SUBJECT: Uninterrupted mineral production, transportation of materials etc. to sustain mineral production activities during lockdown period

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, the Central as well as the State Governments have issued various directives to combat the COVID 19 pandemic. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has issued guidelines vide order no 40-3/2020 DM-I (A) dt 24-03-2020 to Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State/Union Territory Governments and State/Union Territory authorities for strict implementation with effect from 25-03-2020. At clause 5 of the said guidelines industrial establishments which require continuous process are exempted from shut down. Subsequently, Ministry of Home Affairs vide order no 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dt 25-03-2020 has issued an addendum to the guidelines dt 24-03-2020 by adding, inter alia, to clause 5 as under:

Sub clause (c) to clause 5:

“(c) coal and mineral production, transportation, supply of explosives and activities incidental to mining operations.”

2. Since the above orders clearly provide for preventing interruptions to mineral production, transportation, supply of explosives and other activities incidental to mining operations, it is hereby advised that the State Government should facilitate measures that would ensure continuity of operations of Steel, Aluminium, Copper, Cement and other such plants during lockdown period. The related activities like supply/movement of raw materials, equipments etc. including imported ones through rail/air/ports can be similarly facilitated.

3. The aforesaid mining operations and allied activities will be carried out during the lockdown period as per the orders no 40-3/2020 DM-I (A) dt 24-03-2020 and dt 25-03-2020 of Ministry of Home Affairs and the SOPs and advisories issued to the State
Governments by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare including ICMR, NDMA and other related agencies.

4. I would, therefore, request you to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorities to allow the aforesaid mining operations and allied activities during the period of lockdown.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sushil Kumar)

Chief Secretaries of All State Governments (As per list attached)

Copy to

Director General, DGMS, Dhanbad for issuing further instructions in conformity with the above advisory.