

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

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ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED

ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED**Board of Directors****Mr. Navnital R. Shah****Mr. Chetan Shah****Mrs. Dina C. Shah****Mr. R. D. Doshi****Mr. P. A. Vora****Mr. A. M. Kadakia****Mr. B. H. Antia****Mr. S. H. Bathiya****Mr. Bachubhai N. Shah****Mr. Frank B. Wright, Jr.****Mr. Larry Washow****Mr. Kantibhai Parmar****Mr. Rayan McKendrik****Mr. Paul Shelton****Executive Chairman****Managing Director****Director****Director****Director****Director****Director****Director****Whole-time Director****Director****Additional Director (w.e.f. 28th January, 2000)****Additional Director (w.e.f. 1st April, 2000)****Alternate Director (Alternate to Mr. Frank B. Wright, Jr.)****Alternate Director (Alternate to Mr. Larry Washow)****Company Secretary****Mr. D. J. Kapadia****Auditors****M/s. Sanghavi & Company**

Chartered Accountants

Rajkot

Bankers**Bank of India**

Overseas Branch,

Mittal Tower, Nariman Point,

Mumbai - 400 021

Registered and Administrative Office

Jeevan Udyog Bldg., 3rd Floor,

278, D. N. Road, Fort,

Mumbai - 400 001.

Tel.No. : 2070258 (10 Lines)

Fax Nos. : 2079395/2074452

Works

Near Bhuj Railway Station,

Bhuj, Dist. Kutch, Gujarat.

Ler Village,

Tal. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch, Gujarat.

236-239, G.I.D.C., Chitra Ind. Estate,

Bhavnagar - 364004, Gujarat.

Hamla Mines,

Plot No.206, Opp. Kutch Dairy,

Madhapar, Bhuj (Kutch).

Share Transfer Agent**Intime Spectrum Registry Pvt. Ltd.,**

260-A, Shanti Industrial Estate,

Sarojini Naidu Road, Mulund (West),

Mumbai - 400 080

Tel. No. : 5672716, Fax No. : 5672693

For handing over documents only

201, Davar House, 2nd Floor,

197/199, D. N. Road, Mumbai - 400 001.

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SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

Stock Exchanges on which the Company's Securities are Listed

The Company's Securities are listed at the 3 Stock Exchanges in India

The Stock Exchange, Mumbai

Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers,
Dalal Street,
Mumbai - 400 001.

National Stock Exchange of India Limited

Trade World,
Senapati Bapat Marg,
Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013.

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The Stock Exchange, Ahmedabad,

Kamdhenu Complex,
Opp. Sahajanand College,
Panjarapole,
Ahmedabad - 380 015.

ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Members of ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED will be held on Thursday, the 21st day of September, 2000, at 11.00 a.m. at Kilachand Conference Room, Indian Merchant's Chambers, IMC Building, 2nd Floor, IMC Marg, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400 020 to transact the following business:

ORDINARY BUSINESS:

1. To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2000, the Profit and Loss Account for the year ended on that date and the Reports of the Directors and the Auditors of the Company.
2. To note payment of dividend on Shares.
3. To appoint a director in place of Shri Piyush A. Vora, who retires by rotation and being eligible, offers himself for re-appointment.
4. To appoint a director in place of Smt. Dina C. Shah, who retires by rotation and being eligible, offers herself for re-appointment.
5. To appoint Auditors and to fix their remuneration.
6. To appoint Branch Auditors for Bhuj Branch, Mandvi Branch, Ler Branch, Chennai Branch and Bhatiya Branch in consultation with the Company's Auditors and to fix their remuneration.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:**7. Re-appointment of Additional Director**

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an **Ordinary Resolution** :

"RESOLVED THAT Mr. Larry Washow, who was appointed as an Additional Director of the Company by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 28th January, 2000, with effect from the same date and who, in terms of Section 260 of the Companies Act, 1956, read with Article 130 of the Articles of Association of the Company, holds office only upto the date of this Annual General Meeting of the Company and in respect of whom the Company has received a Notice in writing from a Member under Section 257 of the Companies Act, 1956, proposing his candidature for the office of a Director, nominated by Volclay International Corporation, USA, be and is hereby appointed as a Director of the Company not liable to retire by rotation."

