

Minutes of the 54th meeting of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, West Bengal (2023-2026) held on November 30, 2024 at 11:30 hr at the Conference Room, Paribesh Bhawan, Bidhannagar.

The 54th meeting of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), West Bengal (2023-2026) was held on Saturday the 30th November, 2024 at 11:30 hr at the Conference Room, Paribesh Bhawan, Bidhannagar. The following members participated:

1)	Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS	Secretary, SEAC	Present
2)	Prof. Indranath Sinha	Vice Chairman, SEAC	Present
3)	Prof. Sampa Chakrabarti	Member, SEAC	Present
4)	Prof. Suchandra Bardhan	Member, SEAC	Present
5)	Prof. Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay	Member, SEAC	Present
6)	Shri Shubhendu Bandyopadhyay	Member, SEAC	Present

1) Reconsideration Proposal :-

1.1) Environmental Clearance:

1.1.1) Mining of Minerals (Other than sand):

- I. **Proposed Upardanga Granite Stone Quarry over an area of 1.0 ha (2.471 Acres) of capacity 19564.36 MT/year at Mouza - Talsankra, J.L. No. - 163, Plot No. – 3310, P.S. - Raghunathpur, Dist. – Purulia, Pin – 723101, West Bengal.**

Proposal No.:	SIA/WB/MIN/442652/2023
Project Proponent:	M/s. Todi Minerals Private Limited.
Environmental Consultant:	M/s. Ultra-Tech.

Activities:

- This is a proposal for Upardanga Granite Stone Quarry over an area of 1.0 ha (2.471 Acres) at Mouza - Talsankra, J.L. No. - 163, Plot No. – 3310, P.S. - Raghunathpur, Dist. – Purulia, Pin – 723101, West Bengal.
- **The Lease Deed has been executed on 28.07.2005 for a period of 20 years. Therefore, the lease period is valid only upto 27.07.2025.**
- As required under the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, the PP got a composite 'Mining Plan' prepared for proposed Granite Mine at the site by an RQP. The Plan has been approved by the State Government on 07.02.2023 and the approved plan has been uploaded at the PARIVESH portal by the PP.
- The year wise development and production for five years as mentioned in the Mining Plan is given below :-

YEAR	Avg. Length	Avg. Width	Avg. Height	Top RL	Bottom RL	Volume	Gross Volume	40% granite extractab	60% granite
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								le volume	waste volume
	In (m.)	In (m.)	In (m.)	In (m.)	In (m.)	In (cum)	In (cum)	In (cum)	In (cum)
2022-23 (from May 2022)	36	32	4	172	168	4608	7056	2822	4234
	24	17	6	168	162	2448			
2023-24	74	16	6	168	162	7104	7104	2842	4262
2024-25	22	14	4	176	172	1232	7112	2845	4267
	74	9	4	172	168	2664			
	67	12	4	168	162	3216			
2025-26 (upto July 2025)	40	11	6	162	156	2640	2640	1056	1584
Total						23912	23912	9565	14347

- The PP has uploaded pre-feasibility report for the proposed project.
- The PP has submitted the requisite EC processing fees as required under Notification No 924/T-II-1/021/2022 dated 23.05.2022 issued by Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal.

Chronology of the Events:

- The project proponent had already obtained Environmental Clearance vide No. 966/EN/T-II-1/008/2013 dated 17.04.2015 issued by SEIAA and Consent to Operate from WBPCB vide No. CO134679, Memo No. 290-WPBA/Red/Pol/Cont/192/05 dated 17.07.2023 which is valid upto 31.05.2028.
- The PP applied in prescribed format for Environmental Clearance for the expansion of production capacity and uploaded the application in the PARIVESH portal on 14.09.2023.
- The PP was called for the EC presentation in the 17th meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 18.10.2023 and the PP presented their proposal in this meeting.
- Based on the submission and presentation made by the PP, the committee made the following observations/ additional conditions:
 1. The PP should submit Certified Compliance Report (CCR) from the MoEF&CC as directed in the Notification issued vide F No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III[E 177258] dated 08.06.2022.
 2. The geo-coordinates of the project plot as mentioned in the Mine Plan and PFR does not match.
 3. Site layout plan with green belt does not show the road access into the quarry area, while the existing road is clearly visible in the Google map. Thus, green belt area needs to be adjusted accordingly. The waste dump site connectivity w.r.t. the quarry site is not clear. Is it the adjacent one? But then the profile does not match. Needs to be marked in a single Google map image with accessibility shown. Will there be another road at the back for waste dumping? Then greenbelt area will be further reduced. Haul road layout, storage area, Garland drain layout settling tank, and Rainwater harvesting Tank should be shown in a map/diagram. A revised map with the roads needs to be shown.

4. 'Road side green area' as shown in plantation plan- not clear if PP is committing to implement this. If yes, agreement with local body (panchayat?) for protection after mine closure and specific management plan to be proposed. Compliance report should also include on the progress of all in-situ and ex-situ plantation health/ progressive plantation.
5. Need-based activities to be more specific. Consents from the beneficiaries should be furnished.
6. Photographs of existing condition of the site (geotagged with date) should be submitted.

The SEAC recommended that the above documents may be submitted in the PARIVESH portal for further consideration of the application.

- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 19.03.2024, which was considered in the 34th meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 03.04.2024.
- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 34th meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 03.04.2024 and after careful consideration and detailed deliberation the committee noted that the PP has not submitted any specific and proper reply to the query raised. The PP is requested to submit specific and proper reply to the above and the documents may be submitted in the PARIVESH portal for further consideration of the application.
- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 24.06.2024, which was considered in the 43rd meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 10.07.2024.
- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 43rd meeting of SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 10.07.2024 and after careful consideration and detailed deliberation the committee observed the following :-
 - 1) The waste dump of 0.5 ha lies in Plot No. 3251 and the quarry area of 0.606 ha lies in Plot No. 3310. This is neither reflected in the approved mine plan or the Lease Deed granted to the PP. The lease area granted is of 1 ha in Plot No. 3310. Necessary clarification should be provided.
 - 2) The certificate by the RQP in the mine plan mentions that the Upardanga Granite Stone Quarry is over an area of 3.504 ha, while the mine plan and the Lease Deed mentions the area to be 1 ha. Necessary clarification should be provided.
 - 3) The afforestation programme given in the mine and mine closure plan do not match with the plantation plan submitted by the project proponent. Necessary clarification should be provided.
 - 4) Salient features of the project should be submitted.
 - 5) The Certified Compliance Report for the project mentions that the rate of survival of trees planted by the PP is less. The PP has to do tree plantation in an area equivalent to 33% of the lease area @2500 trees / ha within first two years from the starting of the mining operation. A Progressive Greenbelt Plan may be prepared. To enhance success/ survival rate the plantation shall be attempted during the first two years of the project life and the plantation so done shall be taken care of during the rest of the project life. Species of the plant selected should be self-sustaining in that particular region. Spatial year wise progressive plantation programme to be submitted.
 - 6) Compliance of earlier need-based activities given in the EC issued vide EC vide No. 966/EN-T-II-1008/2013 dated 17.04.2015. Evidence should be provided by photograph and/or certificate from the beneficiaries.

The SEAC recommended that the above documents may be submitted in the PARIVESH portal for further consideration of the application.

- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal, which was considered in the 45th meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 07.08.2024.
- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 45th meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 07.08.2024 and after careful consideration and detailed deliberation the committee observed that the PP has not submitted any reply to the queries raised. The PP is requested to submit specific reply to the queries raised by the SEAC.
- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 18.09.2024, which was considered in the 49th meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 25.09.2024.
- **The project is falling within the DSR potential zone code PUR_GR_ZONE_15.**
- Salient features of the proposed project as submitted by the PP as follows :-

Location	Plot No. 3310 Mouza - Talsankra, J.L No. - 163, P.S – Raghunathpur, PIN – 723101 Dist. – Purulia, West Bengal		
Coordinate of the project area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
	P1	23°32'48.11"	86°42'40.07"
	P2	23°32'50.05"	86°42'39.45"
	P3	23°32'49.92"	86°42'36.02"
	P4	23°32'47.29"	86°42'35.71"
	P5	23°32'46.37"	86°42'37.25"
	B1	23°32'45.72"	86°42'37.81"
	P6	23°32'45.86"	86°42'38.04"
	P7	23°32'46.72"	86°42'37.55"
	B2	23°32'46.90"	86°42'37.91"
	P8	23°32'46.49"	86°42'38.04"
	P9	23°32'46.06"	86°42'39.31"
	P10	23°32'47.25"	86°42'40.01"
Toposheet No.	73I/15		
Name of the Mineral to be mined	Granite Stone		
Capacity of Proposed Production per annum	19564.36 MT per year Production in 3.3 Years – 64562.40 MT		
Drilling Blasting	The mining does not require any drilling and blasting in mining activities.		
Method of Mining	Open cast Mechanized method of mining with Loader cum Excavator and Dumper		
Date of Grant of Lease	05.05.2003		
Date of Expiry of Lease	27.07.2025		
Lease Period	20 Years		
Lease Area	1.0 Hectares (2.471 Acres)		
Greenbelt area	0.606 ha		
Mineable Reserve	Total Minalbe Reserves is estimated – 99,760 cum Proposed Production during the Plan – 23,912 cum		
Manpower to be involved	25		
Water requirements and source	5 KLD Source: Hired Tank		
Solid Waste Generation	As the complete area is mineralized and outside dumping areas are re - handling if remains if unsold. Otherwise, the		

	rejects block able granite will be targeted for selling in other forms like Cobles, Boulders, Granite dusts etc. Any specific dumping ground thus has not been considered for the project.
Cost of the Project	Rs.100 Lacks (Approx.)

- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 49th meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 25.09.2024 and after careful consideration and detailed deliberation the SEAC recommended that the PP should submit the following :-
 - Non-Cluster Certificate from the competent authority.
 - Two sets of coordinates are given in the mine plan under 2.2.b. – Boundary pillar corner point coordinate in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) with Topo Sheet - PP is requested to clarify.
- The project proponent uploaded their reply in PARIVESH Portal on 15.11.2024 along with the **cluster certificate**, which was considered in the 54th meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 30.11.2024.
- The PP has uploaded cluster certificate from the competent authority. **The mine block is forming a cluster with Upardanga North Block Granite Stone Quarry of the same owner comprising of an area of 0.84 ha.**

SEAC Observations and Recommendations:

- The SEAC scrutinized the documents submitted by the PP in the 54th meeting SEAC, WB (2023-2026) held on 30.11.2024. After careful consideration and detailed deliberation, the committee **recommended the proposed project for Environmental Clearance** with the following additional conditions that should be submitted along with the six monthly compliance report :-
 - The EC shall remain valid only upto 27.07.2025.**
 - The Proponent shall prepare a dust and noise minimization plan with adequate details. Care should be taken for prevention of occupational health issues of the workers. Amenities like personal protective equipments (PPEs) should be provided for them.
 - A post closure long-term vegetative stabilisation program should be submitted along with the six-monthly compliance report.
 - The PP has to do tree plantation in an area equivalent to 33% of the lease area @2500 trees / ha within first two years from the starting of the mining operation. If any tree (defined as per tree rules 2007) has to be felled, 5 times of the felled trees should be planted as compensatory plantation; the land for such plantation should be marked.

