Govt has issued 15 fresh mining leases: Congress
CM's repeated denials stand exposed, allege Ugrappa and Kondaiah

BANGALORE: The Congress on Wednesday termed as "false" B S Yeddyurappa's claim that he had granted no iron ore mining leases since he assumed the office as Chief Minister, and alleged that the Government had issued 15 mining leases and had recommended to the Centre's approval the lease applications of nine companies.

Addressing reporters, the party leader V S Ugrappa claimed that the Chief Minister has also issued 17 companies temporary working permissions for mining even though they were yet to obtain the mandatory forest and environment clearances.

He released a set of documents with names of the companies and dates on which the leases have been executed with respect to 15 firms and fresh mining grants have been recommended with respect to nine firms. Some of the companies are: Arrow Minerals, Thangavelu and Others, G G Brothers, Tungabhadr Minerals, Mineral Enterprises and M Hanumanth Rao.

Value addition
The Chief Minister had been claiming that all applications seeking fresh mining leases had been kept pending, and that the Government would process applications of only those who have come forward to do value addition to ore. Congress MLC K C Kondaiah alleged that Tourism Minister G Janardhana Reddy was evading tax, by exporting iron ore in the name of GLA Trading International, a Singapore-based company.

"The company has exported ore worth over Rs 300 crore in the last few months using undervalued invoices. The company would get $150 per tonne of ore in China, but the price mentioned in the invoice is just $70. It has thus evaded taxes to the tune of several crores," he alleged and added that Reddy is one of the directors of the company.

Illegal mining
Both Ugrappa and Kondaiah alleged that the Chief Minister is directly involved in illegal mining and many BJP leaders including Sushma Swaraj and Venkaiah Naidu are getting a share of money made through illegal mining.

DH News Service
Home minister P Chidambaram said the government had decided to not allow “extractive industries” to operate if they adversely impact the natural habitat of tribals.

Chidambaram’s statement on Tuesday comes within a week of the MoEF not granting clearances for Vedanta’s proposed $1.7 billion mining project in Orissa.
Copper surges on S Korea forecast, US factory orders

Bloomberg

COPPER reached a four-month high in London after the International Monetary Fund boosted its growth forecast for South Korea and factory orders in the US, the metal's second-largest user, probably increased in July.

The IMF raised its economic growth forecast for South Korea to 6.1% from 5.75% previously, damping concern that a US slowdown will hurt Asia. US factory orders rose 0.2%, following a 1.2% decline the prior month, according to a Bloomberg survey. South Korea is copper's fourth-largest consumer after top users China, the US and Germany.

"With particular strength in other developing economies, the outlook for industrial growth remains good, so we would expect base metal prices to improve from here," said Nic Brown, an analyst at Natixis Commodity Markets in London. Copper for delivery in three months rose $62, or 0.8%, to $7,668 a tonne at 10:33 a.m. on the London Metal Exchange, the highest intraday price since April 27.

Copper for delivery in December gained as much as 0.6% to $3,497 a pound on the Comex in New York, also a four-month high. Prices climbed on Wednesday as the US Institute for Supply Management's factory index unexpectedly rose to a three-month high and the Chinese purchasing managers' index rose to 51.7 from 51.2, exceeding forecasts, a government-backed report showed. A separate PMI for China released by HSBC Holdings and Markit Economics on Wednesday gained to 51.9 from 49.4. "The PMIs from the last few days are helping" prices, Brown said. "Our outlook is for a modest slowdown in China, while the US should escape a double-dip," he said, referring to a possibility that the US economy might re-enter recession.

The US Commerce Department is scheduled to release US factory orders data at 3 p.m. in London. At the same time the US index of pending home sales data for July, from the National Association of Realtors, will probably show a decline of 1%, according to a Bloomberg News survey. Construction accounts for a quarter of copper demand, according to the Copper Development Association. A "proper" recovery in the US housing market may occur next year, Natixis's Brown said.
Gold prices advance on investment purchases

LONDON: Gold gained in London on signs of increased demand from investors seeking to protect their wealth. The price for immediate-delivery bullion touched $1,254.73 an ounce on Wednesday, the highest level since June 28 and within 1% of the all-time high. Gold holdings in 10 exchange-traded products tracked by Bloomberg advanced Wednesday to a record.