8. Re-appointment of Additional Director

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as an **Ordinary Resolution** :

"RESOLVED THAT Mr. Kantibhai Parmar, who was appointed as an Additional Director of the Company by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 25th March, 2000, with effect from 1st April, 2000, and who, in terms of Section 260 of the Companies Act, 1956, read with Article 130 of the Articles of Association of the Company, holds office only upto the date of this Annual General Meeting of the Company and in respect of whom the Company has received a Notice in writing from a Member under Section 257 of the Companies Act, 1956, proposing his candidature for the office of a Director, be and is hereby appointed as a Director of the Company liable to retire by rotation."

9. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as a Special Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT in accordance with the provisions contained in the Articles of Association and Sections 79A, 81 and all other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 ("the Act") and the provisions contained in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Employee Stock Option Scheme and Employee Stock Purchase Scheme) Guidelines, 1999 ("the Guidelines") (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactment of the Act or the Guidelines, for the time being in force) and subject to such other approvals, permissions and sanctions as may be necessary and subject to such conditions and modifications as may be prescribed or imposed while granting such approvals, permissions and sanctions which may be agreed to by the Board of Directors of the Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Board" which term shall be deemed to include any Committee including ESOP Compensation Committee which the Board may constitute to exercise its powers, including the powers conferred by this resolution), consent of the Company be and is hereby accorded to the Board to create, offer, issue and allot at any time to or for the benefit of such person(s) who are in permanent employment of the Company, including Directors of the Company whether working in India or out of India under a Scheme titled "Employee Stock Option Plan" (hereinafter referred to as the "ESOP" or "Scheme" or "Plan") such number of equity shares and/or equity



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linked instruments (including Options) and/or any other instruments or securities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Securities") of the Company which could give rise to the issue of equity shares not exceeding 5% of the issued Equity Share Capital of the Company as on 31st March, 2000, at such price, in one or more tranches and on such terms and conditions as may be fixed or determined by the Board in accordance with the Guidelines or other provisions of the law as may be prevailing at that time."

"RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the said Securities may be allotted directly to such employees/ directors or in accordance with a Scheme framed in that behalf through a trust which may be setup in any permissible manner and that the scheme may also envisage for providing any financial assistance to the employees or to the trust to enable the employee/trust to acquire, purchase or subscribe to the securities of the Company."

"RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the new Equity Shares to be issued and allotted by the Company in the manner aforesaid shall rank pari passu in all respects with the then existing Equity Shares of the Company; except that they shall be entitled for dividend on pro-rata basis from the date of allotment till the end of the relevant financial year in which the new Equity Shares are allotted."

"RESOLVED FURTHER THAT for the purpose of giving effect to any creation, offer, issue, allotment or listing of Securities, the Board be and is hereby authorised on behalf of the Company to evolve, decide upon and bring in to effect the Scheme and make any modifications, changes, variations, alterations or revisions in the said Scheme from time to time or to suspend, withdraw or revive the Scheme from time to time as may be specified by any statutory authority and to do all such acts, deeds, matters and things as it may in its absolute discretion deem fit or necessary or desirable for such purpose and with power on behalf of the Company to settle any questions, difficulties, or doubts that may arise in this regard without requiring the Board to secure any further consent or approval of the members of the Company."

