

18.11.2008

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NMDC forays into West Bengal for Coal Mining *Signs MoU with WBMDTC***



Kolkata, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008: In a public-public partnership, NMDC, a Navratna central public sector company under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, is joining hands with West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTC), a state public sector enterprise, to explore develop and mine the Deocha-Pachami Coal Block in Birbhum District of West Bengal.

Located in Birbhum district of West Bengal, the block was regionally explored by Geological Survey of India, with an estimated reserve of 2 billion tonnes of thermal coal over an area of 9.7sq Km. This block has four coal seam zones with seam thickness between 8.9 m to 79.8 m along with a super thick seam zone of thickness between 90.8m and 156.3m.

This MoU paves way for the geological exploration of the deposit to establish the technical and commercial viability of the project. Thereafter, a Joint Venture Company between NMDC and WBMDTC will be incorporated to carry the project forward.

NMDC is on a fast track expansion and diversification mode with plans to acquire more mining leases in iron ore, coal, diamond etc and setting up pelletization plants in Bailadila and Donimalai and also an Integrated Steel plant in Chhattisgarh, for which foundation stone was laid on 03/09/08 by Hon'ble Minister of Chemical, Fertilizers and Steel and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

NMDC has established itself as India's single-largest iron ore producer. Its iron ore mines are located in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh and in Bellary-Hospet range of Karnataka. Currently, the production of iron ore is about 30 million tonnes a year; and under its expansion plans, the production is being stepped up to 50 million tonnes by the year 2015.

The MoU signing ceremony was graced by Shri. Ram Vilas Paswan, Hon'ble Minister for Chemicals & Fertilisers and Steel; Shri. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal; Shri Nirupam Sen, Minister of Commerce & Industries, Government of West Bengal; Shri. Mrinal Banerjee, Minister of Power, Government of West Bengal and other dignitaries. The MoU was signed by Shri. P S Upadhyaya, Director (Technical), NMDC and Shri Arun Kumar Sen, Chairman –cum – Managing Director, WBMDTC.