“Gold’s going to struggle at this level,” David Thurtell, an analyst at Citigroup in London, said Thursday by phone. “It’s the most technically traded commodity in the world. People look at the current record level and try to sell just below that.” Gold climbed as much as $5.35, or 0.4%, to $1,249.65 an ounce, and traded at $1,246.40 at 11:36 am London time.
Affected people may get mining booty

Cos With Captive Mines May’ve To Share Profits

Rohini Singh & Subhash Narayan
NEW DELHI 31-

THE government is determined to implement a policy intended to give those displaced by mining a share in the profits of the miners despite a less than enthusiastic response from industry, the minister for mines said on Thursday.

The policy, part of a legislation setting the rules for investment in mining, will also apply to captive mines of companies such as Tata Steel, SAIL, and Hindalco. The bill, if approved by Parliament, could make it mandatory for companies to issue equity shares to each member of every family displaced by the project as well as 26% of the profit, according to a draft version of the bill, minister for mines BK Handique said.

In what could pose severe logistical challenge for companies as well as the government, Mr Handique suggested that the benefits of the policy should apply not only to new mines but also to existing ones and those whose leases come up for renewal. This could happen if the local administration is able to identify those displaced in the past. Mines generated profits for their owners for decades, and those who had lost their land in the past should also benefit, he said.

“The state governments are firmly backing this proposal and I will ensure that it is part of the new mining law,” Mr Handique said in an interview. “This is in line with our focus on sustainable development.”

The draft of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill, 2010, being prepared under the supervision of a group of ministers, has endorsed a proposal stipulating that all resource operations of what it describes as “standalone companies” share 26% of their net profit on an annual basis with the people affected by the project.

> Lukewarm reception from mining cos: P 21
Lukewarm reception from mining cos

The Economic Times, Delhi
Friday, 3rd September 2010, Page: 1

They will also have to offer one share to each individual from displaced families.

The government's thinking is that if affected persons share profits arising from mining operations, resistance from the local population whose land has to be acquired for industrial projects would dwindle.

The proposal has had a lukewarm reception from mining companies. Tata Steel, India's largest private steel company with its own iron ore and coal mines, said locals should be made to benefit through gainful engagement rather than equity stakes and profit-sharing.

"The thrust should be on building capacities and not on distributing money, which will defeat the intended objectives. There should be a mechanism for smooth implementation and monitoring where the government and industry take joint responsibility for improving the delivery system so that the benefits reach the targeted people," the Jamshedpur-based steelmaker said in an emailed response.

While Hindalco and Jindal Steel could not be reached for their comments, CS Verma, chairman of state-owned SAIL, was cautious in his reaction. "There is no clarity so far on how it will apply to captive mines that are cost centres," he said in a response.

If the bill is passed, metal companies could be required to hive off captive mining operations and offer shares in these as well as part of the profit for the lifetime of the mine. Companies will also be free to offer equity and profit in their larger metal operations on a voluntary basis.

Stand-alone mining companies such as NMDC and Sesa Goa will also have to follow the same principle while rewarding project-affected families with a share in profit and equity.

Currently, mining operations of companies are only required to pay royalty to state governments. "The new proposal will add to the cost of mining operations of the companies. The government should ensure that it does not result in higher prices of minerals or metal," said a mining consultant asking not to be named.

According to a mines ministry official, "Several benchmarks are available at the state level to determine pricing formula for different classes of minerals. This could be used to determine profit of captive mines." In cases where mining operations are not profitable, an amount equivalent to the royalty to states for minerals will have to be paid by the firms, said the official. "In the long run, this will solve several problems related to land acquisition," said Mr Handique.

The MMDR Bill is still in the drafting stage after which it will be introduced in Parliament for enactment into law.

Mr Handique brushed aside opposition from mining companies. "This would reduce the resistance people have towards mining projects and would also go a long way in controlling illegal mining," he added.

The latest version of the MMDR Bill also says any notification of mining activity in backward areas would be done after consultation with the gram sabha or district council. Any contravention of provisions in the proposed Act would make a mineral concession null and void.