10. To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s) the following resolution as a **Special Resolution**:

"RESOLVED THAT in accordance with the provisions contained in the Articles of Association and Sections 79A, 81 and all other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 ("the Act") and the provisions contained in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Employee Stock Option Scheme and Employee Stock Purchase Scheme) Guidelines, 1999 ("the Guidelines") (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactment of the Act or the Guidelines, for the time being in force) and subject to such other approvals, permissions and sanctions as may be necessary and subject to such conditions and modifications as may be prescribed or imposed while granting such approvals, permissions and sanctions which may be agreed to by the Board of Directors of the Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Board" which term shall be deemed to include any Committee including ESOP Compensation Committee which the Board may constitute to exercise its powers, including the powers conferred by this resolution) consent of the Company be and is hereby accorded to the Board to extend the benefits of Employees Stock Option Plan proposed in the resolution under Item No. 9 in this Notice to the eligible employees/ directors of the holding/subsidiary companies, and/or to such other persons, as may from time to time be allowed under prevailing laws, rules and regulations, and/or amendments thereto from time to time, on such terms and conditions as may be decided by the Board."

"RESOLVED FURTHER THAT for the purpose of giving effect to any creation, offer, issue, allotment or listing of Securities, the Board be and is hereby authorised on behalf of the Company to evolve, decide upon and bring in to effect the Scheme and make any modifications, changes, variations, alterations or revisions in the said Scheme from time to time or to suspend, withdraw or revive the Scheme from time to time as may be specified by any statutory authority and to do all such acts, deeds, matters and things as it may in its absolute discretion deem fit or necessary or desirable for such purpose and with power on behalf of the Company to settle any questions, difficulties, or doubts that may arise in this regard without requiring the Board to secure any further consent or approval of the members of the Company."

By Order of the Board of Directors

Place : Mumbai,
Dated : 28th July, 2000

D. J. KAPADIA
COMPANY SECRETARY

Registered Office :
Jeevan Udyog Bldg., 3rd Floor,
278, D. N. Road, Fort,
Mumbai - 400 001.

ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED**NOTES :**

- (1) A MEMBER ENTITLED TO ATTEND AND VOTE AT THE MEETING IS ENTITLED TO APPOINT A PROXY TO ATTEND AND VOTE INSTEAD OF HIMSELF AND THE PROXY NEED NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY. The instrument appointing Proxy, in order to be effective, must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not less than 48 hours before the commencement of the Meeting.
- (2) An Explanatory Statement, pursuant to Section 173(2) of the Companies Act, 1956, in respect of Special Business as set out in the above notice is annexed hereto.
- (3) The Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Friday, 15th September, 2000 to Thursday, 21st September, 2000, (both days inclusive).
- (4) Shareholders are requested to kindly notify the Company immediately of any change of address with the postal Pin Code number.
- (5) All documents referred to in the Notice and the Explanatory Statement are open for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company during office hours on all working days, except Saturdays, between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. upto the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- (6) Members/Proxies should bring the Attendance Slip duly filled in and signed for attending the meeting.
- (7) The Shareholders are requested to intimate the Company of the particulars of their Bank Account No. etc. to minimise chances of fraudulent encashment of the future dividend warrants/cheques, if any.
- (8) Shareholders seeking any information with regard to Accounts are requested to write to the Company at an early date so as to enable the management to keep the information ready.
- (9) The Company has already transferred, all unclaimed dividend declared upto the financial year ended 31st March, 1994 to the general Revenue Account of the Government as required by the Companies Unpaid Dividend (Transfer to the General Revenue Account of the Central Government) Rules, 1978. Those Shareholders who have so far not claimed or collected their dividend upto the aforesaid financial year may claim their dividend from the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra, Hakoba Compound, 2nd Floor, Kalachowki, Mumbai 400 033.
- (10) Pursuant to the provision of Section 205A of the Companies Act, 1956, as amended, dividend for the financial year ended 31st March, 1995 and thereafter, which remain unpaid or unclaimed for a period of 7 years will be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund of the Central Government. Shareholders who have not encashed the dividend warrant(s) so far for the financial year ended 31st March, 1995 or any subsequent financial years are requested to claim the same from the Company. It may also be noted that once the unclaimed dividend is transferred to the Central Government, as above, no claim shall lie in respect therefore.
- (11) SEBI has notified vide its circular no. SMDRP/POLICY/CIR- /2000 dated May 29, 2000, that trading would be compulsory in dematerialised form by all class of investors of your Company from July 24, 2000.

