

REVIEW MEETING ON THE PROGRESS OF ONGOING MINERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF NORTH EASTERN REGION HELD ON 19-10-2007 AT SHILLONG

The meeting to review the progress of ongoing mineral development projects of North Eastern Region convened by Shri J.P.Singh, Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines was held on 19-10-2007 in the Conference Hall of the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.

The proceedings were initiated by Shri S.Sanyal, Director GSI, which was followed by a welcome address by Shri A.K.Bhandari, Advisor TPPC. Shri Bhandari expressed gratefulness to Shri J.P.Singh for convening the meeting and appreciated his sincere concern regarding the development of North Eastern Region specially towards growth of the mineral based industries. He welcomed the Dy. Secretary, DONER and representatives of the State governments as well as of IBM & MECL.

The Chairman in his address emphasized that tapping of the natural resources is of utmost importance to the North Eastern Region which is otherwise lagging behind in respect of agricultural growth and industrial development and suffering due to prolonged social unrest. He mentioned that one has to work towards the overall development of the region as a whole, but at the same time it must be ensured that developmental activities do not disturb the natural environment and ecology of the region.

Shri K.Balasubramanian, Director, GSI presented an overview of the work carried out by GSI in the region, which included an overall glimpse of the mineral deposits in the region, the progress of work during the last field season as well as proposed items being taken up in the current field season (2007-08).

This was followed by a detailed presentation on the work carried out under Regional Exploration for Limestone in Litang valley area and for PGE & Nickel in Mawpyut area of Meghalaya. Smt Ajita Bajpayi Pande, Joint Secretary MoM, and the Chairman urged the concerned state Governments to take appropriate steps to encourage private entrepreneurship in the state mineral sector industry. He emphasized that the objective of the review meeting is to prepare a blue print of the activities of Mineral development programme and mining activities in NER. Subsequently the state representatives made a detail presentation of the work carried out by them. Representatives of IBM, MECL, etc also highlighted their achievement.

The Chairman finally concluded that the DONER and the North Eastern Council (NEC) should primarily take up funding of the projects proposed by the various state governments by reprioritizing their total expenditure. The Chairman also stressed that due care must be taken to ensure that data generated by various agencies should be put to proper and timely utilization.