The current government regulations permit 100% foreign direct investment, or FDI, in most mining activities under the automatic route. Despite this, the actual FDI flows have been a meagre $150-200 million. This has not deterred the government from setting the ambitious target of increasing FDI in the sector to over $20 billion in the next few years.

India has 85 billion tonnes of mineral reserves that are yet to be exploited. Encouraging FDI in the sector, many feel, can prove to be important for the development of the Indian mining and minerals industry.
NLC contract workmen to go on strike

Around 13,000 contract workers of public sector lignite giant Neyveli Lignite Corporation will begin an indefinite strike from September 8 to press for their eight-point charter of demands, including regularisation of their services. The notice for the strike had already been served on the management, an office-bearer of the local unit of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUO), which is spearheading the agitation, said on Thursday.
Plan panel to moot new relief formula for land losers

BS Reporter
Kolkata, 2 September

The Planning Commission is likely to moot a new formula to compensate land losers in mining projects, whereby the displaced will get an upfront payment from mining companies.

The commission would suggest the plan to the mining ministry shortly, and a clear picture was likely to emerge in the next two weeks, Planning Commission Member Arun Maira said on the sidelines of a seminar by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) here today.

The Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act calls for 26 per cent of profits to be spent on land losers or making them shareholders. But, Maira said an upfront payment, which could be calculated on the same basis as royalty to be paid by the company in lieu of mining to the government, was a better idea.

"The companies should set aside an amount, which could be in relation with the royalty they pay, to the displaced people. That could be paid even before the royalty is paid," said Maira.

Plan panel's suggestion assumes significance in view of the recent row between Vedanta and the environment ministry over mining in Niyamgiri hills of Orissa.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) recently rejected the application for grant of Stage-II forest clearance to the Orissa Mining Company (the Vedanta project), citing the company's non-compliance with a number of laws.

The Commission was also of the view that forming local bodies with representatives of the government, the companies concerned and the locals to sort out compensation-related issues could be considered.
Copper near 4-month high

Copper traded near a four-month high, extending yesterday's advance, after better-than-expected manufacturing data in China and the US, the world's two largest users, boosted the demand outlook. The metal for three-month delivery increased as much as 0.5 per cent to $7,643 a tonne on the London Metal Exchange. The metal climbed to $7,647 a tonne yesterday, the highest price April 27.

REUTERS
Adhunik Metaliks

RECO PRICE: ₹110, TARGET PRICE: ₹137

Adhunik Metaliks' (AML) consolidated PAT for the June 2010 quarter rose three times year-on-year due to doubling of iron ore, manganese ore prices and 17 per cent higher steel prices. Volumes increased across products. AML is expected to deliver strong earnings growth over three four years due to a three-pronged strategy. A ₹146 crore capex over two years to increase sponge iron ore capacity by 100,000 tpa and 45 MW captive power plant, the expected start of captive iron mine, and 10-15 per cent annual volume growth will fuel earnings growth. Similar earnings growth is likely beyond 2011-12 as contributions from ANPR and Suleipat kick in. Its consolidated EPS is seen at ₹20.8 in 2011-12. The stock trades at an attractive PE of 5.4 times its estimated 2011-12 earnings. Maintain buy.

—Motilal Oswal Securities
Vedanta shops for bauxite in Gujarat

BHUBANESHWAR: Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Resources has begun talks with the Gujarat government for supply of bauxite for its refinery in Orissa after the Centre spiked its mining project on environmental grounds. “The Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation has agreed to supply 500,000 tonnes a year,” Mukesh Kumar, COO, Vedanta Aluminum said.
वेदांता को पर्यावरण
मंत्रालय का नोटिस

भूमध्यसागर (वाणी): वेदांत वन एवं
पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने वेदांत एन्नुमिनेटा कंपनी
को उड़ीसा के लोंज़ीगढ़ में पोखर ज़ार कोतड़
रूपये की लागत से एन्नुमिनेटा स्टांड का
बिलास करने की मंजूरी संबंधी सूचना का
उल्लेख करने पर कारण नामाजी नोटिस
जारी किया है। मंत्रालय ने वह नोटिस
पर्यावरण एवं वन अभियंत्न 1986 की पारा
पांच के तहत जारी किया है। एक सताह
गर्वनर सर्वप्रथम कार्यकर्ता जैसे
उल्लेख के पेरोलो और उड़ीसा महानगरीय कार्यकर्ता को
विभागीय पहाड़ियों से एन्नुमिनेटा,
अनल, बास्थाएं के खाने के भावना को
निरस्त कर दिया गया था।
GREEN MIN NOD FOR IRRIGATION PROJECT IN ORISSA