The connectivity code number allotted to the Company, both by NSDL and CDSL is ISIN INE 348A01015. A list giving names and addresses of the Depository Participants as furnished in the newsletter of CDSL of July 2000 is sent herewith for information of the Shareholders/Investors.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 173(2) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956

As required under Section 173(2) of the Companies Act, 1956, the following Explanatory Statement sets out all material facts relating to the business mentioned under Item Nos. 7 & 8 of the accompanying Notice dated 28th July, 2000.

ITEM NOS. 7 & 8 :

Mr. Larry Washow was nominated by Volclay International Corporation, U.S.A. and appointed as an Additional Director of the Company in the meeting of the Board held on 28th January, 2000, with effect from the same date in place of Mr. John Hughes, who has resigned as the Director. Mr. Kantibhai Parmar was appointed as an Additional Director of the Company in the meeting of the Board held on 25th March, 2000, with effect from 1st April, 2000.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 130 of the Articles of Association of the Company read with first proviso of Section 260 of the Companies Act, 1956, they both hold their offices as Directors only upto the date of the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Notices have been received in writing from Members of the Company proposing the candidatures of Mr. Larry



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Washow and Mr. Kantibhai Parmar for the offices of Directors along with a deposit of Rs. 500/- for each as required under Section 257 (1) of the Companies Act, 1956.

Mr. Larry Washow is the President and CEO of AMCOL of USA, a holding Company of Volcaly International Corporation, USA, a foreign body corporate Shareholder in the Company.

Mr. Kantibhai Parmar, a civil engineer, has experience of about 35 years in mining and related matters of which he has served the Company for nearly 23 years. It was decided by the Board of Directors that it would be in the interest of the Company to take benefit of his vast knowledge and experience by co-opting him on the Board.

The Members of the Company are hereby informed of the candidatures of Mr. Larry Washow and Mr. Kantibhai Parmar for the offices of Directors and this be treated as individual notices to the Members of the Company in terms of Section 257(1-A) of the Companies Act, 1956.

None of Directors of the Company except Mr. Larry Washow and Mr. Kantibhai Parmar are concerned or interested in the resolutions set out in Item Nos. 7 & 8.

Your Board recommends the adoption of the resolutions set out at Item No. 7 and 8 accordingly.

ITEM NO. 9 :

The considerable growth of the Company over past 18 years has, in large measure, been possible owing to the wholehearted support, commitment and team work of its personnel. The Company has been desirous of finding means to allow its personnel to participate in its growth, through an appropriate mechanism.

Stock Options have long been recognized internationally, as an effective instrument, to align the interest of employees with those of the Company, and its shareholders, provide an opportunity to employees to share in the growth of the Company, and create long term wealth in the hands of the employees.

Stock options create a common sense of ownership between the Company and its employees, paving the way for a unified approach to the common objective of enhancing overall shareholder value.

Stock option provide for tax-efficient, performance linked rewards to employees, and serve as an important means, to attract, retain and motivate the best available talent for the Company.

From the Company's perspective, Stock Options also provide an opportunity to optimize personnel costs, by allowing for an additional market-driven, mechanism to attract, retain, compensate and reward employees.

The Company had obtained the approval of its shareholders, as far back as in 1998, for the introduction of an Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP). However, then prevailing regulations did not permit an efficient mechanism to implement the ESOP.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has now introduced a comprehensive, and internationally comparable, set of regulations last year, known as the SEBI (Employee Stock Option Scheme and Employee Stock Purchase Scheme) Guidelines, 1999.

At present no Stock Option Scheme is envisaged by the Board of Directors of your Company. As and when the Board decides to introduce an Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP), the Board will finalise and introduce the Stock Option Scheme(s) for the benefit of permanent employees of the Company, its Directors, and such other persons/ entities as may be prescribed by SEBI from time to time, and in accordance with the provisions of prevailing regulations. For this purpose, the Company will constitute as and when required and from time to time an ESOP Compensation Committee which will be a Committee of the Board of Directors, and will consist of a majority of independent Directors, for administration and superintendence of the ESOP.

