



Indian Minerals Yearbook 2015

(Part- I : GENERAL REVIEWS)

54th Edition

**STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS,
PROSPECTING LICENCES & MINING LEASES
IN INDIA**

(FINAL RELEASE)

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INTRODUCTION

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development Regulation) Act, 1957, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 and the Minerals (other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, the State Governments accord grant of non-exclusive reconnaissance permits, prospecting licences (only for the holder of a reconnaissance permit which was granted prior to January 12, 2015), prospecting licence-cum-mining lease and mining leases. Also the State Governments are required to submit a copy of every mineral concession granted or renewed under the Act and rules made thereunder within two months of such grant or renewal to the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines under Rule 59 (1) of Minerals (other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016. Additionally, the State Governments also have to submit a consolidated Annual Return of all mineral concession granted or renewed under the Act and rules made thereunder to the Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines in such form as may be specified for the purpose under Rule 59 (2) of Minerals (other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 not later than the 30th day of June following the year to which the return relates.

RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS

Reconnaissance Permit is a permit granted for the purpose of undertaking “reconnaissance operations” which means any operation undertaken for preliminary prospecting of a mineral through regional, aerial, geophysical or geochemical surveys and geological mapping, but does not include pitting, trenching, drilling (except drilling of boreholes on a grid specified from time to time by the Central Government) or sub-surface excavation.

The provision of Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit was introduced in 2015 under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 and Mineral (Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit) Rules, 2015 .

During 2014-15, no information regarding Reconnaissance Permits/Non-Exclusive Reconnaissance Permit having been approved/granted was received.

PROSPECTING LICENCES

Under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, "Prospecting Licence" (PL) means a licence granted for the purpose of undertaking “prospecting operations” with a view to exploring, locating or proving mineral deposits. The State Governments and Union Territories are empowered to grant/renew/voke Prospecting Licences under provisions of Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016 .

As per information received from the State Governments/Union Territories, 168 prospecting licences were granted covering an area of 28,255.36 ha during 2014-15 as compared to 146 prospecting licences covering 24,589.36 ha area granted in 2013-14.

The States where prospecting licences were granted during 2014-15 include Rajasthan (109), Madhya Pradesh (29), Tamil Nadu (8), Telangana (6), Chhattisgarh (5), Jharkhand & Uttarakhand (4 each) and Arunachal Pradesh (3).

Areawise, Rajasthan covered (19,630.03 ha), Arunachal Pradesh (6,122 ha), Madhya Pradesh (1385.39 ha), Telangana (767.83 ha), Tamil Nadu (249.97 ha), Chhattisgarh (56.64 ha), Jharkhand & Uttarakhand (21.75 ha each). The statewide distribution of prospecting licences granted during 2012-13 to 2014-15 is furnished in Table- 1.

Mineralwise, prospecting licences granted in 2014-15, were for silica sand (28), limestone (18), limestone (cement grade) (17), gypsum (15), calcite (8), graphite & laterite (6 each), manganese ore (5), talc/soapstone/steatite & siliceous earth (4 each), china clay & rock phosphate (3 each), dolomite & iron ore (2 each), garnet (abrasive), pyrophyllite, quartz & red ochre (1 each). Forty-three Prospecting Licences were granted in respect of group of minerals. Limestone (cement grade) accounted for the maximum area of 13,080.40 ha out of the total area of 28,255.36 ha for which Prospecting Licences were granted during 2014-15 which was followed by gypsum (5,469.16 ha), graphite (3,708.44 ha), silica sand (1,222.27 ha), limestone (1,060.78 ha),

manganese ore (819.86 ha), calcite (361.96 ha), siliceous earth (264.79 ha) Iron ore (221.09 ha), garnet (abrasive) (160.77 ha), rock phosphate (101.10 ha), china clay (100 ha), laterite (54.05 ha), red ochre (42 ha), talc / soapstone / steatite (21.75 ha), dolomite (20.60 ha), pyrophyllite (6.84 ha) and quartz (5 ha). Group of minerals category covered an area of 1534.50 ha. The mineralwise distribution of prospecting licences granted during 2012-13 to 2014-15 is furnished in Table 2.

PROSPECTING LICENCE -CUM- MINING LEASE

“Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease” or Composite Licence” means a two stage concession granted for the purpose of undertaking prospecting operations followed by mining operation. During 2014-15, no information regarding “Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease” or “Composite Licence” having been approved/granted was received.

MINING LEASES

Section 3 (c) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 defines “Mining Lease” (ML) as a lease granted for the purpose of undertaking mining operations and includes a sub-lease granted for such purpose. The Act defines “Mining Operations” as any operation undertaken for the purpose of winning any mineral.

The status of mining leases as on 31.3.2015 indicates that 11,001 mining leases were in force in the country in 24 States covering an area of 4,53,891.73 ha for 68 metallic and non-metallic minerals excluding lignite, coal, petroleum, natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.