Almost ten years after it was conceived, the environment ministry has given an initial clearance to the Brutanga irrigation project in Orissa, for which 1524.17 hectares of forest land will have to be transferred. The reservoir scheme will benefit Dasapalla, Khandapada, Odagaon and Nayagarh blocks of Nayagarh district.
BJD plans "save Orissa" rally today

DEBABRATA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 2

STUNG by the Environment Ministry on mega industrial projects of Vedanta and Posco and Rahul Gandhi's attempt at grabbing the tribal hearts and minds, the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) would hold a rally on Friday in Kalahandi with a cry to "save Orissa".

The party was caught on the back foot last week as Rahul quickly encashed the tribal resentment against Vedanta's attempts to mine Niyangiri hills for bauxite with his speech of "I am your spahi in Delhi". The political reverberations of Rahul speech hit the BJD hard as the party had just managed to consolidate its hold over 22 per cent tribal population of Orissa.

But with Rahul having stolen a march over CM Naveen Patnaik, BJD's youth wing would hold a "Orissa Banchao" rally on Friday at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi, about 100 metres from the place where Rahul had addressed the tribals. Though the party initially projected it as a rally to protest Centre's roadblocks on Posco and Vedanta projects, it was changed at the last moment after senior party leaders thought it would send a message as if BJD was for industrialists and not tribals. The theme now would be Centre's neglect towards Orissa.

"At the rally we would impress upon how the Centre has been trying to block Orissa's development. We would speak on Polavaram project which would submerge several villages in Orissa," said state Energy Minister Suryo Patro.

Though Naveen was scheduled to address the rally, he was advised against it as it would have suggested that the CM was more concerned for a private company like Vedanta than the tribals.
Ransack and notice pile Vedanta agony

SUBHASHISH MOHANTY

Bhubaneswar, Sept. 1: For Vedanta, troubles are pouring.

At least six persons, including some employees, suffered injuries, and property worth Rs 1 crore was destroyed as hundreds of contract workers went on the rampage at the Vedanta Alumina Ltd (VAL) office at Lanjigarh last night.

Today, the Union environment and forests minister issued showcase notices to the company on its mining project.

Last night, the workers smashed furniture, destroyed computer sets and photocopier machines. The police detained 110 workers after the violence.

“Around 300 workers attacked our employees and a few policemen present. One switched off power. In the darkness, they hurled stones and smashed the computer sets, servers and (photocopying) machines. All the window panes were smashed,” VAL chief operating officer Mukesh Kumar said.

“Things are under control now,” Kalahandi SP Sudha Singh told The Telegraph.

The incident unfolded in the wake of the Union ministry rejecting Vedanta’s request for second-stage clearance for its bauxite mining project in Niyamgiri. The mining project would have fed its 1-million-tonne refinery at Lanjigarh.

The Union ministry today issued two showcase notices to the company, asking it to explain, among other things, the plan to expand the capacity of the alumina refinery from 1 million tonnes to 6 million tonnes without obtaining environment clearance and sourcing bauxite for the plant from 11 mines which, too, did not have such an approval.

The notice is returnable within a fortnight.

The second notice issued to VAL officer Kumar asked why the company’s expansion plan, which remains on hold, should not be cancelled.
Hint of more mining vetoes

JAYANTA BASU

Calcutta, Sept. 1: The veto on Vedanta's bauxite-mining project in Orissa is not a "one-off thing" and industries violating environmental norms might face similar action soon, Jairam Ramesh has said.

In an interview with The Telegraph, the forest and environment minister denied any political pressure behind his decision last week, although his plan of action seems in line with the Congress's latest tribal policy.

The Congress has decided to stand up for the cause of tribals and win them over politically, and use the same strategy to develop a disconnect between them and the Maoists. By extension, this would neutralise the Maoists' claim that tribals were being exploited and their land forcibly taken over.