The Compensation Committee shall, inter-alia formulate the detailed terms and conditions of the ESOP, within the frame work of the proposed special resolution to be passed in the ensuing Annual General Meeting and this explanatory statement to the Notice, which will include –

- a) the quantum of options to be granted under the ESOP per employee and in aggregate;
- b) the conditions under which options vested in employees may lapse in case of termination of employment for misconduct ;
- c) the exercise period within which the employee should exercise the option and that the option would lapse on failure to exercise the option within the exercise period ;

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- d) the specified time period within which the employee shall exercise the vested options in the event of termination or resignation of an employee;
- e) the right of an employee to exercise all the options vested in him at one time or at various points of time within the exercise period;
- f) the procedure for making fair and reasonable adjustment to the number of options and to the exercise price in case of right issues, bonus issues and other corporate actions;
- g) the grant, vest and exercise of options in case of employees who are on long leave;
- h) the procedure for cashless exercise of options
 - i) as also to frame suitable policies and systems to ensure that there is no violation by any employee of:-
 - i) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992; and
 - ii) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to the Securities Market) Regulations, 1995.

The following sets out various disclosures as required by clause 6 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India [Employees Stock Option Scheme and Employees Stock Purchase Scheme] Guidelines, 1999 (hereinafter referred to as the ESOP Guidelines).

The salient features of the ESOP will be as under :-

a) The total number of options in any scheme –

Upto 5% of the issued Equity Share Capital of the Company as on 31st March, 2000 i.e. 63,82,700 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- each.

b) Identification of classes of employees entitled to participate in the ESOP

Persons who are "employees" of the Company, including Directors as defined in the ESOP Guidelines (including any statutory modification(s) or re-enactments of the Act or the Guidelines, for the time being in force), and as may be decided by the ESOP Compensation Committee, from time to time.

Under the prevailing regulations, an employee who is a promoter or belongs to the promoter group will not be eligible to participate in the ESOP.

A Director who either by himself or through his relative or through any body corporate, directly or indirectly holds more than 10 per cent of the outstanding equity shares of the Company shall not be eligible to participate in the ESOP.

Employees will be granted Stock Option based on performance, and such other parameters as may be decided by the ESOP Compensation Committee, in its discretion, from time to time.

The options granted to an employee will not be transferable to any person and shall not be pledged, hypothecated, mortgaged or otherwise alienated in any other manner.

c) Requirements of vesting and period of vesting

Vesting of options may commence after a period of 1 year from the date of grant, and may extend upto 5 years from the date of grant. The vesting may occur in tranches, subject to the terms and conditions of vesting as may be stipulated by the ESOP Compensation Committee, in its discretion, and which will include performance appraisal of the employee.

d) Exercise Price or Pricing Formula

The exercise price for the purpose of the grant of options will be computed at a discount to the extent of 40% on the average of the weekly high and low of the closing prices for the Company's equity shares, quoted on the Bombay Stock Exchange, during the 26 weeks preceding the date of grant of the options.

e) Exercise Period and the process of Exercise

The exercise period may commence from the date of vesting, and will expire not later than 7 years from the date of grant of options or such other period as may be decided by the ESOP Compensation Committee, from time to time.



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The Options will be exercisable by the Employees by a written application to the Company to exercise the Options, in such manner, and on execution of such documents, as may be prescribed by the ESOP Compensation Committee from time to time.

The option will lapse if not exercised within the specified exercise period.

f) Appraisal Process for determining the eligibility of employees to ESOP

The appraisal process for determining the eligibility of the employee will be specified by the ESOP Compensation Committee, and will be based on criteria such as the seniority of the employee, length of service, performance record, merit of the employee, future potential contribution by the employee, and/or any such other criteria that may be determined by the ESOP Compensation Committee at its sole discretion.

g) Maximum number of options to be issued per employee and in aggregate

The maximum number of Options granted per employee will not exceed 63,500 shares (i.e. approx. 1% of the issued and outstanding equity shares of the Company as on 31st March, 2000). The aggregate of all such grants shall not exceed 5% of the issued and outstanding equity shares of the Company as on 31st March, 2000.

