

## **CHAPTER-1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 NEED OF THE PROJECT**

Lum Mawshun Minerals Pvt Ltd (LMMPL) proposes to set up an open cast limestone mine at Phlangkaruh, Nongtra, Shella Confederacy in the District of East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya. LMMPL is a private limited company incorporated in India. The company has joint venture equity participation with a foreign partner, Lafarge Surma Cement (LSC), Bangladesh. The limestone would be transported through a 17 km long belt conveyor to a proposed cement plant that would be set up at Chattak in Bangladesh.

Meghalaya is very rich in mineral resources as limestone, shale, coal, sillimanite and uranium. Reportedly, the size of limestone deposits in Meghalaya has been estimated to be 2166 million tonnes with unconfirmed deposits of 180 million tonnes. Most of the deposits are currently lying unutilized and can be exploited for commercial development.

Bangladesh is almost wholly dependant on limestone imported from other countries, particularly from the State of Meghalaya in India. With the growing cooperation between India and Bangladesh, Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd (LSC) is proposing to set up a cement plant in Bangladesh with limestone to be sourced from Meghalaya through LMMPL.

In order that the limestone quality is amenable to cement production, small quantities of shale need to be mixed towards conditioning of the limestone to its desired quality. To this extent, LMMPL proposes to set up an open cast shale/siltstone mine covering an area of 4.9 hectares in Shella, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. In addition to limestone, shale is also proposed to be transported to the cement plant at Chattak in Bangladesh through the same belt conveyor.

Prior to selecting the Shale mining lease area, the deposit was investigated in details by drilling. The quality of shale as obtained from the mining lease area has been furnished in the relevant chapter.