"There is no political or other pressure on the Vedanta issue. We have rejected the bauxite-mining clearances in the Niyamgiri hills because they violated stipulated norms," Ramesh said.

"It (denial of permission to Vedanta) is not a one-off thing. You will find that many industries not conforming to environmental and forest norms will soon face similar strictures."

The minister said so far strong action had seldom been taken against non-conforming industries. "Previously, the department used to clear almost all projects received by it and it almost acted like a courier. Now we are extremely stringent with the application of laws before giving clearances."

Sources said despite Ramesh claiming otherwise, the political ploy in his contemplating action against other non-conforming projects in tribal-dominated areas could not be ignored. Some of these are already under the Supreme Court scanner.

This also falls in line with Rahul Gandhi calling himself a sipahi (soldier) of the tribals at a rally in Orissa's Kalahandi barely 48 hours after the veto on Vedanta.

"You've been fighting for your rights peacefully. Your voice has reached New Delhi. You've saved your land, mountain and religion (tribal groups revere their forest and hill deities). I extended help in whichever way I could... as your sipahi in Delhi," he said.

Sources said the Congress's tribal policy was clearly evident in Rahul's words. If his reference to "fighting for rights peacefully" pointed to the success of non-violent — hence non-Maoist — means of protest, the use of sipahi was aimed at winning over the tribals politically. And Ramesh, known to be close to the Gandhi clan, did not seem averse to the strategy, the sources added.

Environment activists have appreciated the move to revoke clearance to Vedanta. "We support the environment ministry's directive on Vedanta as it was clearly violating the tribal and forest right acts," said Sunita Narain of the Centre for Science and Environment.

Another tribal activist added: "I don't mind if there is a political angle to the denial of environmental permission to Vedanta. The bottomline is, perhaps for the first time, the government has accepted tribal people's right on the land where they live."

Ramesh is reported to have withdrawn Vedanta's clearance on the basis of the recommendations of a committee headed by National Advisory Council member N.C. Saxena and a forest advisory committee. Both had concluded that Vedanta violated three central laws: the Forest Rights Act, the Forest Conservation Act and the Environment Protection Act.
Show-cause notice to Vedanta over refinery

NEW DELHI: Vedanta’s troubles seem to be far from over with the Environment Ministry now issuing a show-cause notice to it to reply within a fortnight on allegedly expanding the capacity of its refinery and captive power plant in Orissa without taking green clearance. Just a few days ago, the Ministry had rejected Vedanta’s USD 1.7 billion bauxite mining project proposed in Niyamgiri Hills in Orissa citing violation of environment norms. The Ministry has threatened to revoke licence granted to its one million tonne per annum (MTPA) alumina refinery and 75 MW captive power plant at Lanijagah in Kalahandi for not complying with the green norms stipulated while giving them environmental clearance in 2004. Citing a series of alleged violation by the project proponent Vedanta Aluminium Ltd at its refinery, the Union Environment Ministry has pointed out that the “unit (refinery) has already proceeded with construction activity for expansion project without obtaining prior environmental clearance.” It also accused the company of illegally grabbing village forest land of 26.125 hectares to carry out a six-fold expansion without permission. 26-9-10
Retrenched workers of Vedanta refinery head home

Prafulla Das
Bhubaneswar, Sept. 2
Thousands of casual workers of Vedanta's alumina refinery at Lanjigarh in Orissa's Kalahandi district, who were retrenched on Tuesday, have started leaving for their homes.

More than 4,000 labourers working on the expansion project of the refinery through L&T were on Tuesday asked to go. The retrenched workers started heading for their homes in distant places in the State and outside following the arrest of 35 of their co-workers on Tuesday night.

Our Mumbai Bureau reports: L&T said that it has nothing to do with the labour employed by its contractors at Vedanta Aluminium's site in Lanjigarh. L&T had suspended work at the plant on Tuesday following a communication from Vedanta.

