toward bringing all view points into the policy and is inviting suggestions.

Here are few suggestions regarding the points to be included in the proposed new mining policy:-

1. A certain percentage ( say 10%) of the Mineral District Development Fund to be allocated to :-

a) Mineral exploration & Mineral Processing + Utilization projects by the local Universities through their Department of Geology and/or Earth Science or through the local colleges through their Department of Geology and the Engineering Colleges through their departments of Mining and / or Metallurgy.

b) Research into Mineral utilization for downstream processing and /or products by Corporates.

For example we have researched &

commercialized processes on the downstream utilization of :-

i ) Low grade iron ores as primer paints, as a friction surface for matchboxes, for making the polishing stones for granites/ Tiles/ stone surfaces.

ii) Conversion of Low grade ores into pharma product ( Ferrous Fumarate ) used in haemoglobin improvement tonics.

iii ) Bentonite & Manganiferrous Clay's for applications in paint and in soap making.

iv) Agglomeration of Iron Ore fines into Briquettes suitable for Sponge Iron & Blast Furnace feed.

2. Simple Time bound procedure for Declaration of the additional and /or associated Minerals followed by Permission for Extraction of maximum No of mineral products, if encountered, within the lease area, even if not originally in the Lease Document but identified later on, and a Time Bound approval of the permission for sale of same against payment of the Govt Royalties and taxes.

3. Recognizing the downstream processing of Minerals as an Industrial Activity, for the purpose of defining the Captive nature of the Lease, with some lower stipulation on the Value Addition & employment creation in rural area, so

investors and the society will be encouraged to add value to the minerals.

4. Incentives for following Sustainable Mining Practises by way of either some recognition scheme or by Tax Credits.

5. Easier availability of Land in proximity to the Lease area and Finance for the Mineral Extraction & Processing units.

6. Preference in allocation of Mineral Resources to Entrepreneurs who plan for downstream utilization of maximum extractions, with local employment and value addition.

7. Mineral Processing Parks or Estates near to Mineral bearing Area with adequate Power , Transport & Electricity availability.

8. Recognizing Water Harvesting in Mined Out Pits as an acceptable closure activity particularly in water deficient area or where rain water runs off into the ocean and can be conserved and used for irrigation or as a raw material for industrial processes.

9. Recognition to State Govts that are proactive in the implementation of the National Mineral Policy and those that adopt same into a State Mineral Policy which should also include a DUMP MINING POLICY to extract valuable minerals from the old dumps.