STATUS OF RECONNAISSANCE PERMITS, PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINING LEASES IN INDIA

During 2014-15, the statewise break up of leases as reflected in Table-3 indicates that Rajasthan was leading with 3,511 leases followed by Andhra Pradesh (1,484), Gujarat (1,078), Madhya Pradesh (1,018), Tamil Nadu (935), Karnataka (546), Odisha (526), Telangana (486), Chhattisgarh (299), Jharkhand (271), Maharashtra (260) and Haryana (107). These twelve states together accounted for about 95.64% of the total mining leases in force.

Of the total mining lease area covered by different States, Rajasthan accounted for 20.51% followed by Odisha (16.49%), Karnataka (10.50%), Madhya Pradesh (7.67%), Andhra Pradesh (9.23%), Gujarat (6.28%), Jharkhand (5.96%), Chhattisgarh (5.22%), Telangana (4.96%), Maharashtra (3.41%), Haryana (2.40%) and Tamil Nadu (2.24%). These twelve States accounted for about 94.87% of the total mining lease area granted and the remaining 5.13% was accounted for by the rest of the eleven States.

Scheduled minerals are those listed in the First Schedule of the MM (DR) Act, 1957. There are 11 minerals under Scheduled Minerals for which mining leases were in existence as on 31.3.2015. The number of existing mining leases are 1,266, i.e., about 33% of the total mining leases accounting for an area of 1,57,861 ha which is about 46% of the total mining area in the country. Out of the scheduled minerals, the total number of mining leases for iron ore is placed at 541 followed by bauxite (339), manganese ore (297), chromite (35), copper ore (14), lead & zinc ores (13), gold (11), asbestos (7), ruby (6), diamond (2) and sapphire (1).

During 2014-15, mining leases in force were in both Private and Public Sectors and also included Central and State Government Undertakings. Out of the total 11,001 mining leases in force in the country, 10,567 (96%) mining leases with an area of 3,25,784 ha (78%) are in the Private Sector and the remaining 434 (4%) leases are in the Public Sector.

In the metallic minerals, Ferrous group of minerals include iron ore, manganese ore, chromite while the Non-ferrous group of minerals comprises bauxite, copper-lead-zinc, molybdenum, nickel, tin and the noble metals which include gold, silver and platinum group of metals. There are no mining leases for molybdenum, nickel, silver and platinum group of metals in the country. In 2013-14, the number of existing mining leases for 7 metallic minerals were 1,255 (11%) covering an area of 1,49,266.12 ha (33%). On the other hand, the number of existing leases for non-metallic minerals/industrial minerals were 9,746 (89%) which covered an area of 3,04,625.61 ha (67%).

The statewise summary of existing mining leases during 2012-13 to 2014-15 is detailed in Table-3. The mineralwise summary of existing mining leases as on 31.3.2015 is furnished in Table-4 (including the mining leases of the minerals declared as 'Minor' vide Gazette Notification Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) dated 10th February, 2015).

Sectorwise distribution of mining leases as on 31.3.2015 is furnished in Table-5.

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**Table-1 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2012-13 to 2014-15
(By States)**

State	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	104	13366.70	146	24589.36	168	28255.36
Andhra Pradesh	14	997.53	32	4893.51	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1	1000.00	3	6122.00
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	5	56.64
Gujarat	1	5.31	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand	-	-	6	156.77	4	21.75
Madhya Pradesh	55	6748.16	56	9229.47	29	1385.39
Maharashtra	-	-	11	597.44	-	-
Manipur	5	2700	4	3730	-	-
Rajasthan	27	2905.90	30	4909.27	109	19630.03
Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	8	249.97
Telangana	-	-	-	-	6	767.83
Uttarakhand	2	9.80	6	72.90	4	21.75

**Table - 2 : Prospecting Licences Granted, 2012-13 to 2014-15
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	104	13366.70	146	24589.36	168	28255.36
Barytes	-	-	5	22.09	-	-
Bauxite	-	-	2	170.38	-	-
Calcite	1	5.31	-	-	8	361.96
China clay	3	554.47	6	135.00	3	100.00
Diamond	1	902.49	-	-	-	-
Dolomite	-	-	1	4.50	2	20.60
Fireclay	-	-	1	34.29	-	-
Garnet (abrasive)	2	441.04	1	112.50	1	160.77
Graphite	-	-	-	-	6	3708.44
Gypsum	-	-	-	-	15	5469.16
Iron ore	2	107.48	5	1019.94	2	221.09
Laterite	6	90.76	16	188.91	6	54.05
Limestone	14	7492.72	30	15410.52	18	1060.78
Limestone (cement grade)	2	446.90	-	-	17	13080.40
Manganese ore	10	95.11	18	675.72	5	819.86
Mica	1	20.36	5	91.63	-	-
Pyrophyllite	-	-	1	25.00	1	6.84
Quartz	-	-	3	93.31	1	5.00
Red ochre	4	271.61	-	-	1	42.00
Rock phosphate	4	805.19	-	-	3	101.10
Talc/soapstone/steatite	2	9.80	5	36.96	4	21.75
Semi-precious stone	2	25.18	-	-	-	-
Silica sand	1	22.50	3	63.94	28	1222.27
Silicious earth	2	352.37	-	-	4	264.79
Group of minerals	47	1723.41	44	6504.67	43	1534.50