At a standstill: Contract workers seen outside Vedanta Aluminium's plant at Lanjigarh in Orissa's Kalahandi district. Over 5,000 contract workers hired by L&T at the site have been asked to leave after Vedanta instructed the company to stop work. — A. Roy Chowdhury
Hind Zinc increases product price

Mumbai, Sept. 2

Hindustan Zinc Ltd has raised prices of zinc by Rs 4,400 a tonne to Rs 111,400 and prices of lead by Rs 3,400 a tonne to Rs 112,600 effective Thursday, according to the company's website. The Vedanta group company—the country's largest producer of zinc and lead—reviews product prices based on benchmark London Metal Exchange trends. — News Wire 18
Malaysia tin rises $50/tonne

Kuala Lumpur, Sept 2

The local tin market closed higher on Thursday. Tin price on the Kuala Lumpur tin market increased $50 to close at $21,400 a tonne. Meanwhile, turnover increased to 71 tonnes from 62 tonnes on Wednesday.

Xinhua
Cautious investors keep gold firm

Gold futures for December delivery rose 90 cents to $1,249.00.

The world's largest gold-backed ETF, New York's SPDR Gold Trust, said its holdings rose to 1,304.028 tonnes on Sept. 1 from 1,302.508 tonnes the day before, having climbed in August after retreating in July.

Spot gold was bid at $1,246.95 an ounce at 11:31 GMT, against $1,242.50 late in New York on Wednesday. US

Elsewhere, platinum rose to $1,553 an ounce from $1,528, while palladium climbed to $519.25 an ounce from $516.

Bullion rate

Chennai: Bar silver (a kg): Rs 31,350; retail silver (a gm): Rs 33.65; standard gold: Rs 19,130; retail ornament gold (22 carat): Rs 1,779.

Kolkata: Silver ready: Rs 31,000; Gold ready: Rs 10,220.
Macro data lift copper to 4-month high

Reuters

London, Sept. 2

Copper rose to its highest in more than four months as recent macroeconomic data from the world’s two largest economies, the US and China, brightened the outlook for metals demand.

Copper for three month’s delivery on the London Metal Exchange firmed to $7,670 a tonne by 09:31 GMT, compared with a close of $7,606 a tonne on Wednesday. It touched $7,675 a tonne, its highest since April 27. Falling stocks continued to offer support for copper prices as inventories now stand at 339,000 tonnes.

LME nickel gained 2 per cent to $21,590 a tonne. Lead was at $2,160 a tonne versus Wednesday’s $2,115 a tonne. Zinc rose to $2,184 a tonne from $2,133. Tin traded at $21,475 from $21,450, and aluminium at $2,127 from $2,108.
New mechanised berths may help ease bunching at Sandheads

Our Bureau
Kolkata, Sept. 2

The commissioning of the two mechanised berths, 2 and 8, at the Haldia dock will help ease the bunching problem at the Sandheads, according to Mr M.L. Meena, Chairman of Kolkata Port Trust.

He was hopeful that the berths would be commissioned soon and the handling of gearless vessels in the two berths would take much shorter time.

“There were some local issues which have since been sorted out,” he said.

On Wednesday, there were as many as 52 ships waiting at the Sandheads. On Thursday, the number dropped to 30, it is learnt.

Inquiries reveal that ABG Haldia Bulk Terminal Pvt Ltd, the SPV floated by the ABG Group, which has been issued the commissioning letter by the port authorities for starting operation in two berths, is awaiting allotment of ships to the berths by the Haldia dock authorities.

“We’re ready with everything in each berth, three mobile harbour cranes, 13 pay-loaders, and 25 dumpers and other handling equipment including road and rail weigh bridges,” said a spokesman for the company.

There would be guaranteed output of 20,000 tonnes per day each berth and it could be stepped up to even 30,000 tonnes, given the types of equipment installed in the berths. The rates too were very reasonable – Rs 81 in berth 2 and Rs 70 in berth 8.

The problem of bunching is not unusual at the Sandheads during this time of the year. Also, as he pointed out, with the recent spurt in the spot prices of iron ore, the exporters of the ore had become active, and with it, more ships had started arriving to load iron ore at Haldia.
All That Glitters

DURING the years of exchange control in the pre-liberalisation (1991) era, import of gold and silver into India and the export of gold were prohibited except under a licence obtained from the Reserve Bank of India. Permission for import of gold was granted only in exceptional cases where either no foreign exchange transaction was involved or the gold was required for a special purpose (e.g., dental gold) and where the gold was brought to India for the purpose of manufacture of jewellery and re-export.

