Seminar-cum-Interactive Meeting on Problems faced by the Dimensional & Decorative Stone Quarrying and Processing Industry – T.N. Venugopal, Geological Society of India, Bengaluru.

Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry organised a Seminar-cum-Interactive Meeting on Problems faced by the Dimensional & Decorative Stone Quarrying and Processing Industry on 8th January 2019 at Hotel Le-Meridian, Bengaluru. The seminar was supported by Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Government of Karnataka, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, CAPEXIL, Geological Society of India and Indian Bank.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri Rajashekar B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka. Sri Rajendra Kumar Kataria, IAS, Secretary (Mines & MSME), Commerce & Industries Department, Govt of Karnataka, Sri N.L. Shanthakumar, IFS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka, Sri Vijayakumar Gogi, IFS, Principal Secretary, Forest, Govt. of Karnataka, Dr. Veena Kumari Dermal, IAS, Director, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India, Sri N.S. Prasanna Kumar, IAS, Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Karnataka, Sri R. Veeramani, President, CAPEXIL, Sri D.G. Chaudhari, Dy. Secretary (Mines), Industry & Mines Dept. Government of Gujarat and Sri V.S. Pandey, Under Secretary, EP (CAP) Division, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India were the Guests of Honor.

There were two technical sessions. In the first session five papers were presented: (a) Problems faced by Dimensional Stone Industry by Dr. T.N. Venugopal, Chairman, MEAI Bengaluru Chapter. (b) Shortage of raw materials to the processing sector, issues faced by the EOU's, import of granite blocks by Sri Sunil Kumar

Arora, Vice President, FIGSI. (c) Grant of quarrying leases and policy adopted by the State of Rajasthan. by Sri Akshaydeep Mathur, Honorary Secretary General, KMAR, Rajasthan. (d) International Scenario on natural stone industry by Sri R. Veeramani, President, CAPEXIL. (e) Skill training to be adopted in natural stone industry by Sri K. Vikram Rasthogi, Editor, Stone Panarama & President, STC Group of Cos.,

In the 2nd session the following papers were presented: (a) Mineral rights vests with the pattadars and its implications. Non implementation of the Deemed conversion by the Dy. Commissioners by Sri D.L.N. Rao Senior Advocate. (b) Clearances by the Forest department and finalisation of eco-sensitive zone around National parks & Wild life sanctuaries by Sri Vijaya Kumar Gogi, Principal Secretary, Forest, Govt. of Karnataka. (c) Issues related to Environmental Clearances by Sri M.L. Shanthakumar, Principal Secretary, Environment & Ecology, Govt. of Karnataka. (d) Mines Safety, Statutory permissions and Vocational training by Sri Ramesh Walikar, Dy. Director, DGMS, Bengaluru Region. (e) Procedure of granting environmental clearance and compliances by Sri Ravi Kumar of GEM Solutions and Sri Hussain, Member, SEAC.

The Seminar was well attended by the Members of FIGSI, State and Central Government officials. After each session, there was good interaction between the participants and speakers. After conclusion of the seminar, recommendations were compiled and presented by Sri Krishna Prasad, General Secretary, FIGSI.