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**Table-3 : Existing Mining Leases, 2012-13 to 2014-15
(By States)**

State	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)
India	11104	498249.33	10982	454706.15	11001	453891.73
Andhra Pradesh	2001*	68009.35*	2038*	61470.00*	1484	41902.37
Assam	7	889.50	7	889.50	7	889.50
Bihar	9	1382.66	9	1382.66	15	1604.07
Chhattisgarh	308	22723.20	300	22070.85	299	23707.11
Goa	337	24522.12	267	19892.01	90	7402.98
Gujarat	1104	29607.04	1100	29632.55	1078	28503.23
Haryana	110	10974.99	110	10974.99	107	10912.38
Himachal Pradesh	45	2546.68	44	2542.39	43	2539.21
Jammu & Kashmir	57	2450.92	57	2450.93	59	2458.14
Jharkhand	294	35028.70	282	30344.92	271	27033.79
Karnataka	594	48841.60	545	47653.07	546	47651.14
Kerala	87	3071.82	91	3077.84	90	2431.76
Manipur	2	610.17	1	132.78	1	132.78
Meghalaya	18	606.19	18	606.19	18	606.19
Madhya Pradesh	1117	34455.74	1001	32882.58	1018	34835.46
Maharashtra	261	16061.86	260	15454.61	260	15457.68
Odisha	490	74694.74	461	73594.13	526	74840.12
Rajasthan	3185	106139.13	3306	84140.69	3511	93092.56
Sikkim	3	96.32	3	96.32	3	96.32
Tamil Nadu	924	9890.98	931	9765.52	935	10162.56
Telangana	-	-	-	-	486	22516.88
Uttar Pradesh	23	3964.70	23	3964.70	23	3619.30
Uttarakhand	86	1272.85	83	1272.85	87	1083.11
West Bengal	42	400.41	45	414.07	44	413.09

* Includes data on Mining Leases of Telangana.

**Table – 5 : Existing Mining Leases as on 31.3.2015
(By Sectors)**

Sector	No. of leases	Percent	Area (ha)	Percent
India	11001	100	453892	100
Public	434	3.95	128108	28.22
Central Government Undertakings	176	1.60	70153	15.45
State Government Undertakings	258	2.35	57955	12.77
Private	10567	96.05	325784	71.78

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**Table-4 : Existing Mining Leases as on
31.3.2015
(By Minerals)**

Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease area (ha)
India	11001	453891.73
Agate	3	59.62
Amethyst	3	07.83
Apatite	2	20.17
Asbestos	7	394.74
Aquamarine	1	24.29
Ball clay	83	1835.61
Barytes	141	2302.24
Bauxite	339	25724.38
Borax	1	159.00
Calcite	61	1031.80
Chalk	148	757.58
China clay	493	13199.87
Chromite	35	9068.50
Clay (Others)	96	1090.59
Copper ore	14	4678.25
Corundum	7	60.29
Diamond	2	275.96
Diaspore	10	61.97
Dolomite	497	6379.90
Emerald	1	46.32
Epidote	2	220.83
Felsite	6	102.29
Felspar	1083	6488.34
Fireclay	233	4033.85
Flint stone	2	11.77
Fluorite	11	1289.60
Garnet	107	1544.74
Garnet (Gem)	3	51.03
Gold	11	7445.46
Graphite	136	4256.73
Gypsum	103	12988.07
Iolite	14	195.70

(Contd.)

Table - 4 (Concl.)

Mineral	No. of Leases	Lease area (ha)
Iron ore	541	83360.20
Jasper	2	10.00
Kyanite	30	1349.50
Laterite	225	2619.44
Lead & Zinc ore	13	10618.88
Lime kankar	5	31.42
Limeshell	25	2889.58
Limestone	1972	158972.12
Magnesite	36	1871.03
Manganese ore	297	15491.19
Marl	1	4.90
Mica	194	3927.58
Moulding sand	35	841.85
Nepheline Synite	1	14.28
Ochre	149	1706.81
Phosphorite	11	2158.71
Pyrophyllite	85	1185.65
Pyroxenite	12	146.04
Quartz	2495	17687.78
Quartzite	78	1372.79
Red Oxide	4	193.42
Ruby	6	130.00
Sand (Others)	47	10046.39
Sapphire	1	673.40
Semi-precious stone	13	134.43
Shale	23	429.98
Silica sand	432	12025.95
Siliceous earth	26	300.63
Sillimanite	7	3027.06
Slate	16	544.59
Talc/steatite/soapstone	406	11793.76
Tin	16	324.72
Vermiculite	66	1035.74
White clay	44	663.74
White shale	15	77.34
Wollastonite	17	423.51