The central bank used to grant general permission for bringing or sending into India personal gold jewellery of travellers, provided it had been allowed entry by the customs authorities. Similarly, it used to grant general permission to any person permanently residing in India to take out of the country personal gold jewellery and to foreigners to take out gold jewellery purchased in India, up to prescribed limits. The rules for import of silver were broadly the same as those applicable to gold, the export of silver and silver articles being regulated by the Chief Commissioners of Imports and Exports.

However, these rules have been fairly liberalised over the years. Gold import for domestic markets is liberalised. Moreover, carrying gold under baggage rules during foreign travel also has been liberalised.
नियमक प्राधिकरण रोकेगा कोयले की चोरी

केंद्र सरकार ने लाख लाख किए, शेरिफ कोयले का गूंज-गूंजन्ना केवल वेदान्त जारी है। सरकार भी बहुत से माना गया है कि यह काम जनता आदर्श नहीं है। अब यह काम प्रस्तावित कोयला नियमक प्राधिकरण करेगा। प्राधिकरण को कोयले के गूंज-गूंजन्ना योजनाओं पर रेल लगाने की संभावना कदम उठाने के लिए विशेष अधिकार दिए जाएं। कोयला नियमक प्राधिकरण ने नियमक प्राधिकरण चलाने का प्रस्ताव दिल्ली के कैबिनेट को लेकर दिया है। सरकार की योजना है कि आगे वर्ष की सुरक्षा से यह नियमक प्राधिकरण काम करना शुरू कर दे।

कोयला नियमक प्राधिकरण के रुप में नए नियमक प्राधिकरण संदेह के तरीके पर कोयला क्षेत्र से सबसे ही प्रकाश की नीति के तहत करने में सरकार की प्रशंसा शीघ्र। यह कोयले के क्रम लेने के अलावा खदानों को बंद करने और इससे संबंधित पथवाव रुप के नकल तैयार करने का काम करणा। प्राधिकरण यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि विभिन्न रायाओं को कोयला खदानों की दी गई है, जहाँ इनकी जरूरत तथा हो और निर्माण समस्या के भीतर उपर-गृह हो। प्राधिकरण आम उपभोक्ताओं को उचित मूल्य पर कोयला उत्पाद करने के लिए खास अधिकार दिया।

* केबिनेट को भेजा प्रस्ताव, अगले वर्ष से काम शुरू कर देगा प्राधिकरण
* कीमत तय करने के आलावा ग्राहकों की शिकारयात्रा भी सुनेगा

कोयला मंत्रालय की तरफ से इस बार में जो नोटिश मंत्रालयों को भेजा गया है, उसकी एक कार्य ‘प्राधिकरण’ के पास भी है। निदेश कंपनियों को चेतावनी पर दी गई। कोयला खदानों को ‘कोयला भी प्राधिकरण ही तय करेगा।’ नियमक प्राधिकरण इस बात पर भी ज़हर रखेगा कि देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में फिसला हुआ पर कोयले की निपटी की जा चुकी है। पूरे देश में बोयला की ही मुख्य संसाधन अपनाया जाए, इस बार में भी प्राधिकरण व्यवस्था करेगा। नियमक प्राधिकरण के पास अवधारणा निरीक्षण करने और दोषियों पर जुर्माना या अन्य दंड लगाने का अधिकार होगा। इसी के मुद्दों के बीच कोयला नियमक प्राधिकरण का काम बढ़ा हुआ है। अन्य प्राधिकरणों से अलग होगा। मसलन, कोयला खनन से पथवाव को संबंधित रखने के लिए कंपनियों और सरकार को ब्रह्म का कदम उठाने चाहिए, इस बार में भी सीता तत्त्व करने का काम प्राधिकरण ही करेगा। कोयला खनन और उत्पाद या शुल्क लगाने की निगमित भी नियमक प्राधिकरण की होगी। मण्डल में बोयला खनन के संबंधित अधी तक व्यवस्थित तहनी, है इसे इस प्रकार करने के लिए विशेष अधिकार करना कि देश में भी नया अंतराज्यिक तहनी का इस्तेमाल किया जाए।