

## DIRECTORATE OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

### CALLING ATTENTION

**(Dr. Chandrakant Shetye MLA and Shri Michael Lobo MLA)**

*“Fear & Anxiety in the minds of the employees and workmen of Vedanta Sesa Goa Iron ore who were issued retrenchment notices citing Notification of Directorate of Mines and Geology to vacate lease. The steps Government will take in the matter”*

### REPLY

1. In pursuant to the Hon’ble Supreme Court order dated 13/10/2020 in MA No. 1260 of 2020 in Civil Appeal No. 839/2020, the Directorate of Mines and Geology issued notices under 12(i) (hh) of the Mineral (other than Atomic & hydrocarbons energy minerals) Concession Rules. 2016 to the erstwhile leaseholders to vacate lease.
2. In order to restart mining activity in the State, Government is gearing up for auctioning of mining blocks on priority.
3. In order auction the mining blocks expeditiously –
  - a. The State has entered into a MoU with Mineral Exploration Consultancy Limited (MECL), a Government of India enterprise, for providing Geological reports.
  - b. The State has decided to engage services of SBICAP Securities Limited for transaction advisory services for preparation of bid documents and conduct of bid process. The Directorate of Mines and Geology is expected to sign the agreement with SBICAP in couple of days.
  - c. The State has proposed to engage MSTC auction platform for conduct of auctioning process.

- d. A High Powered Committee is being set up to monitor the auction process in a time bound manner.
  - e. The Directorate of Mines & Geology has set up a Special Auction Cell to expedite auction process.
4. As the first round of auction process is proposed to be completed in next 3-4 months, the experienced workforce available in Goa is expected to get employment opportunities once the mining activity resumes in the State. The State will explore the possibility of giving preference in employment to the existing workforce through successful bidders after auction process is completed and mining activity is resumed.
  5. Government has to comply with the statutory requirements and court orders in re-starting mining activity in the State. In this direction, as stated, Government has already taken concrete steps for resumption of mining activity through auction process. This will give employment opportunities to the existing experienced workforce. Therefore, there should not be any fear or anxiety in this regard and government is committed in its efforts.