

NOTE ON ANNUAL STRATEGIC INTERACTION MEET (ASIM) WITH CHIEF SECRETARY, CHHATTISGARH STATE

In pursuance of MoM D.O.No.11/18/2019-M.I. dated 11th March, 2019, the Annual Strategic Interaction Meet (ASIM) - 2019 with the Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh State was held on 22nd April, 2019 at 4.00 PM at the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh. Shri Sunil Kumar Kujur, Chief Secretary was accompanied by Shri Gaurav Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Mineral Resources, Chhattisgarh conducted the deliberation during the meeting. After exchange of pleasantries and introduction by the participants, the meeting began with brief overview about GSI, IBM and MECL and their activities in the State of Chhattisgarh to the house by Shri Godise Vidya Sagar, ADG & HoD, Central Region. Shri Shailendra Kumar Trivedi, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Mineral Resources, Chhattisgarh also briefed the Chief Secretary about the contribution of GSI. This was followed by a Power Point Presentation by Shri Ch. Durga Rao, Director-in-Charge, State Unit: Chhattisgarh regarding all the work done by GSI in Chhattisgarh in detail. During the presentation, the quantum of baseline data generated by GSI in different themes and their importance in mineral exploration was emphasized to the house. Contribution of GSI emphasizing the discovery of different mineral commodities such as iron, coal, limestone, bauxite, gold, diamond etc. in Chhattisgarh State along with their quantum and grade were informed to the Chief Secretary. The mineral exploration reports submitted by GSI to the State Government for auctioning were intimated.

The State Government was also made aware of societal issues that GSI is handling which includes construction of super civil engineering structures. Medical geology problems of fluorine and iodine carried out by GSI was also highlighted. During the interaction, the Chief Secretary enquired from GSI regarding possible geological reasons of kidney related medical problems faced by people residing around Supebeda area in Garyabandh district. GSI Participants informed that items on arsenic and fluoride contamination in Rajnandgaon and Jashpur districts were taken up by GSI in the past and suggested that GSI is ready to undertake geological studies for finding geological reasons if specific information and details are made available. The Principal Secretary informed that preliminary and specific information will be compiled and mailed to GSI for further necessary action. The ADG & HoD informed that after studying the report, GSI may take up one item, if the problem related to geogenic contamination. The Chief Secretary was also informed about the items taken up by GSI in Chhattisgarh during Field Season 2019-20. Discussion was also held on the future activities of GSI for Chhattisgarh under various Missions of GSI in order to develop the mineral sector of the State and geoscience related societal issues.

Regarding the problems of delay in forest clearance for exploration (drilling and surveying), the Chief Secretary suggested that any specific case, if brought to notice, will be resolved early. On the issue of demarcation of Lease-free for facilitating formulation of future exploration strategy, the Principal Secretary informed that digitisation on GIS platform is going on and the issue will be resolved in recent future. The Chief Secretary expressed that resistance by local people during geoscientific survey and drilling has become a common problem in the State. He opined that such problems are likely to increase in future. He suggested that the agencies engaged in mineral exploration should use their own wisdom and act according to the prevailing situation.

Shri B.L. Gurjar, Regional Controller of Mines, IBM, Chhattisgarh briefed about the activities of IBM. He discussed about the issues of authentication of DGPS coordinates, non-submission of monthly returns regularly by different mining companies etc. The Principal Secretary agreed to look

into these issues on behalf of the State Govt. Shri P.P. Kulkarni, Sr. Manager (Geology), MECL informed the house about the blocks developed by MECL since 1972 in Chhattisgarh and their estimated resources. He also informed about the status of handing over of the reports and the future activities planned by MECL in Chhattisgarh.

The ADG & HoD, CR apprised about the importance of such interaction for mutual benefit of the State Government and geoscientific community operating in the State. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh expressed his happiness regarding such an initiative and appreciated the contribution of GSI, IBM and MECL towards development of the State.

List of participants:

| | Name | Designation |
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| 1 | Shri Sunil Kumar Kujur | Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 2 | Shri Gaurav Dwivedi | Principal Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 3 | Shri Godise Vidya Sagar | ADG&HOD, GSI, CR |
| 4 | Shri Ch. Durga Rao | Director In Charge, GSI, SU: Chhattisgarh |
| 5 | Shri S.N. Mahapatro | Director, GSI, SU: Chhattisgarh |
| 6 | Shri Yogesh Pandey | Director, GSI, SU: Chhattisgarh |
| 7 | Shri Shailendra Kumar Trivedi | OSD, Ministry of Mineral Resources, Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 8 | Shri Jayant Kumar Pashine | Additional Director, DGM, Chhattisgarh |
| 9 | Shri B.L. Gurjar | Regional Controller of Mines, IBM, Raipur |
| 10 | Shri R. N. Mishra, | Sr. Mining Geologist, IBM, Raipur |
| 11 | Shri P.P. Kulkarni | Sr Manager (Geology), MECL, Nagpur |
| 12 | Shri Akhilesh Srivastava | Assist. Manager (Geology), MECL, Nagpur |