



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্ব দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

SURVEY & SETTLEMENT BRANCH

NOTIFICATION

The 5th September, 2025

No. 618664/I/1236171/2025.-

Whereas, clause (i) of Section 16 of *The Assam Regulation of Reclassification and Reclassification cum Transfer of Lands Act, 2015* empowers the Government to exempt lands used for purposes that the government may notify from time to time from the provisions of the Act, subject to such conditions as may be specified;

And whereas, hydrocarbon exploration, production and transportation activities undertaken by Oil India Limited (OIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and other similar entities authorized by the Government of India are considered essential for national and strategic interests;

And whereas, it is deemed expedient and in public interest to facilitate such activities by simplifying the regulatory framework applicable to them under the said Act;

Now therefore, the Governor of Assam is pleased to notify exemption of hydrocarbon exploration, production and transportation activities undertaken by Oil India Limited (OIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and other Central or State Government-owned or private sector agencies/entities duly authorized by the Government of India, including their authorised contractors and associates (hereinafter referred to as "exempted entities") from the purview of the said Act:

1. Land Acquisition: For hydrocarbon exploration and production activities undertaken by companies such as Oil India Limited (OIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and other similar entities, the State Government shall not initiate acquisition of land by default. Land acquisition under the provisions of the

Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 or Land Acquisition through Direct Purchase Policy by way of negotiated settlement, shall be undertaken by the District Commissioner only if specifically requested by the concerned hydrocarbon exploration company, citing public interest and necessity.

2. Option for Direct Purchase /Lease Exempted entities may purchase or lease the required patta land directly from landowners by directly purchasing the land at prevailing market rates, as per applicable guidelines. Exempted entities may also execute lease agreements, and if done so, the same shall be duly registered and shall specify the lease period, compensation package, and restoration obligations, if any.

3. Provision relating to agricultural land already put to non-agricultural use U/S 9 of the Assam Regulation of Reclassification and Reclassification cum Transfer of Lands Act, 2015 :Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the District Commissioner shall be competent to reclassify any agricultural land where a non-agricultural activity has already been established before the commencement of this Act under the existing laws, for the purpose of revenue reassessment, up to a maximum period of sixty days from the date of commencement of this Act.

4. Eligibility for Exemption and Waiver: All activities undertaken by exempted entities shall be eligible for exemption from certain provisions, in particular, section 4, 5 and 10 of the aforementioned Act; however, only activities directly related to hydrocarbon exploration, production and transportation shall be eligible for a 50% waiver of the reclassification premium

5. Definitions

For the purposes of this Notification—

(a) "**Hydrocarbon**" means crude oil, natural gas, and condensate.

(b) "**Exploration Operations**" means operations conducted in the contract area in searching for hydrocarbons and in the course of an appraisal programme, and shall include but not be limited to aerial, geological, geophysical, geochemical, paleontological, palynological, topographical, and geo-scientific surveys, analysis, studies and their interpretation, investigations relating to the subsurface geology including drilling of exploration wells and appraisal wells, testing and other related activities such as surveying, drill site preparation, and all work necessarily connected therewith that is conducted in connection with petroleum exploration.

(c) "**Exploration Period**" means the period during which exploration operations may be carried out by the contractor and includes the period covered by the initial exploration phase and subsequent exploration phase.

(d) "**Exploration Well**" means a well drilled for the purpose of searching for undiscovered petroleum accumulations on any geological entity—whether structural, stratigraphic, facies or pressure in nature—to at least a depth or stratigraphic level specified in the work programme.

(e) "**Production Operations**" means all operations conducted for the purpose of producing hydrocarbons from the development area after the commencement of production from the development area, including the operation and maintenance of all necessary facilities therefor.

(f) "**Transportation**" means transportation of oil and gas.

6 . Scope of exemption: The exemptions shall apply to the procedural requirements and approval/NOC of District Commissioner or Government in Revenue department, as the case may be, for reclassification under **Section 4**, restrictions on reclassification of agricultural land under **Section 5**, and the mandatory establishment of non-agricultural activity within a time-bound period and associated penalties under **Section 10** of the *Assam Regulation of Reclassification and Reclassification cum Transfer of Lands Act, 2015*. These exemptions will have both retrospective and prospective effect for eligible activities undertaken by these exempted entities.

7. Conditions Governing the Exemption: The exemption is contingent upon the following conditions:

a. In respect of lands where hydrocarbon activities are already underway, or where exempted entities are at an advanced stage of commencing exploration, such entities shall be allowed to carry out suo-moto reclassification or reclassification-cum-transfer once the land is transferred and mutated in their name. This applies regardless of whether the land was formally transferred earlier, whether possession was taken, or whether operations began before or after the Assam Regulation of Reclassification and Reclassification-cum-Transfer of Lands Act, 2015 came into effect. In all such cases, the exempted entities must pay the reclassification premium, within one (1) year from the date of this Notification with a provision of extension of another one (1) year.

b. The condition described in clause (a) above, also applies to those lands that were procured by the exempted entities prior to the enactment of the Assam Regulation of Reclassification and Reclassification cum Transfer of Lands Act, 2015, and wherein the land revenue has not already been re-assessed under The Assam Land Revenue Re-assessment Act, 1936. In such cases, the exempted entities will be permitted to suo-moto reclassify or reclassify-cum-transfer the lands on payment of the Reclassification premium.

c. Lands which are legally possessed by such entities but not yet put to a purpose other than Agriculture, may continue to remain so, or may be suo-moto reclassified by the exempted entities on the payment of the Reclassification premium.

d. A waiver of 50% of the applicable premium shall be admissible to such exempted entities.

e. In case of seeking the waiver, an undertaking shall be submitted by the exempted entity to utilize the land for the hydrocarbon exploration, production and transportation purposes.

f. While the exempted entities are eligible for suo-moto reclassification or reclassification cum transfer to the respective applicable class as per the use of the land, for cases where the land is used for activities beyond the above mentioned purposes like Residential Complexes, Schools, Hospitals, Playgrounds, Green Belt, Market Complexes, Other Commercial activities etc., then these activities are not eligible for 50% waiver in premium.

g. Any deviation from, or misuse of, the land for purposes other than those declared shall attract a penalty equal to 100% of the zonal value applicable to the actual use of the land.

8. Online Portal for Application and Payment To implement this, an online portal will be developed and made operational. The portal shall facilitate:

- a. Submission of online application forms for cases prior and post commencement of the aforementioned 2015 Act.
- b. Composite service of Office Partition + Office Mutation + NoC for Transfer + Registration + Auto-Mutation + Suo-moto Reclassification (or) various combinations of these based on the status of the land parcels
- c. Online payment of applicable premium/ applicable fees
- d. Automated premium/applicable fee calculation
- e. Instant acknowledgment and real-time tracking
- f. Automatic updating of records post suo-moto reclassification

9. Monitoring and Compliance: The Revenue & Disaster Management Department shall monitor and ensure compliance in the following ways:

- a. Maintain a centralized digital registry of all lands suo-moto reclassified by such exempted entities
- b. Ensure transparency through audit and oversight mechanisms
- c. Publish compliance reports at regular intervals or as directed
- d. Carry out random field inspections post suo-moto reclassification to identify deviations and violations and apply appropriate penalties

This notification is issued in the public interest to ensure the expeditious implementation of nationally significant and strategically important hydrocarbon exploration projects and production activities undertaken by the exempted entities mentioned herein and other entities authorized by the Government of India, and shall come into force with immediate effect.

LAMCHONGHOI SWEETY CHANGSAN,
Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Revenue & Disaster Management Department.