

DRAFT GRANITE POLICY 2009

Chapter – I

Objective:

- The National Mineral Policy 2008 emphasizes that mining infrastructure requires a special thrust as the economic efficiency of excavation of minerals from pits mouth to user point is closely linked to the end use value of mineral and the viability of the Industries using the mineral. The greater part of Tamilnadu is occupied by hard crystalline rocks. The state is thus bestowed with vast resources of granite deposits. The black granites are confined to northern districts viz. Kancheepuram, Tiruvellore, Vellore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem, Erode, Perambalur, Villupuram, Tiruchy and Tiruvannamalai. The multi coloured granites are spread over southern districts and in Salem, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts.
- The export of granite depends upon various factors such as uniform colour, grain size, free from inherent defects viz. hairline cracks, joints, fractures, capacity for polishing and recoverability of large size blocks.
- The granites of Tamilnadu have established a unique place in the world market and realized considerable amount of foreign exchange to the country. The production of granite has shown a steady increase.
- The commercial names of granite are derived from area, colour, pattern etc. Some of the important varieties of granite in Tamilnadu are Kashmir white, Raw silk, Paradiso, Colombo Jubrana, Tiger skin, Kunnam black, Thuraiyur blue, Pink multi and Madura gold.

- The mining and processing techniques of granites has improved but need further improvement / upgradation so as to enable the Tamil Nadu granite to compete in the International markets.
- The Granite Conservation and Development Rules, 1999 was brought to ensure uniformity and stability in quarry leases for granite and facilitate scientific mining with proper planning, utilization and management of granite resources.
- As per the existing Tamilnadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, the grant of leases to private persons in Government lands is through Tender Cum Auction system. The state owned undertaking will be granted leases directly. In respect of patta lands, the pattadar or the person who establishes the surface right will be granted quarry lease subject to the condition stipulated in Rules.
- Granite is an important sector which provides employment opportunities to rural people and artisans.
- In order to achieve systematic economic growth in the field of granite and granite based industries and to promote private sector participation with due regard to the conservation of minerals, safety of labourers, mines and environmental protection, the existing procedures will be simplified to offer quick decision with optimum transparency.

Chapter – 2

PRESENT STATUS:

- The total reserves of granite in Tamilnadu is estimated to be in the order of 55,94,35,000 cbm according to the survey conducted by Indian Bureau of Mines during 2006.
- There are 191 quarry leases for black granite out of which 116 are in patta lands covering an extent of 236.69.0 hectares and 75 in government lands covering an extent of 896.96.5 hectares.
- There are 548 quarry leases for colour granite out of which 441 are in patta lands covering an extent of 1027.89.0 hectares and 107 in Government lands covering an extent of 835.11.5 hectares.
- The production of granite in Tamilnadu has shown a progressive trend. The details are as under:

Sl No	Year	Black Granite		Colour Granite	
		Production (in Cbm)	Seigniorage fee (in Rupees)	Production (in Cbm)	Seigniorage fee (in Rupees)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	2004-05	25447	6,67,99,026	177204	27,87,23,647
2	2005-06	26180	6,87,23,510	159563	25,13,11,007
3	2006-07	45754	11,83,08,530	196693	33,17,36,040
4	2007-08	29251	14,99,86,480	159563	25,13,11,007
5	2008-09	58167	16,78,51,015	112558	18,53,29,349

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SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURE FOR GRANT OF LEASE.

GOVERNMENT LAND

- In Government lands, the existing provisions in Tamilnadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 (Rule 8C) enabling direct grant of quarry leases to the State Government undertaking will be continued.
- As far as the Government lands are concerned, the Government reserves the right of deciding changes in land use before granting mining lease.
- Government being owner of surface rights in all the Governments lands, a reasonable cost has to be realized by Government in lieu of foregoing such rights, whenever land is allowed for mining. Towards this purpose, transparent method will be followed.
- The preservation of water bodies is of paramount importance and grant of quarry leases in such water bodies will be made only after studying the effects of quarrying in consultation with the concerned departments.
- Environmental considerations: Presence of historical or archaeological monuments and possibility of putting the land for other uses in the long run and the likely adverse impact of mining on this will be examined before notification of the area for grant of quarry lease.

FOREST LAND

- Granite is not an Industrial or Strategic mineral and it is available for exploitation in places other than forest areas. Therefore, grant of quarry leases in forest lands will be discouraged in order to preserve the flora, fauna and biodiversity of the invaluable forest.

PATTA LAND

- In patta lands, the existing provisions of Tamilnadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 will be amended and the following changes are contemplated.
- The Government will take a decision on the applications forwarded for grant of quarry lease and communicate the same to the applicant. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining has been delegated with powers to accord approval of mining plan. Now, the Commissioner of Geology and Mining will be delegated with powers to call for a mining plan and after the approval, grant quarry lease.
- The applicant will be provided three months time for submission of mining plan for approval after the receipt of precise area communication, instead of the three months period in existence for submission of approved mining plan.
- In case of renewal of quarry lease, the applications shall be submitted at least three months before the date of expiry of the original lease period instead of existing twelve months stipulated in rules. Also, a provision will be made to condone delay in submission of the renewal of application.
- The time period for execution of lease deed shall be increased to three months from the date of receipt of the order granting lease or such further period as allowed by the District Collector instead of the prevailing one month time for such execution of lease deed.
- All applications received in full shape will be disposed of in a time bound manner. The maximum time limit prescribed at the District level will be 3 months, at the level of Commissioner, Geology and Mining will be 45 days and at the level of Government will be 30 days.

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PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

- Granite Conservation and Development Rules, 1999 stipulates the precautions to be taken against air pollution, discharge of effluents, noise, reclamation and rehabilitation of lands, restoration of flora, and protection of environment during quarrying operation which are being incorporated in the approved mining plan. In order to safeguard the people from environmental degradation due to quarrying operation, the above aspects will be periodically monitored through a well laid out system.
- The waste granites accumulated during quarrying operation will be allowed to be utilised for public purposes by taking into consideration the provisions contained in Granite Conservation and Development Rules, 1999.

Chapter – 5

PROMOTION OF GRANITE SECTOR

- Periodic interaction between the Industries and Government would be undertaken to facilitate the promotion of granite sector. Along with the industry, the Government will organize road shows and participate in international exhibitions to enhance the brand value of Tamil Nadu Granite and promote its use in foreign countries.
- The Government recognizes the importance of developing new products based on granite. Efforts would be taken to encourage R & D in this sector. Also special efforts will be taken to put even small bits & pieces of granite to good economic use. The Government will actively encourage the use of such by-products for the use of Government Departments and other users.

Chapter – 6

LEGAL ISSUES

- The various litigations pending before the Court of Law will be examined. The effort of the Government would be to resolve the issues, wherever possible, amicably and encourage the development of the industry. The Government will also examine the root causes of these litigations to see whether there is any need for change in regulatory framework.

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CONCLUSION

The proposed changes will largely help in speedy disposal of quarry lease applications, encourage investment, creation of employment opportunities, avoidance of litigations, more revenue realization, protection of environment and ecology and ultimately show case the prowess of Tamilnadu in the field of granite.

Comments from the public and industries are welcome to the e-mail id geomine@tn.nic.in
