



GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB  
MINES & MINERAL DEPARTMENT

Dated Lahore, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023

**NOTIFICATION**

**No. SOT(M&M)1-5/2001(Vol-II): Whereas,** it has been observed that the licenses / leases granted under the Chapter of Small Scale Mining of Punjab Mining Concession Rules, 2002 do not largely involve any hefty capital investment and no industry installation is compulsory for Small Scale Mining concessionaires.

2. **And, Whereas,** it has been further observed that applications for grant of prospecting licenses as old as from the year 2001 are still pending and not decided by the Mines Committee on one pretext or the other. Consequently, those applied for areas are lying idle without any benefit to local population & public exchequer.

3. **And, Whereas,** most questionably, it has also been reported that even the concept of priority or the principle of first come first serve is not being followed in its true spirit which undoubtedly falls under the definition of corrupt practices.

4. **And, Whereas,** it has also been observed that on the one hand, the department is granting akin/ closely related minerals of iron ore such as laterite, bauxite, fireclay etc. through open auction since 2014, but on the other hand, the procedure for granting iron ore concessions has been deliberately kept through application / first come first serve to avoid competitive bidding process, despite the fact that the end usage of all these akin minerals is quite similar. This practice has resulted in misuse and abuse of the procedures as under the garb of iron ore, the unscrupulous elements exploit the other similar ores with the connivance of the concerned Departmental officials.

5. **And, Whereas,** in view of what has been discussed above, it is very clear that the current mode of grant of some minerals through Mines Committee under Small Scale Mining involves discretion, mismanagement & malpractices.

6. **Therefore,** in order to mitigate such practices, ensure transparency, fairness, provision of equal opportunities and in the interest of public exchequer, the undersigned, in

exercise of powers conferred under **Rule 187 (1) of the Punjab Mining Concession Rules 2002**, for the purposes of Small Scale Mining Undertaking is pleased to declare the minerals: Argillaceous Clay, Ball Clay, Barytes, Basalt, Bauxite, Bentonite, Brine, Calcite Celestite, Chalk, China Clay, Coal, Diorite, Dolomite, Fireclay, Fuller Earth, Granite, Gravel, Gypsum, Iron Ore, Lake Salt, Laterite, Limestone, Marble, Ocher, Ordinary Sand, Quartzite, Rock Salt, Sand Stone, Shale, Silica Sand, Slate Stone, Tar Sand, Tuff, Potash Brine as well as any other mineral mentioned in Schedule 3 of rules ibid for grant as prospecting license and mining lease through **competitive bidding or sealed tenders, instead of doling out on application basis.**

**(BABAR AMAN BABAR) (PAS)  
SECRETARY  
MINES & MINERALS DEPARTMENT**

**No. & Date Even:**

A copy is forwarded to:

- 1) Principal Secretary to Governor, Punjab
- 2) Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab
- 3) Additional Secretary (Staff) to Chief Secretary, Punjab
- 4) Director General, Mines & Minerals, Punjab, Lahore
- 5) Chief Inspector of Mines, Punjab
- 6) All Deputy Commissioners in Punjab
- 7) Director Small Mines Assistance / Titles, Punjab
- 8) PS to Secretary, Mines & Minerals Department
- 9) PA to Additional Secretary, Mines & Minerals Department

  
**SECTION OFFICER (TECHNICAL)**