**AGENDA NO. 1**

**Engagement of M/s Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas Advocates & Solicitors (CAM) for changes required in the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959 and Model Revenue Sharing Contracts.**

1. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) introduced a Bill in Parliament to amend the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, to enhance the ease of doing business in the exploration and production (E&P) sector. In the said Bill various amendments were proposed and pursuant to that corresponding changes are required in the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959 and Model Revenue Sharing Contracts. For that work, MOPNG has directed DGH to engage M/s Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas (CAM).
2. CAM vide email dated 03.09.2024 (copy enclosed) informed DGH about scope of work and terms of engagement. A lump sum fee of Rs. 35,00,000 **(Thirty-Five Lakhs Only)** was also proposed for the work and scope of work will be completed in 4 months of their appointment. Scope of work, terms of engagement, as proposed in the mail is, as under:

”1. *Drafting of the amendments to the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959 (“PNG Rules”) and the model revenue sharing contract (“MRSC”), to carry out the changes required pursuant to the Oilfields Regulation and Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (“Bill”) (which seeks to amend certain provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948).*

*2. Carrying out any other amendments required in the PNG Rules and the MRSC for betterment of the sector, in consultation with Directorate General of Hydrocarbons and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, which will include identification of other issues, and general advisory on whether the issues can be addressed by amending the PNG Rules or MRSC or otherwise.* “

Terms of engagement:

*(a)   The scope of work will be completed within 4 (four) months of our appointment.*

*(b)   The scope of work does not include any tax related advice.*

*(c)   All out of pocket expenses including any consultant fees, travel expenses, photocopying charges, word processing and documentation charges and other miscellaneous expenses relating to this assignment, would have to be reimbursed in full at actuals.*

*(d)   All our rates are exclusive of GST and all other applicable taxes. Currently as per the law, Legal Services are covered under the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM). Service Recipient should pay GST as applicable. Invoices raised, will specifically highlight the Service Accounting Code (SAC) as required under GST.*

*(e)   Invoice for the complete amount will be raised at the end of 4 months from date of commencement of the assignment and will be payable within 1 month from the date of invoice.*

1. DGH vide email dated 18.09.2024 **(copy enclosed as Annexure A)** sought certain clarifications from CAM about the work and asked to reconsider the fees quoted and submit a disclosure about conflict of interest with MOPNG and DGH.
2. CAM vide email dated 23.09.2024 **(copy enclosed as Annexure B)** submitted a revised proposal reiterating the lump sum fee of **Rs. 35,00,000.00** but increased the scope of work to 6 months.
3. MOPNG vide email dated 27.09.2024 **(copy enclosed as Annexure C)** confirmed the terms of engagement of CAM and mentioned in the mail *“the scope of work is fine. DGH may proceed”.*
4. DGH vide email dated 15.10.2024 **(copy enclosed as Annexure D)** referred the matter to MOPNG and sought their instruction for engagement of CAM. Thereafter, in meeting dated 07.10.2024 at DGH, JS (E), MOPNG verbally instructed to engage CAM.
5. It is noteworthy that DGH had earlier engaged M/s CAM in Issue of Special Additional Excise Duty in Blocks RJ-ON-90/1, CB-OS/2 & Ravva Oil Field, File No. Legal-17/27/2022-DGH (Computer No. 8121) **(copy enclosed as Annexure E).**
6. It is noteworthy that pursuant to the tendering process, the following four law firms have been empanelled by DGH at blended man hour rate of Rs.3,999.00:
7. M/s. Kocchar & Co.
8. M/s. DSK Legal
9. M/s. Dua & Associates
10. M/s. Link Legal

CAM is not an empanelled Law firm of DGH.

1. CAM vide email dated 07.10.2024 **(copy enclosed as Annexure F)** confirmed that there is no conflict of interest in taking up this assignment.
2. In view of the above, The Legal committee may consider to recommend engagement of CAM on the rate and terms stated in para 2 above and CAM vide email dated 03.09.2024.