This may be done with prior approval of the local self governing bodies. If no public land is available for the purpose the Project Proponent shall arrange for land with his personal means. To enhance success/ survival rate the plantation shall be attempted during the first two years of the project life and the plantation so done shall be taken care of during the rest of the project life.
 - Monitoring of PM10, PM2.5 and its SiO₂ (free silica) content should be done along with noise levels.

- 6) Dust suppression by sprinkling water should be adopted specially after dusty operations like drilling, blasting etc.
- 7) Year-wise excavation schedule showing breakup of pay-mineral (black stone) and waste rock may be clearly drawn up and areas may be demarcated for waste dumping. Site for intermediate stockpiling of the mineral may also be clearly demarcated and show in the surface plan.
- 8) As far as practicable the waste rock to be produced from the mine may be dumped in the existing pit-void adjacent to/ within the lease hold boundary. Any outside the pit dumping should be temporary in nature. All waste rock dumped outside the pit may be rehandled and backfilled in the mined-out area.
- 9) The proponent shall review the Progressive Mine Closure Plan every two years from the date of opening of the mine and shall submit the same to the officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf, for its approval under the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016. In the event of the progressive mine closure being not approved, or not deemed to be approved, the mining activities shall be discontinued.
- 10) One year prior to the proposed closure of the mine the proponent shall submit a Final Mine Closure Plan to the officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf, for approval under the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016.
- 11) The project proponent shall ensure that the protective measures contained in the Mine Closure Plan referred to hereinabove including the reclamation and rehabilitation work are carried out in accordance with the approved Mine Closure Plan or with such modifications as are approved by the officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf under the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016.
- 12) In addition to regular submission of environmental compliance reports as required under the EIA Notification, 2006, the proponent shall submit to the officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf, a yearly report before 1st of July every year setting forth the extent of protective and rehabilitative works carried out as envisaged in the approved Mine Closure Plan, and if there is any deviation, reasons thereof.
- 13) For the purpose of carrying out mining operation in the area, the proponent shall furnish financial assurance. The amount of financial assurance shall be as laid down in the West Bengal Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016. The financial assurance may be in any of the forms referred to in the said Rules.
- 14) Effects of blasting to the nearby localities should be examined and remedial plan should be in line with approved mine plan and as per rules of Mine Safety Authority.
- 15) Needs of the locality may be assessed and a social part of the EMP should be undertaken as stipulated by MoEF&CC.
- 16) The unit should strictly abide by The West Bengal Trees (Protection and Conservation in Non-Forest Areas) Rules, 2007. If any tree is cut, five times compensatory plantation should be provided.

Table-1 : List of the projects which were placed before the SEAC, WB (2023-2026) in the fifty-fourth meeting held on 30.11.2024 and the Summary Decisions / Recommendations thereon:

Sl. No.	Name of the unit and Project address	Summary Decision
1. Reconsideration Proposals		
1.1) Environmental Clearance		
1.1.1) Mining of Minerals (other than sand)		
I.	M/s. Todi Minerals Private Limited. Proposed Upardanga Granite Stone Quarry over an area of 1 ha (2.471 Acres) at Mouza - Talsankra, J.L. No. - 163, Plot No. – 3310, P.S. - Raghunathpur, Dist. – Purulia, Pin – 723101, West Bengal. (Proposal No.: SIA/WB/ MIN/442652/2023)	Recommended for Environmental Clearance

There being no other agenda the Chair thanked the members present for their fruitful participation and deliberations. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

Sd/-

(Indranath Sinha)
Vice Chairman
S E A C, West Bengal

(Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay)
Member
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

Sd/-

(Suchandra Bardhan)
Member
S E A C, West Bengal

(Sampa Chakrabarti)
Member
S E A C, West Bengal

Sd/-

Sd/-

(Shubhendu Bandyopadhyay)
Member
S E A C, West Bengal

(Rajesh Kumar, IPS)
Secretary
S E A C, West Bengal