APPENDIX - II

Mines in law are understood to be excavations from the earth, either by open cost or underground, from which useful product is extracted by reasons of there being a deposit of useful material. In general open cost, method is used in limestone mining. For undertaking the mining activity one has to obtain permission from the Government Lease and permit system:

An application for a prospecting licence and its renewal in respect of land in which the minerals vest shall be made to the State Government in form-B and Form-E respectively through such officer or authority as the State Government may specify. In case of mining lease application fee and Rs.1,000/- towards preliminary expenses. An affidavit stating that the applicant has (1) filed an up to date income tax return, (2) paid the income tax assessed on him and (3) paid income tax on the basis of self assessment. An affidavit showing the particulars of areas mineral wise in each state which the applicant or any person jointly.

The period of the lease is restricted as per utilisation of mineral i.e., the leases are recommended for 20 years if it is for captive consumption and for 5 to 10 years if the minerals are meant for trading purpose. In
normal circumstances no person shall acquire one or more PLs covering a total area of more than 25 sq.km. The low grade limestone that is also called as chips stone is used manufacturing of the tiles, paints and talcum industries.

After obtaining the lease permit from the geology and mines department the leaseholder starts the mining process. This process of mining limestone may be categorised into four stages.

1. **Removal of over burden:**

   To start with, the site selected for digging the mine is to be cleared and cleared and then the lise and hard soil stratum are to be removed. This work also known as removal of over burden. It is to be carried out up to a depth (approximately 2 meters) until the limestone strata are visible. This is called the material formation position in the mine.

2. **Digging process:**

   The rock invariably needs drilling by primary blast hole drills and blasting with explosives. Then the limestone is to be broken into pieces and sent to breaking and sorting plots by tractors and lorries.
3. Breaking and sorting process:

The limestone is sorted according to its grades in the plots. The grades of limestone are broadly 3 types (1) high grade limestone (2) second grade limestone and (3) low grade limestone. High grade limestone is used in chemical industry, in manufacturing of calcium carbide, paper and sugar industries. Second grade limestone is used in cement and iron and steel industries. Low grade limestone is used in the manufacturing of tiles, paints & talcum industries.

4. Transportation:

The limestone is transported to various industries in the state and out of the state by lorries and railway wagons. The holder of mining lease and prospecting licences will have to pay royalty for removal of limestone from the leased areas according to Schedule II of the MMR&D Act, 1957.