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Notification No. 444-CI/O/ESTT/003/05/A (M1),

dated 29th November, 2006¹

In exercise of the powers conferred under sub-rule (1) of rule 5 and sub-rule (1) of rule 8 of the West Bengal Minor Minerals Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the said Rules), the Governor is pleased to authorize the District Magistrate of the concerned district to grant or refuse to grant mining leases for minor minerals, excepting *in-situ* hard rocks, viz. Stone, Granite, Laterite, in accordance with the provisions of the said Rules.

2. This notification shall come into force with effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

By order of the Governor,

Sabyasachi Sen

Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

Order No. 445-CI/O/ESTT/003/05/A (M1),

dated 29th November, 2006²

Whereas it has been observed that the existing procedure for disposal of mining lease application for minor minerals is lengthy and cumbersome; and

Whereas it has also been observed that on many occasions the time taken for grant of mining lease of minor minerals is more than one year, which is beyond the period prescribed in the West Bengal Minor Mineral Rules, 2002 (WBMMR, 2002); and

Whereas it has been felt necessary to simplify the procedure for disposal of applications for mining leases for minor minerals other than those which require excavation of *in-situ* hard rock, e.g. Granite, Stone, Laterite, etc. and to delegate the power of grant of such mining leases of riverbed materials and brick earth and morrum to the District Magistrates under the provisions of Rules 5(1) and Rules 8(1) of the WBMMR, 2002 in order to ensure expeditious disposal of such applications;

The Governor in terms of Notification No. 444-CI/O/ESTT/003/05/A(M1) dated 29th November, 2006, has been pleased to authorize the District Magistrates of the districts concerned to grant/reject mining lease in respect of minor minerals excepting *in-situ* hard rocks, viz. Stone, Granite, Laterite, in terms of Rules 5(1) and 8(1) of the WBMMR, 2002.