The Company will conform to the accounting policies specified in Clause 13.1 of the SEBI (Employee Stock Option Scheme and Employee Stock Purchase Scheme) Guidelines, 1999, and/or such other guidelines as may be applicable from time to time.

As the Scheme will entail further shares to be offered to persons other than existing shareholders of the Company, consent of the members is sought pursuant to the provisions of Section 81(1A) and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Act, and as per the requirement of clause 6 of the Guidelines.

None of the Directors of the Company is, in any way, concerned or interested in the resolution, except to the extent of the securities that may be offered to them under the Schemes.

Your Directors, therefore, recommend the resolution to be passed as a Special Resolution by the members.

ITEM NO. 10 :

As per the SEBI Guidelines, a separate resolution is required to be passed if the benefits of ESOP are to be extended to employees of the subsidiary or holding Company. This separate Resolution is being proposed accordingly, to cover those employees, and/or such other persons as may be permitted from time to time, under prevailing laws, rules and regulations, and/or amendments thereto from time to time. This may be read with the explanatory statement for Item No. 9.

None of the Directors is interested in this resolution, except to the extent of the securities that may be offered to them as Directors of these subsidiary or holding companies.

Your Directors commend the resolution for your approval as special resolution.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Place : Mumbai,
Dated : 28th July, 2000

D. J. KAPADIA
COMPANY SECRETARY

Registered Office :
Jeevan Udyog Bldg., 3rd Floor,
278, D. N. Road, Fort,
Mumbai - 400 001.

ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

To,
The Members,
ASHAPURA MINECHEM LIMITED

Your Directors have pleasure in presenting the 19th Annual Report together with Statements of Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2000.

FINANCIAL RESULTS :

	1999-2000 (Rs.)	1998-1999 (Rs.)
Profit before Depreciation & Tax	4,91,51,247	6,00,50,876
Less : Depreciation	1,12,77,906	90,22,745
Profit before Tax	3,78,73,341	5,10,28,131
Less : Provision for Taxation	25,00,000	20,00,000
Profit after Tax	3,53,73,341	4,90,28,131
Add : Balance brought forward from the previous year	5,39,02,024	5,06,68,713
	8,92,75,365	9,96,96,844
Less : Prior period Adjustments	27,16,245	11,42,820
Amount Available for Appropriations	8,65,59,120	9,85,54,024
Appropriations :		
(1) Interim Dividend	1,39,63,727	0
(2) Proposed Dividend	0	1,32,00,000
(3) Corporate Dividend Tax	15,36,010	14,52,000
(4) General Reserve	2,00,00,000	3,00,00,000
(5) Balance carried to Balance Sheet	5,10,59,383	5,39,02,024
	8,65,59,120	9,85,54,024

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS :

Overall sales turnover for the year amounted to Rs. 6004 lacs representing a growth of 5.95% over the previous year.

To compensate slowdown in the sales of bentonite and barytes, the Company had explored new avenues of business and export sales of Bauxite. The export of bauxite has achieved an increase of 234% over the previous year. As the world market seems promising for bauxite, your Company has decided to strengthen its bauxite project for further and efficient extraction and processing. Your Company also expects a major growth in the area of Scoopable Cat Litter Granules.

CURRENT OUTLOOK :

During the current year the Company has built up a very good order book for Bauxite in addition to normal export orders for Bentonite. The Company is also exploring avenues for export of attapulgite clay. Barring unforeseen circumstances the Company expects to achieve better results during the current year.

DIVIDEND :

The Directors had declared an interim dividend of Rs. 2.20 (22%) per Equity Share on 63,82,700 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- each on a pro-rata basis for the financial year ended 31st March, 2000. The interim dividend has already been paid to those Equity Shareholders whose names appeared in the Register of Members on the record date i.e. 25th April, 2000.