

Chairman's Speech at the 97th Annual General Meeting

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to address the 97th Annual General Meeting of Eastern Investments Limited (EIL). On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Management and the Employees of the Company, I welcome you all to this AGM and I express my gratitude to all of you for your continuous trust, support and patronage.

The Annual Report, including Director's Report and the Audited Statements of Accounts along with Consolidated Accounts for the Year 2023-24 and the Notice have already been circulated to you and with your consent, I take them as read.

Performance of the Company:

The income of the company is derived mainly from (i) Dividends from investments in shares of various companies including subsidiary companies OMDC and BSLC, (ii) Interest on term deposits with banks and deposits in bonds.

However, due to the existing financial position of The Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited and The Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited, no dividend was declared by these two Companies in the previous financial year, i.e 2022-23, therefore no dividend income was earned by Eastern Investments Limited from the Subsidiary Companies for the financial year 2023-24.

Subsidiaries:

The Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited (OMDC) and The Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited (BSLC) are the subsidiaries of EIL.

The Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited (OMDC)

Total earning of Rs 89.38 Crs includes sale of old stocks of Rs 82.28 Crs and interest received from the term deposits of Rs 3.70 Crs during the FY 2023-24. The interest income reduced during the year from the previous year due to depletion of funds on account of repayment of EMI against Short-term loan.

On the other hand, the interest expense increased to Rs. 3061.08 lakhs in current financial year as compared to Rs.2442.68 lakhs in previous financial year due against the Short Term Loan of Rs.310 Cr taken for payment of compensation.

Outstanding balances of Short Tem (ST) and Funded Interest Loan (FITL) which were 156.40 Crs and Rs. 17.20 crs respectively as on 31.03.2023 were paid off during the Financial Year 2023-24. There is no outstanding Loan as on 31.03.2024.

Profit/ (Loss) before tax stood at Rs. (530.88) Lakhs compared to Rs. (2721.96) Lakhs for the previous year. Profit/(Loss) after tax was Rs. 281.91 Lakhs as compared to Rs. (1654.21) Lakhs during the previous year.

The Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited (BSLC)

Net profit of the company during the year 2023-24 was Rs. 2.29 Crs which was Rs. 11.74 Crs in the previous year. Sales turnover of the company during the year 2023-24 was Rs. 84.67 Crs compared to Rs. 86.19 Crs in the previous year.

EASTERN INVESTMENTS LIMITED

The accumulated loss as on 31st March, 2024 is Rs. (216.73 Crs).

Dividend for the year 2022-23:

The income of the company is derived mainly from dividend from its subsidiary company M/s. OMD Limited and M/s. BSLC Limited. For the F.Y. 2023-24, M/s. EIL has made a net profit of Rs. 2.10 lakhs only and its Net Worth stands for Rs. 26719.99 lakhs. Total revenue includes an amount of 45.35 lakhs from increase market value of invested shares. M/s. EIL has not declared any dividend as it has not made any Cash Profit for the FY 2023-24.

Corporate Governance:

Your Company has put earnest efforts to achieve its objective of Corporate Governance by ensuring transparency in all its business transactions and strict compliance of regulatory and other guidelines of all government authorities. But in absence of Independent Directors on the Board we are not able to comply fully with the guidelines on Corporate Governance. However, we are in constant follow up with the Government to induct the requisite number of Independent Directors on the Board of the Company. Your Company always aims at:

- Complying all applicable laws both in letter and in spirit;
- Maintaining transparency in operation and a high level of disclosure.

A separate report on Corporate Governance along with Certificate on Compliance forms part of the Directors' Report.

Consolidated Financial Statements:

The financial statements of your Company have been duly consolidated with its subsidiaries i.e. The Orissa Minerals Development Company Limited and The Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited in compliance with Section 129(3) of Companies Act

Acknowledgement:

I am grateful to the various officials of the Government, especially from the Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and Govt. of Odisha for their co-operation and for their contribution towards the Company. With such continued support, I am sure, your Company will revive and turnaround at the earliest and contribute positively for better stakeholders' delight.

I also place on record my deep appreciation to our customers, suppliers, investors, partners, regulatory authorities and all others associated with the Company. Last but not the least; I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board who have given their valuable time and assistance in charting Company's progressive move.

I would also extend my sincere thanks to all our shareholders for the immense confidence you have reposed in the Company. I look forward to your continued support in the years to come.

Thanking You and Jai Hind.

A K Saxena
(Chairman)

Place: Visakhapatnam

Date : 06.12.2024