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NOTICE

Sub: Modalities for banning/blacklisting of NRS consumers for misutilization/misdirection of coal

CIL CFDs in its 294th meeting held on 14.10.2022 approved the guidelines for banning/blacklisting of NRS consumers for misutilization/misdirection of coal with respect to eligibility for participation in NRS Linkage auction and supply of coal under FSA. The guideline will also be applicable for erstwhile FSAs(pre NRS Linkage auction regime).

The modalities are as under:

Modalities for banning/blacklisting of NRS consumers for misutilization/misdirection of coal:

- A. Major circumstances of Banning/Blacklisting for misutilization/misdirection of coal:
- > Communication from Statutory authorities like CBI, Police, Court of law etc. containing allegations/finding/ establishing charge(s)of misutilization of coal against any non-power unit and/ or its director/management.
 - Finding of the instance of misutilization of coal internally by the coal company.
- B. Guiding principle regarding banning/blacklisting of consumers for misutilization/misdirection of coal:
- > Prior to suspension or banning for supply/participation, as it may, a notice calling for explanation will be issued by the supplying coal company, pursuant to approval of competent authority, to the alleged customer.
- > The period of suspension/banning shall be for a period of 5 years. In case the reason of such suspension is mitigated earlier then the suspension will stand accordingly withdrawn.
- > Wherever the reason of suspension is not completely mitigated (because of reasons like pendency of trial or no clearance given by enforcement authority etc.), the period of suspension to be extended till the time of acquittal or a direction/clearance is given by enforcement authority/Court or maximum period of banning, as imposed, whichever is earlier. However, participation in linkage auction shall not be restricted as long as charge sheet is not filed against the consumer.
- > Wherever the allegations stand proved, all running coal supply agreements will be terminated forthwith with corresponding forfeiture of EMD/Security Deposit, as a penalty towards the breach. Moreover, further participation in Linkage auction by the plant shall also be banned till completion of tenure of suspension/banning.
- C. Detailed Guideline regarding period of suspension/banning covering the aspects of supply of coal under FSA and participation in linkage auction:
- 1. Complain regarding misutilization of coal received from statutory authorities/ CBI/ Investigating agencies:
 - i. Supply of coal under Fuel Supply Agreement:
- a. Upon receipt of any adverse report/ order, coal supply and further transaction under Fuel Supply Agreement will be stopped for concerned non-power unit immediately.

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b. If charge sheet is not filed before relevant adjudicating forum within 6 months of such suspension, the supply/transaction will be resumed with the condition (rider) that suspension may be re-imposed on filling of chargesheet at any point of time, under intimation to the concerned authority. In case charge sheet is issued subsequently, supply/transaction will again be suspended.

c. If the charge sheet is filed within six months of such suspension, the suspension of supply

and transaction will continue.

d. In case charge sheet is filed, suspension will be re-imposed and supply of coal will only be restored as per terms of FSA only on acquittal/clearance or an order to that effect by the investigating agency or Court.

e. In case a unit or its director is found guilty/convicted, suspension will continue for a period of 5 years, effective from the date of commencement of last suspension or the completion of

penalty, whichever is later. f. Since any conviction amounts to material breach of the agreement, the EMD/Security deposit, as it may, in such cases shall stand forfeited.

Participation under NRS Linkage auction:

a. On receipt of communication from statutory authority, the consumer put under suspension will be eligible to participate in the NRS Linkage auction till charge sheet is filed. However, in case the charge sheet is filed, the unit will not be eligible to participate in any auction and/ or to sign the FSA till his acquittal/clearance.

b. In case charge sheet is not issued within 6 months of completion of auction of the relevant subsector(where the unit has participated) FSA shall be signed and supply shall be commenced.

However, such supply shall be guided by the procedure mentioned at 1(i) above.

c. In case charge sheet is issued within 6 months of completion of auction of the relevant subsector(where the unit has participated), the bid shall not be converted to FSA and relevant bid security shall be forfeited.

d. If found guilty/convicted, banning for participation will continue for a period of 5 years effective from date of commencement of last suspension/ date of conviction, whichever is earlier.

2. Misutilization of coal as per findings of coal company:

Supply of coal under Fuel Supply Agreement:

a. On finding the evidence/proof of diversion of coal or discrepancy in the coal stock (5% or more) against coal procured under any of present FSA, will be sufficient reason to put concerned NRS linkage holding unit under suspension.

b. On scrutiny within 3 months from the date of primary suspension, if misutilization is not

proved, the coal supply shall be resumed.

c. In case misutilization of coal under any present or past FSA is proved at any point of time, supplies to the unit will be suspended for 5 years. In such case, all running FSA/LOI will be terminated as per provision of Scheme/FSA/guideline by treating it as gross material breach of the intent for which agreement(s) was/ were entered into with consequent forfeiture of EMD/ SD, as it be.

Participation under NRS Linkage auction:

a. On finding the evidence/proof of diversion of coal or discrepancy in the coal stock (5% or more) against coal procured under any of present FSA, participation in linkage auction of the unit shall not be restricted. However, signing of FSA shall be put on hold for the time being.

b. In case misutilization is not proved within 3 months from the date of primary finding by Coal Company, FSA shall be signed. Supply shall be guided by the above mentioned methodology

c. In case misutilization of coal under any present or past FSA is proved at any point of time, as at 1(i) above. participation under NRS Linkage auction shall be suspended for maximum period of 5 years from the date of communication of such order to this effect.