

No. 16/7/2024-Mines VI-Part (2)
Government of India
Ministry of Mines

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 24th September, 2025

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereinafter, 'the Act') was enacted to provide for development and regulation of mines and minerals in the country.

AND WHEREAS, minor minerals are those minerals which are specified or notified under section 3(e) of the Act.

AND WHEREAS, the minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz were declared as minor minerals vide Notification No. S.O. 423(E) dated the 10th February, 2015 in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(e) of the Act.

AND WHEREAS, the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(e) of the Act has amended the notification no. S.O. 423(E) dated the 10th February, 2015 to omit the entries relating to the minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz vide Notification No. S.O. 924 (E) dated 20th February, 2025. Therefore, on and from 20th February, 2025, the minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz are minerals other than minor minerals (hereinafter, 'major minerals').

AND WHEREAS, the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 21st February, 2025 had issued certain guidelines to the State Governments for transition of existing mining leases of Barytes, Felspar, Mica or Quartz to major minerals.

AND WHEREAS, the Central Government vide order dated 1st May, 2025 issued under section 20A of the Act has made certain transitory provisions to facilitate smooth transition of existing mining leases granted in respect of these minerals from the rules applicable to minor minerals to rules applicable to major minerals.


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AND WHEREAS, the Central Government has received representations from the State Governments, mining associations and the individual lease holders for providing suitable transition provisions for the pending applications that were submitted to the State Government for grant of mineral concessions (mining lease, prospecting licence or composite licence) in respect of minerals Barytes, Felspar, Mica and Quartz when these minerals were minor minerals. State Governments have also informed that in case of a number of applications, State Governments have already taken steps for grant of mining leases.

AND WHEREAS, State Governments have submitted lists of such pending applications along with steps taken till issue of notification dated 20th February, 2025.

AND WHEREAS, the Central Government has examined the issue in consultation with the State Governments to provide a suitable dispensation for the pending applications. And whereas, the State Governments have informed that majority of the pending applications are for grant of mining lease in respect of very small area (less than 5 hectares).

AND WHEREAS, transition period is required to be provided to the applicants that have already made progress to obtain mineral concession by receiving letter of intent for grant of the mineral concession from the State Government or have been selected as preferred bidder for grant of a mineral concession through auction by competitive bidding under the rules applicable to minor minerals. This will protect the investment of the small and medium scale miners made in obtaining the mineral concession which will increase employment in the mining sector, augment mineral production and increase revenue to the State Governments.

AND WHEREAS, the Section 20A of the Act provides that the Central Government may issue such directions to the State Governments, as may be required for the conservation of mineral resources, or on any policy matter in the national interest, and for the scientific and sustainable development and exploitation of mineral resources.

NOW THEREFORE, notwithstanding anything contained in the Act, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 20A of the Act, the Central Government, for the conservation of mineral resources, in the national interest, and


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for the scientific and sustainable development and exploitation of mineral resources, hereby directs the following:

(a) where an application has been made for grant of a mineral concession, but the State Government has not issued letter of intent (by whatever name called) for grant the mineral concession before 20th February, 2025, the application shall lapse.

(b) where the State Government had issued letter of intent (by whatever name called) for grant of a mineral concession before 20th February, 2025 and such letter of intent was valid as on 20th February, 2025 or where the auction process for grant of mineral concession has been concluded and preferred bidder has been selected before 20th February, 2025 but the letter of intent (by whatever name called) for grant of mineral concession has not been issued, the mining lease shall be granted and executed in accordance with the rules made by the State Government in respect of minor minerals within a period of two years from the date of issue of this order. No mining lease shall be executed after the said period.

(c) After the grant and execution of mining lease, all the provision of the Act and the rules made thereunder shall apply to such mining lease which are applicable to minerals other than minor mineral.


(Sanjay Lohiya)

Additional Secretary to the Government of India

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To

The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries,
In-charge of Mining Department,
All State Governments and Union Territories

Copy for information to: The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur.