Centre against Karnataka ban on ore exports

RANJIT BHUSHAN
New Delhi

THE centre has questioned the BJP-led Karnataka government's decision to ban export of iron ore to check illegal mining.

In a hard-hitting letter to state chief minister BS Yeddyurappa, mines minister BK Handique maintained that regulation on import and exports was a central subject and state has no authority over it.

Handique enlisted several measures like intense scrutiny on movement, streamlining regulatory procedures, proper certification and coordination with port agencies to curb illegal mining in the state.

The missive by Handique was sent out last week after the ban was imposed. The Karnataka government has also stopped issuing transport permits to move iron ore either out of the state or to export destinations. This has put the steel and iron industry operating out of Karnataka in a plight situation leading to virtual paralysis of its business.

"In so far as banning of export is concerned, as you are aware, different states have different policies and the central government will need to factor in the extent to which states have the power and authority to regulate the subject at the state level, before formulating any general policy," Handique said.

Handique said ban on iron ore export and movement was "...a sad reflection on regulatory set up in the state since basic causes for illegal mining are not addressed". He termed the state's announcement in this regard as "steps taken to treat symptoms instead of cause".

The mines minister advised the state to "...take strong and publicly visible action to assert its authority in this area. I would therefore strongly suggest that the state government should immediately impose tight controls on movement of vehicles carrying iron ore and ensure proper accounting of the ore itself."

Yeddyurappa told reporters in Bangalore that the ban would be in force till Lok Ayukta (ombudsman) probed into illegal mining during last ten years. He had on Wednesday banned issue of permits to transport iron ore for exports.

Yeddyurappa's decision has come in the backdrop of a raging controversy over illegal mining and export of iron ore. He told the state assembly recently that 71.27 lakh tonnes of iron ore was exported illegally during last fiscal.

"Experience in other states has shown that efficient auditing procedures to track back source of ore in the port to mine has been a major deterrent to illegal mining. State government needs to coordinate with port authorities to ensure that only such ore was allowed to be exported that has been validated documents from state directorate of mining and geology," Handique's missive said.

The mines minister also suggested developing reliable mechanism to collect samples, monitor data on prices of various minerals that would through enough hints on possible illegal mining by unscrupulous elements that may like to take advantage of price arbitrage, develop integrated mechanism on movement of trucks and vehicles, strict controls on transport permits, bar coding, use of holograms for transport permits.

The centre has also mooted compulsory registration of all end-users and direct end-user industries to check royalty payments apart from slapping heavy penalties for violators.

While the chief minister's office in Bangalore was not available for comment, Manjunath Gowda, Delhi-based resident director (industry), Karnataka government said he was not aware of any such letter.

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S Vijay Kumar is new mines secretary

Subramanyam Vijay Kumar, a 1976 batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, on Sunday took over as the new mines secretary, succeeding Santha Sheela Nair, a Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer, who retired on July 31. "My priority would be to get the new mining Bill introduced in Parliament as early as possible," Kumar, who has been the additional secretary and special secretary in the Ministry of Mines since January 2008, said after assuming office.
मई में खनन उत्पादन 8.69 प्रतिशत बढ़ा  \( \text{\%} \)

यह दिखाया है कि मई में खनन उत्पादन में 8.69 प्रतिशत बढ़कर गई है। अप्रैल के मुकाबले मई में खनन उत्पादन 0.92 प्रतिशत अधिक रहा है। सरकार को साफ़ से स्पष्ट है कि जरी खनन उत्पादन आंकों के अनुसार जनापद और गैर-खनन के क्षेत्र में मई 2010 में 10 हज़ार 746 करोड़ रुपए मुख्य के खननों का उपयोग किया गया। सबसे अधिक 3716 करोड़ रुपए मुख्य के ब्रांड कोर्स का उपयोग किया गया।

यह कुल खनन उत्पादन कीमत का 35 प्रतिशत विश्राम है।
Govt: GoM looking into illegal mining

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aug. 2: The Centre has informed the Parliament that a group of ministers, among others, is looking at regulatory deficiencies regarding illegal mining in the country.

Replying to supplementary questions during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha on the issue, environment minister Jairam Ramesh said “The honest truth is that we do not have effective regulatory system to deal with illegal mining.” A GoM is among other things looking at regulatory deficiencies in dealing with illegal mining, he said.

Mr Ramesh also informed the House that his ministry is investigating alleged violation of forest laws by Vedanta Co and Korean steel maker Posco in Orissa.

He said a four-member expert group is currently in Orissa looking at all cases of alleged violation by Vedanta Co.

On the issue of illegal mining in Karnataka, the minister said he had written to chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa on July 3 pointing out “gross violation (of the Forest Conservation Act) by private iron ore mining companies” in the forest area of Sandur near Bellary.

The chief minister has “promised to take action against illegal mining,” he said, adding that the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 does not empower his ministry to take action.

On the issue of alleged illegal mining of iron ore in Obulapuram on the Andhra Pradesh-Karnataka border, the minister said Survey of India has been asked to do a survey of the disputed territory.

He said based on the survey, “if there is any violation of forest conservation act, we will take action.”

The minister also informed the House that permission for three power projects and one aluminium smelter refinery in Andhra Pradesh has been suspended on the ground of violation of environmental laws.
अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए मंत्री समूह का गठन

नई दिल्ली, 2 अगस्त (पाया)। पर्यावरण और वन-राष्ट्र मंत्री जयप्रकाश सेनेस ने सोमवार को बताया कि अवैध खनन पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए मंत्री समूह का गठन किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि कर्नलक सरकार का ध्यान राष्ट्र में लीज अप्रसूचक के अवैध खनन में निर्यात के उल्लंघन को और हिलाया गया है। सेनेस ने कहा कि उन्होंने की जुलूस को कर्नलक के मुख्यमंत्री की, एवं मेडिकल की तरह हिलाया उन्होंने जानकारी ने बताया लोगों की की राष्ट्र में लीज अप्रसूचक को खतरनाक निर्यात का उल्लंघन हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि कर्नलक के मुख्यमंत्री ने पूर्वसूचा दिया कि वह अप्रेशन अभिनियम का उल्लंघन कर अवैध खनन करने वाली कंपनियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

प्रकाशन ने दीवान सुनामशाला पाक़िने के पूरे सवाल के जवाब में सेनेस ने कहा- रेतन में मैौजूद निर्यात तंत्र इतना प्रदर्शी नहीं है कि अवैध खनन की मांगवायियों को रोक सकें। मैौजूद रेत में इस निर्यात तंत्र के सहारे अब इस तरह हेल्डफोन आपको खुद का खुशी देने वाले लोगों की बताया जा सकता है। सेनेस ने कहा कि मंत्री समूह की जिड्डे को अंतिम रूप किया जा रहा है।

मंत्री ने कहा कि प्रमुख खानियों ने खनन को इतना अधिक हिलाया कि उन्होंने दिन-पार स्थानीय बोर्डके उन्नत पहलुए रखा है। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्होंने पेश करने वाले ग्रामीणों को उपहार देने और उन्होंने जानकारी दी कि उन्होंने अभिनियम के उल्लंघन का पता लगाया है। इस रिपोर्ट में कुछ कंपनियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें अभिनियम के अधिकारों में कहाँ-कहाँ अवैध खनन की जानकारी मिली थी जिसके बाद भारतीय सरकार के खिलाफ कार्रवाई का पूरा क्षेत्र का सरकार के पास होता है। एक पूरा सलिल के जवाब में सेनेस ने कहा कि कमलक और ओरियन्स में अवैध खनन का मामला उठाया जाना पर कहा कि ऐसी ख़बर मामले सामने आते हैं, जिनमें वह सरकार अभिनियम का उल्लंघन हुआ है। इस रिपोर्ट में कुछ कंपनियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

उन्होंने कहा कि कर्नलक में इतना अवैध खनन का मामला है कि उन्होंने पेश करने वाले ग्रामीणों को उपहार देने और उन्होंने जानकारी दी कि उन्होंने अभिनियम के उल्लंघन का पता लगाया है। इस रिपोर्ट में कुछ कंपनियों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई का दिया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि अभिनियम का उल्लंघन करने के लिए 16 खनन को निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि वेइश खनन के पारंपरिक रूप से निर्माण किया गया है। इस रिपोर्ट में मामला दर्शा दिया गया। उन्होंने जाना कि जब सामने है तो उह लोकों के लिए फिल्म कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

हेल्डफोन ने बताया कि कर्नलक खनन वन निर्माण ने दौड़ करीबों के दिग्गज मामला करवाया करवाइया 8,035,99,918 मैंट्रों तथा अप्रसूचक, जब सामने है तो उह सामने है। कर्नलक ने कहा कि इस सामने के दौरान यह लोकों के लिए उन्होंने फिल्म कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

उन्होंने बताया कि जब सामने है तो लोकों के लिए उन्होंने कहा कि इस सामने के दौरान यह लोकों के लिए उन्होंने फिल्म कार्रवाई की जा रही है।
Diamond mines in Naxal grip

AGE CORRESPONDENT

2 (4) RAIPUR

Aug. 2: Chief minister, Mr Raman Singh, on Monday said at least four diamond belts are under the Maoist controlled region of Bastar in Chhattisgarh. Bastar division, which comprises Maoist-infested districts of Dantewada, Kanker, Bijapur, Narayanpur and Bastar, has been identified as possible rich source of diamond reserve, Mr Singh told the state Assembly here.

The chief minister said Chhota Dangar belt in Bastar, Narayanpur and Bijapur districts has been listed among total eight possible diamond reserves in the state.

The others are Tokapal belt in Bastar, Dantewada and Bijapur districts. Narayanpur Lanjore belt in Kanker, Bastar and Narayanpur districts, Kanker Keshkkel belt in Kanker, Durg, Dharmtari and Bastar districts, Berhadhi belt in Raipur district, Pithore in Mahasamund and Raipur districts, Sarangarh belt in Raigarh, Janjira, Mahasamund and Raipur districts and Eib-Mami belt in Jashpur, Kaugar and Sarguja districts. Meanwhile, at least eight hardcore Maoists were on Monday arrested in Chhattisgarh’s Dantewada district, the police said.

The alleged ultras were arrested following separate raids by security personnel in their hideouts at Barsur and Mardum, a senior district police officer said.
SC orders 5 firms to pay mining tax

New Delhi, Aug. 2: The Supreme Court on Monday directed five private companies engaged in mining activities across Madhya Pradesh to pay mining tax worth Rs 1,200 crore to the state government for the period between 2005 and 2010.

The companies are Jaiprakash Associates Ltd, Birla Corporation Ltd, Grasim Industries, Western Coalfields Ltd and Prism Cement Ltd.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia and Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Swatanter Kumar asked the firms to file their returns under the Madhya Pradesh Rural Infrastructure and Road Development Act of 2005 within six weeks. The court was hearing a batch of petitions filed by the firms, challenging the validity of the MP Rural Infrastructure and Road Development Act, which enables the government to levy tax on mineral-rich land to fund road projects. — PTI
Vedanta, Posco under govt scanner

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday said it is investigating violations of the Forest Rights Act and environmental norms by mining company Vedanta Resources and steel-maker Posco in Orissa and would take a decision on the two projects once it gets the report.   IANS
खनिज उत्पादन 8.69% बढ़ा

नई दिल्लीः उद्योगों में मांग बढ़ने से मई में खनिज का उत्पादन विचलक जर्नल को समान अवधि की तुलना में 8.69 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। खनिज मंज़ूलन की ओर से जारी किए गए जर्नल के मुद्दे में खनिज का उत्पादन विचलक जर्नल को समान अवधि की तुलना में 8.69 प्रतिशत अधिक रहा है। 

हालाँकि मंज़ूलन की ओर से उत्पादन की मांग के संबंध में सुनिश्चित असिक्से नहीं दिए गए हैं। कोंसालों के लिए जर्नल से मई में कोंसालों का उत्पादन 3,716 करोड़ रुपये रहा है। भारत का उत्पादन 2,620 करोड़ रुपये का नएक्स फैक्ट्रीमें का उत्पादन 1,640 करोड़ रुपये का रहा है। समान अवधि में प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन 1,403 करोड़ रुपये, लुमिनेंट्र का उत्पादन 398 करोड़ रुपये और लाइटस्टोन का उत्पादन 264 करोड़ रुपये का रहा है। जर्नल में कहा गया है कि इन छह खनिजों का मई में कुल खनिजों के उत्पादन मूल्य में 93 प्रतिशत का बढ़कर है।
अब दुनिया देखेगी
भारतीय सुनारों का हुनर

मुंबई (सूत्र)। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और प्रायोगिक शैली से लॉक-अप के बाद में भारतीय कलाकारों के हुनर की विदेश में बढ़ती मांग के चलते फैशन वींक की राजी व प्रमुख देश में पहली बार जीती बीच आयोजित करने जा रही है। महिलाएं और
विभिन्न मंडलों के समर्थन से होगी जा रही इस जीती बीच के मुंबई में आयोजन की जिम्मेदारी होगी जेनेवार नियंत्र
प्रस्ताव परिवार की होगी।

जीती बीच के आयोजन को बुधे सूर्यों के सुराग, इस आयोजन का भाग जेनेवार के डिजाइनर, फैशनड पर
रचनाओं और खेल में भारतीय सुनारों और कलाकारों के
हुनर को दुनिया के साथ एक-एक कहीं 15 अगस्त को शुरू होने वाला में जीती बीच पर
दिन तक चलेगा। अपनी तरफ के इस मिले हो में देश भर के
भारतीय जीती हिस्ट्रिय और विश्व स्तर उत्तर 34 शोज के
जोए अपने बेहतरत के के में पहले बीच के
अन्य नवीकरण के पेश किये जाएँगे। जीती बीच में जीती हिस्ट्रिय के बीच का बारे में कहां भागीरथ निष्ठा
हूनर को रहता हुए इस भाग में संकेरण का प्रयास करके निया जाना। सूर्यों के सुरागिक देश में पहली बार होने
जा रहे इस जीती बीच के शोज को समाप्तित करने के लिए
मंगलस्वरूपियों को देखने लगा जा रहा है।
अवैध खाना रोकने के लिए
नियमन तंत्र की क्रमी: जयराम

गई दिल्ली, (भाषा), संपत्ति में, कितना गया है ताकि यह प्रेयर जा सके आज कई स्थानों द्वारा अवैध खाना कि अवैध खाना गतिविधियों को रोकने का मुख्य उद्देश्य पर प्रयास और चलन के लिए किसी तरह नियमन तंत्र को ख़न मजी जयराम रोमा ने लिखा कर प्रभावी बनाया आ सकता है।" इससे लिखा कि मौर्यान नियमन तंत्र रोमा ने कहा कि मौर्यान-समूह को मिलों को गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए प्रभावी अधिनियम रूप दिया जा रहा है। उन्होंने यह कहा और इस संघर्ष के लिए संकलन के प्रमाण-समूह का प्रदर्शन किया है।

रोमा ने प्रदर्शन के दौरान स्वास्थ्य के लिए नियमन का प्रतीक्षा किया है।

समाचार में मजी की स्वीकारी भिन्न, करार की कृषि डिस्ट्रीक्ट के एड.डी. मिनरल, डायरेक्ट फिनरल और शी.एम. मिनरल के अधिकारी ने स्वास्थ्य खाना का प्रमाण पीएम उद्धारित परराइल कि ऐसे कुछ पायें या यात्रा सामने आते हैं, जिनमें वन संरक्षण अधिनियम का उल्लंघन करता है।

"इससमें से कहुं कोई उल्लंघन है कि देश की मौर्यान नीतियों का संबंध यह है कि रोमा में मौर्यान नियमन खिलावान याच जोच की जा हो रहा है।" रोमा ने अपने इस स्वास्थ्य प्रभावी संरक्षण कहा कि मजी के मुख्यमंत्री ने खाना की गतिविधियों की शुरू से। राष्ट्रीय नीति का अधिनियम का उल्लंघन कर अवैध

उन्होंने कहा, "मजी मजी की खाना के वाले कार्यपालिका के अधिकारी अथवा में एक मजी-समूह का प्रदर्शन करते हैं।"
NEW DELHI, 2 AUG: The Union environment and forests minister, Mr Jairam Ramesh (in photo) today said the alleged violation of Forest Rights Act and environmental norms by mining company Vedanta Resources and Korean steel maker Posco in Orissa is being investigated by a four-member expert group.

Replying to supplementary during question hour in Rajya Sabha, the minister said the expert group is currently in Orissa looking at all cases of alleged violation by Vedanta Co. “Any violation of the Forest Act will not be spared,” he said adding that the final decision will be taken after the expert group submits its report.

While Vedanta Co is being investigated by the ministry for alleged violation of this guideline, Posco is under investigation for alleged violation of forest act in acquisition of land for the mega project. “We will take a final call after report of the expert group is received,” Mr Ramesh said.

Vedanta is battling criticism from environmental groups and some shareholders over plans to extract bauxite in Niyamgiri hills in the state’s Kalahandi district. Posco is alleged to have violated the forest Act. [SNS]
State’s ban on iron ore export illegal

By Sowmya Aji in New Delhi

KARNATAKA government’s decision to ban iron ore export from all its ports as a measure to stop rampant illegal mining in the state might not be legally tenable. Only the Centre can impose such a ban.

Chief minister B.S. Yeddurappa, facing the heat over allegations of illegal mining against three of his ministers — G. Janardhan and Karunakar Reddy and B. Srinamulu — announced the ban last week.

This was an attempt to counter the ongoing padayatra by Congress leaders against the alleged illegal mining by the Bellary mine barons-turned-ministers.

Yeddurappa had written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh seeking a total ban on iron ore export. When the PM did not respond immediately, he went ahead and announced the ban.

But it is the Union commerce ministry which decides on banning or allowing exports and any such decision involving major minerals such as iron ore have to be taken by the mines ministry and not by a state government.

“I do not know on what basis the Karnataka government has announced such a ban. The issue is under the consideration of a group of ministers on mining,” commerce minister Anand Sharma said.

Sharma said the matter had been referred to the director-general of foreign trade to be looked into. “Ultimately, the group of ministers will decide upon the Karnataka proposal to ban iron ore export,” he added.

Minister B.K. Handique said he was in agreement with the Karnataka government that illegal mining needed to be stopped.

“The state, however, does not have the jurisdiction to ban export of iron ore, that is the purview of the commerce ministry,” Handique added.

Iron ore exporters contend that the ban announced by Yeddurappa was nothing less than an “eyewash” and an attempt to falsely make the public believe that he was acting against illegal mining by his cabinet colleagues.

“If the state itself had the right to ban export of iron ore, why did he (Yeddurappa) go to the PM? He knows it will not stand legal scrutiny. It’s just an eyewash,”’ mine-owner and Congress MLA Santosh Lad said.

The export of high grade iron ore is already banned, but so far the export of low grade iron ore was allowed as the country’s steel plants are not equipped to process them.

“Low grade iron ore will not be lifted by the domestic market. So all that an exporter has to do is show he is going to set up a steel plant, mine extensively and send it to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh or Goa and export it,” Lad said.
BREAKING NEW GROUND: The ministry of mines has been asked to expedite the procedure to form the Mines & Minerals Bill, 2010.

By Sanjay Singh in New Delhi

POLITICAL bosses over the years have never been convinced to have a regulator for putting a check on illegal mining, rampant across the country. But thanks to the controversial Reddy ‘Bellary’ brothers — also ministers in the BJP-led government in Karnataka — whom the Congress-led UPA government failed to nail on allegations of illegal mining, the Centre is now compelled to come up with a watchdog armed with prosecution powers.

The Centre is proposing a National Mineral Regulation Authority (NMRA), a regulator to curb illegal mining. Congress and BJP-led government in Karnataka have locked horns over alleged illegal mining by Bellary brothers. Such is the political zeal among the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre that unlike other regulatory bodies for various sectors, the mining regulatory bod, NMRA, will be armed with prosecution powers.

The ministry of mines has been asked to expedite the procedures and make amendments to ensure that the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill, 2010, is put before the Parliament for approval.

A top official in the Planning Commission told Mail Today that new mining regulations would be in place only in the next two-three months. “The mining regulations Bill should be before the Parliament for approval only during the winter session of the Parliament. The regulator should be in place by early next year,” said the official.

“It would be no ordinary regulator. It would be armed to prosecute illegal miners. It will have strong regulatory mechanism,” the official explained.

The proposed authority will also have powers to act against illegal mining, file cases against violators and also grant mining leases. Also public sector units engaged in mining would come under its purview.

Currently, the mining sector does not have a regulator. It has the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), which mostly acts as a technical expertise body especially meant to clear mining plans for various stakeholders. However, once the new regulator is in place, IBM would continue to act as a technical regulator for the sector.

The government had in early July constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) chaired by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee to discuss contentious issues in the draft Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill 2010 which is being prepared by the ministry of mines.

Union minister for steel Virbhadra Singh and law minister M. Veerappa Moily during a GoM meeting late last week had expressed concern over illegal mining and had called for an urgent need for a regulator for tackling the menace. Karnataka governor H.R. Bhardwaj had last month called for removal of the controversial Reddy brothers from the state ministry on allegations of illegal mining in mineral rich Bellary in Karnataka. But he failed to do so after facing stiff resistance from the BJP.
राष्ट्रीय सहारा, दिल्ली
तर्क, 3 अगस्त 2010, पृष्ठ: 13

राष्ट्रीय सहारा, दिल्ली
तर्क, 3 अगस्त 2010, पृष्ठ: 13

सदस्यों ने उठाया अवैध
खनन का मुद्दा
मौजूदा नियमन तंत्र प्रभावी नहीं: जयराम रमेश

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। राजस्थान में जॉगीकर के कई सदस्यों द्वारा अवैध खनन का मुद्दा उठाने पर परवर्तन और या राय गंगा जयराम रमेश ने स्पष्ट रूप से किया कि मौजूदा नियमन-तंत्र इसी प्रकार सही नहीं है और इस सामान्य न होने के लिये सरकार ने मंजूरी का मानना किया है।

रमेश ने प्रतिक्रिया के दौरान राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री पर चर्चा की, "सच कि टीका के अनुसार में एक मंजूरी का मानना करना है। इसका रेखा देखकर हर साल जब भी अवैध खनन नियमों को रोकने के लिए किसी तरह नियमन तंत्र को प्रभावी बनाया जा

राष्ट्र में प्रश्नोत्तर

को प्रभावी बनाया जा सकता है।" उन्होंने कहा कि मंजूरी-मानने की नीति को अधिक रूप से दिखाया जा रहा है। रमेश ने कहा कि अवैध खनन का मानना उठाया जाने पर कहा कि उसे भुलकर मानले जाने बाधा है, जिनमें या संरक्षण अधिनियम का उल्लंघन हुआ है। इस मामले में कई नियमों की विकल्प जाने की योग्यता है।

नवाज़ भारत के संसदीय विभाग के अध्यक्ष का वादा की गई है। इस कारण रमेश ने कहा कि उन्होंने कोई ठीक सांख्यिकीय बातों को ध्यान में रखा लाया था कि इस राजनीति में लोग अपनी कोशिश को खदानों में नियमों का उल्लंघन हो रहा है। रमेश ने कहा कि कंट्रॉक्ट के मुख्यमंत्री ने अनुसरण दिया कि वह संरक्षण अधिनियम का उल्लंघन कर अवैध खनन करने वालों को प्रतिक्रिया के लिए कार्रवाई की जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि अवैध खनन नियमों के समावेश का नियम राजनीति राजनीति का खण्ड सरकार के पास होता है।

का भूमि को दूसरे

राष्ट्र के लिए सही तरह से प्रश्नोत्तर कर

देने के बारे में उन्होंने कहा कि वह संरक्षण अधिनियम 1980 करने से पहले या 1986-87 वर्ष के बीच देश में 40 सैकड़ा खेतेस्त का भूमि को परिवर्तन का विषय बना गया था। राष्ट्रीय अधिनियम करने के बाद जॉगी करने 1986-87 वर्ष के बीच रेखेत्र 10 राष्ट्र के खेतेस्त का भूमि दुर्रोग कसोटी के लिए सही नीति की गई। उन्होंने कहा कि वह भूमि का अन्य उद्देश्यों के लिए इस्तेमाल करने के बारे में राजनीति से निकलने वालों पर बाधा करने के लिए का सलाहकार सहीत का विचार जाएगा है।

प्रश्नियों पर पूरी करने के बाद समर्थन के द्वारा सरकार की अपनी संपादन सीखती है।
Probe against Vedanta

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests was investigating alleged violation of forest laws by Vedanta Co and Korean steel maker Posco in Orissa, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday. Replying to supplementary during Question Hour, Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said a four-member expert group was currently in Orissa looking at all cases of alleged violation by Vedanta Co.
NMDC net
up 94%

State-owned miner NMDC Ltd reported a net profit of Rs 1,204.04 crore for the quarter ended June 30, up 94.38 per cent from Rs 773.75 crore during the corresponding period last year. Revenues during the quarter increased 97 per cent to Rs 2,517.99 crore from Rs 1,275.65 crore last year. Iron ore contributed Rs 2,509.36 crore to revenues this quarter (Rs 1,275.63 crore last year) and other minerals and services accounted for Rs 8.63 crore, up from Rs 2.42 crore last year.
Pranab to meet Opposition leaders to end House logjam

Minister invites all political parties for meeting

NEW DELHI: In his bid to put an end to the ongoing stalemate in Parliament over the mode of discussions on price rise, Finance Minister Pranab Mulherjee has invited leaders of all political parties for a breakfast meeting on Monday morning.

While the Opposition has insisted that discussion on the issue should be under a rule that entails voting, the government is opposed to the idea. The formulation to be put up by the government for consideration at the meeting is: “This House expresses concern at inflationary pressure on the economy and calls upon the government to contain its impact.”

Leader of the Opposition Pranab Mulherjee

Sushma Swaraj, JD(U) president Sharad Yadav, Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, CPI(M) leader Basudeb Acharia, RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav and others are invited for the meeting.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister P K Bansal and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar are among those from the government side to be present at the meeting.

CPI in favour
Communist Party of India leader Gurudas Dasgupta favoured the acceptance of the government formulation but declined to hazard any guess as to what would be the outcome. BJP leader SS Ahluwalia said that the party would be deliberating on the issue at a meeting on Sunday late evening.

The Parliamentary affairs minister expressed hope that a way out would be found out at the meeting to end the deadlock.

Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar has rejected notices of an adjournment motion on the issue, holding that it does not involve “failure” of the government in its constitutional duties. The month-long monsoon session of Parliament which started a week ago has not been able to transact any business so far.

On July 30, signs of an end to the impasse brightened with leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj meeting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

DH News Service
Mining Menace and India's Future

Ores do not grow like trees. If we continue to export them, a time will come when we shall not have any ore to use for the manufacture of our own metallic needs.

It is reported that the Karnataka government has ordered authorities to verify the documents of ten companies engaged in exporting ores through ports in Mangalore, Kavar and Delay. There are reports indicating that companies have forged transport permits, and it is evident that there has been wholesale bribery of some officials. It is disgrace abounding. One can understand the capacity of exporters who have literally been earning in billions.

According to the Lokayukta Report, between 2000-2001 and 2005-2006, exports of iron ore from Rs 274 per ton to Rs 1,061 per ton, the total export value increasing from Rs 18,439 million to Rs 35,216.32 million. Can one imagine how much profit the mining fraternity has made? And how much of that profit has been shared with politicians?

Frontline says that in Jharkhand, "the rise of Koda, an independent legislator, who did not have the backing of a large political organisation, to the Chief Minister's position and his continuance in office for 23 months itself signifies the power of the mining lobby". How many bureaucrats also have made themselves rich quietly and on the side? Koda is in jail and surely a few dozen more people should also be in jail. Justice must prevail.

There is so much money to be made that, according to an estimate made by the Indian Institute of Metals in 2009, as much as Rs 300 billion is likely to be invested in the mining and metals sector in eastern India over the next few years. Our law implementers are forewarned.

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way and adequately compensated, their culture especially respected and preserved. Indeed, a new law apparently seeks to make sharing of at least 26 percent profits with local population mandatory. And three, severe punishment should be levied on those indulging in illegal mining. A draft Bill, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill 2010 envisages the setting up of a national mining tribunal which can independently all decisions, indecisions and delays in its application. It is also stated that the draft bill guarantees assured amnesty to the local population deprived of homes and rehabilitations, not to speak of resentment of displaced people etc. If the State government wants to grant forest area for mining, consultation is declared mandatory without paaprelands in tribal areas.

According to the Ministry of Mines, India produces as many as 86 minerals and they include 13 major minerals, namely, iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel, and platinum. How can anyone think of exporting such precious ores which are our country's national heritage?

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MV Kamath
Gold slips below $1,180/oz

Reuters
London, Aug 2
Gold prices slipped below $1,180 an ounce in Europe on Monday knocked by a dearth of haven buying as confidence in the financial markets improved, though some emergent physical demand limited losses.

Spot gold was bid at $1,177.65 an ounce at 10:21 GMT, against $1,181.50 late in New York on Friday. US gold futures for August delivery fell $40 to $1,179.90.

Silver was at $18.11 an ounce versus $17.96, while its ratio to gold — or how many ounces of silver are needed to buy an ounce of gold — hit its lowest since mid-May at 65.0.

Platinum was at $1,579.50 an ounce against $1,566.65, while palladium was at $496.35. Palladium reached a fresh 10-week high at $498 an ounce in earlier trade.

Bullion rate

Mumbai: Silver spot (.999 fineness): Rs 29,225; standard gold (99.5): Rs 17,810; pure gold (99.9 purity): Rs 17,900.
Chennai: Bar silver (a kg): Rs 29,495; retail silver (a gm): Rs 31.55; standard gold: Rs 17,900; retail ornament gold (22 carat): Rs 1,665.
Kolkata: Silver ready: Rs 28,800; Gold ready: Rs 18,060. —PTI
Mining monitor

A strong regulator is needed to check corruption

India’s mining laws were enacted in the 1950s and all concerned parties agree that they need overhauling. But what with inter-ministerial wrangling and Centre-state differences, a legislative update has kept getting pushed back. A GoM headed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee was set up last month to resolve all the cavilling over the draft Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill 2010. In its Friday meeting, the GoM considered the proposal to set up a National Mineral Regulation Authority (NMRA). It is proposed that this authority will be armed with substantive prosecution powers. This would be in marked contrast to the current situation where the Indian Bureau of Mines serves as a sector regulator, but a toothless one. It boasts technical expertise at most, while NMRA will reportedly have the powers to grant mining leases, file cases against violators and act against illegal mining. Given the corrupt quagmire into which the sector seems to have sunk, a strong regulator is definitely needed. But we hope this proposal will not be implemented with the snail’s pace at which the new mining legislation has been progressing.

Even the briefest scan of mining scandals over the last few months presents a really worrisome picture. From Jharkhand, we had news of the former CM Madhu Koda clearing 41 files for iron-ore mining in an hour. From Orissa, we heard that over 60% of the mines were operating without statutory central government clearances. From Karnataka, stories continue to pour out about how illegal iron-ore mining is being fed by an overwhelmingly crooked nexus between politicians and the rest of the state machinery. As Lokayukta N Santosh Hegde said recently, from the forest department to the mining department and the road transparent department, from the police to the port authorities, “vested interests are controlling the whole industry”. Remember, with Karnataka, we are talking about the image degeneration of a state whose exceptional IT and infrastructure success had won it a “quality” reputation across the globe. This kind of degeneracy is obviously taking a heavy toll beyond state borders as well, as India’s growing economic engine demands increasing amounts of strategic minerals and the global commodity market becomes more and more competitive. So, both the new mining regulator and the new mining Bill need to be pushed through on a fast track. The Bill holds the promise of creating competitive bidding, which will not only help maximise state revenue but also introduce transparent processes that vitiate against illegal mining. The regulator offers the promise of making these processes implementable.
Optimism over economy lifts metals

Reuters
London, Aug 2
Industriial metals hit multi-month highs on Monday, with copper touching its loftiest since April, as investors grew more optimistic about the economic outlook, increasing the appeal of riskier assets such as commodities.

Copper for three months delivery on the London Metal Exchange rose to $7,427 a tonne, its highest since April 30 and was at $7,380 a tonne by 09:10 GMT, versus Friday’s $7,308.

Copper, used extensively by the construction industry and in wiring, had been stuck in a range of about $600 a tonne since early June, which it broke last week. Climbing above $7,000 a tonne as investors focused on strong earnings. LME nickel rose to $21,590 a tonne from $21,150 a tonne, while lead was at $2,113 a tonne from $2,075. Zinc was at $2,035 a tonne from $2,025. LME aluminium hit $2,203 a tonne.
Posco, Vedanta being probed for ‘flouting’ norms: Jairam

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: While regretting the effectiveness of the regulatory system, Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, told the Rajya Sabha on Monday that corporate majors Vedanta and Posco were being investigated for alleged violation of government guidelines.

Replying to supplementary during Question Hour, Mr. Ramesh said a four-member Expert Group, which is currently in Orissa, was looking into all cases of violations.

"Once I get the report of this group, we will take a final call on what the future of this project [Vedanta] would be. There are also a large number of questions that have been raised about the Posco Project. This also is under investigation by our Ministry," Mr. Ramesh said.

"The government will not tolerate any violation of the Forest Conservation Act or any violation of the conditions governing approval," he added.

Mr. Ramesh acknowledged that as far as major minerals were concerned "the honest truth" was that the regulatory system was not effective enough to stop illegal mining.

"Whether it is in contravention of the Minerals Act or whether it is in contravention of the Forest Conservation Act, the honest fact and the honest truth is that we do not have an effective regulatory system to deal with illegal mining," he said.

Mr. Ramesh added that the government has set up a Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and its report was being finalised. One of its terms of reference is to see how to put in place an effective regulatory system, both at the Central level to deal with the major minerals and at the State level to deal with illegal mining in minor minerals.

Referring to the killing of an RTI activist in Gujarat for raising issues related to the illegal mining of minerals around the Gir Forest, the Minister pointed out that State governments were responsible for minor minerals. In Karnataka, S.D. Minerals, Trident Minerals and V.M. Minerals had violated the Forest Conservation Act, he claimed.

Mr. Ramesh denied that the government was handing over more forests to mining companies. It was incorrect to say that mining should not be allowed in any forest area.
The Economic Times, Delhi
Tuesday, 3rd August 2010, Page: 3

Centre has no system to stop illegal mining

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government acknowledged that its regulatory mechanism is not effective enough to stop illegal mining, particularly of major minerals. The Centre is responsible for major minerals like iron, coal while the responsibility for minor minerals lies with state governments.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on illegal mining in forest lands, environment minister Jairam Ramesh said, "As far as major minerals are concerned, the honest truth is that the regulatory system is not effective enough to stop illegal mining. Whether it is in contravention of the Minerals Act or whether it is in contravention of the Forest Conservation Act, the honest fact and the honest truth is that we do not have an effective regulatory system to deal with illegal mining."

This situation is likely to be remedied as the group of ministers constituted to discuss the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill has discussed the issue of putting in place an effective regulatory system, both at the central level to deal with the major minerals and at the state level for minor minerals, to deal with illegal mining, "a GoM under the chairmanship of the finance minister has been set up. Two meetings of this GoM have been held. The report of the GoM is being finalised. And, one of the terms of reference of the GoM is to see how to put in place an effective regulatory system," the minister said.

As regards minor minerals like sand, gravel, stones, Mr Ramesh said that the environment ministry had set up a working group on sustainable mining of the minor minerals. The minister has also written to all chief ministers to put in place safeguards to ensure that illegal mining is minimised.

Even though efforts were being made to curb illegal mining, Mr Ramesh was of the view that without a regulatory authority there would be no real impact. "Till a regulatory authority is put in place at the central government level and a similar regulatory authority is put in place at the state level, I am afraid, we are not going to see much results on the ground," the environment minister said.

Mr Ramesh said that when it came to minor minerals, which was under the purview of the states, there was an added problem of the huge economy that the mining activity supports. States have opposed any curbing of minor minerals as it provides employment to people in surrounding areas. "I cannot be completely oblivious to certain economic compulsions under which the state Governments have to operate...this is not an easy issue to tackle because of the huge amount of pressures under which the state governments are. They say that if they close these mines, they will lose thousands and thousands of jobs."

So, we have to have a trade off. We are making sure that the minor minerals come under some environmental discipline," Mr Ramesh said.

The ministry has set up a Committee and guidelines have been drawn up which call for a minimum size for the mining lease; sustainable mining guidelines; a plan for reclamation and operation of these leases among other requirements.
Mineral production in May rises 8.69%

MINERAL production in May rose 8.69% compared to the corresponding period last year on account of a steady rise in demand from user industries, the mines ministry said on Monday.

"Mineral production in May 2010, was higher by 8.69% as compared to that of the corresponding month of the previous year," the ministry said in a statement here. However, the comparative figures in terms of the quantum of production were not given.

In value terms, mineral production (excluding atomic and minor minerals) in the country during May stood at Rs 10,746 crore.

Coal output was the highest in value terms, at Rs 3,716 crore followed by iron ore production at Rs 2,620 crore. While petroleum (crude) production stood at Rs 1,640 crore, natural gas (utilised) at Rs 1,403 crore, lignite at Rs 398 crore and limestone at Rs 264 crore in May. "These six minerals together contributed about 93% to the total value of mineral production in May, 2010," it added.

In terms of output, about 405 lakh tonnes of coal was produced in May. Production of lignite stood at 36 lakh tonnes, natural gas (utilised) at 4.483 million cubic metres, petroleum (crude) at 29 lakh tonnes and bauxite at 11.84 lakh tonnes, among others.
CASH CONUNDRUM

1. GETTING CASH GETS HARDER
   - In 2008, over half the loans were raised to fund acquisitions
   - After crisis, bank loans became more complex, costlier and harder to obtain
   - EQUITY MARKET ONLY HOPE
     - Such a dramatic change in the source of capital has changed the cost of capital
   - This in turn has changed the mix of capital allocated to exploration, development, start-up production, infrastructure and mature operations
   - EQUITY MAKES EPS THE NEW FOCUS
     - Earnings per share now principal measure to tell investors about expansion and acquisition plans

2. SPENDING CASH IS THE OTHER BIG PROBLEM
   - At record gold prices, top three gold miners were holding in excess of $7b in cash on 31 March 2010

   STEPS MINING AND METALS COMPANIES CAN TAKE TO RESPOND TO THIS RISK:
   - Divesting non-strategic assets
   - Better matching of debt duration to the lives of assets being financed
   - Optimizing product portfolio, e.g., balance of investment across product groups
   - Testing investments against wide ranging potential market outcomes and balancing best absolute project versus best project in the portfolio context
   - Optimizing the timing of selecting new investments

   KEY CAPITAL ALLOCATION CHALLENGES
   - Build or buy?
   - Greater equity financing
   - Reduced appetites for risk
   - Changes to expected rates of return
   - Volatile costs of capital
   - How much infrastructure is tolerable?
   - Delivering the value of synergies
   - How big is too big?
   - What to do with high cash flow?

   3% 2% 1%
   Capex, project finance and construction Other Exploration and R&D
   11% 63% Working capital and balance sheet
   Acquisition Relinquishing/ balance sheet
   20% 63% Use of proceeds from equity issues

   Strategic JVs are in, expensive acquisitions are out
   - BHP Billiton/Rio Tinto Pilbara JV reported to yield over $10b in production and development synergies
   - Alpha Natural Resources acquisition of Foundation Coal Holdings to increase transportation flexibility and provide marketing synergies
   - Arch Coal’s takeover of Rio Tinto’s Jacob’s Ranch mine gave Arch 381 million ton in coal reserves, a high-speed rail load-out, overland conveyor and a near-pit crushing system

   “Capital allocation is what keeps our Chief Executive Officers awake at night and presents the most significant challenge for today’s management.”
   LEE DOWNHAM
   UK Mining and Metals Leader, Ernst & Young

   “Our focus is on tier-one assets where there are multiple mines in one basin, multiple investment opportunities in one basin. If you look at what we project onwards, we see multiple iron-ore expansions, multiple coking-coal expansion, multiple expansions of Olympic Dam and additional projects at Escondida.”
   MARIUS KLOPPERS
   CEO, BHP Billiton, the world’s largest mining company, Feb 2010
Copper prices soar on strong demand outlook

LONDON: Copper rose to a three-month high in New York and London on speculation that China's government may cut back on policy tightening after manufacturing slowed in the country. A government-backed Chinese purchasing managers' index was the weakest in more than a year, data showed on Sunday. Another PMI released on Monday by HSBC Holdings and Markit Economics slid to 49.4 from 50.4 in June. The country is the world's biggest copper consumer. Fifty is the dividing line between expansion and contraction. "Policy easing is likely to have a positive impact on activity in the construction sector," Daniel Major, an analyst at RBS Global Banking & Markets in London, said by phone.
5 yrs on, nothing on ground to justify grant of mine lease

Supriya Sharma | TNN

Raipur/Durg: There is little to show on the green patch of earth, an hour’s drive from Raipur, where Pushp Ltd was to set up iron ore-based industry worth Rs 380 crore. In 2006, Chhattisgarh government justified the extraordinary decision to recommend this unknown company rights over a much coveted multi-crore iron ore mine, on the plea that the company would be setting up a high-end iron ore-based industry with an annual capacity of four lakh ton per annum. It also said the company would require ore for its operations within fifteen months. It even facilitated grant of land in a government industrial estate within two days of signing the MoU.

But five years later, the company is nowhere near starting operations. It has not begun any construction on the site. And its investments add up to just a few crore rupees.

Last year, in a response to an RTI query by a lawyer, Vinod Chawda, the government revealed this short list of expenses made by the company till 4 November 2009: Rs 1.12 crore to acquire 11.421 ha of land in a government industrial estate, Rs 10 lakh as advance to a civil works firm, Rs 22 lakh as advance to a Chinese firm to supply equipment.

But speaking to the TOI, Atul Jain, managing director claimed his company has invested more than Rs 35 crore in the project. “We have acquired an existing sponge iron plant for Rs 10-15 crore rupees. In addition, we have spent towards bank guarantees and third party commitments,” he said. But the company did not produce any evidence of this investment in the court.

Critics of the project say whatever be the figures, the investment does not justify the recommendation of a mining lease. “The capacity of the sponge iron plant acquired by Pushp Ltd is just 30,000 ton per annum. There can be no justification for giving an iron ore mine for such a small crude plant,” says Bupesh Baghel, former congress MLA.

Last year, in a letter to the governor, Baghel pointed out that the same day that Pushp Ltd was given mining rights, another firm was given a prospecting licence. This firm, Singhul enterprises, already had an sponge iron plant, and yet it was granted just a prospecting licence for 150 ha. Pushp Ltd, in contrast, had no capital, no mining experience and no plant, but it was directly recommended a mining lease for 230ha.

“This mining lease is yet to be executed, several clearances are pending,” said S K Behar, Mining Secretary, Chhattisgarh. But legal experts say the delay in execution works to the company’s advantage. “In several such cases across the country, small companies are acquiring mining rights not with the intention to start mining, but simply to encash the mining rights, by selling the company or its shares to make windfall profits,” said Sudip Shrivastava, lawyer and activist.

In 2007, Pushp Ltd acquired a coal block in Brahmapuri, in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh. Two years later, when it did nothing to start operations, the ministry of coal issued a show cause notice, stating in a letter that “the company seems to be a non-serious player”.

“We responded to the ministry’s letter; our coal block allotment has not been cancelled,” said Atul Jain, managing director, Pushp Ltd. “But why did Chhattisgarh government give extraordinary concessions to a ‘non-serious player’, a company with just Rs 1 lakh paid up capital?” said Dhanendra Sahu, state congress president.

The opposition parties allege this would be possible only with the involvement of the highest offices of the government. “Chief minister Raman Singh holds the mining portfolio. He is directly answerable,” said Sahu.
Forest law violations by Posco, Vedanta being probed: Jairam

New Delhi: Illegal mining in various parts of the country, especially in Orissa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, dominated question hour in Rajya Sabha on Monday with environment and forests minister Jairam Ramesh telling the House that his ministry is investigating alleged violation of forest laws by Vedanta and Posco in Orissa.

Ramesh said a four-member expert group is currently in Orissa looking at all cases of alleged violation by Vedanta. An iron ore mining project may comprise both forest and non-forest area and a company can initiate action in non-forest area only after it has received approval for mining in the forest area, he said. Vedanta is being investigated by the ministry for alleged violation of this guideline, he said. “We will take a final call after report of the expert group is received,” he said.

Posco is also being investigated for alleged violation of the Forest Act in acquisition of land for the mega project. “Any violation of the forest Act will not be tolerated,” he said replying to a spate of questions and supplementarys.

On the issue of illegal mining in Karnataka, Ramesh said he had written to CM B S Yeddyurappa on July 3 pointing out “gross violation (of the Forest Conservation Act) by private iron ore mining companies” in the forest area of Sandur near Bellary SB Minerals, Trident Minerals and Veeyam Minerals continued to mine in the area “in complete violation of the Forest Advisory Committee resolution of May 10, 2010, which clearly directed that such mining be stopped”, he said.
Andhra loses bauxite mining permission

The government has denied permission for bauxite mining in Andhra Pradesh until the results of environmental and forest clearance are available and the Mines and Minerals Development Regulation Act is promulgated. “These are the most important things. Till such time, we have put it on hold. So, there is no bauxite mining going on as of now,” Mines Minister B K Handique told the Rajya Sabha on Monday.
खानिज का उपयोग
8.69 प्रतिशत बढ़ा

उद्देश्यों के माप से बढ़ते ही में खानिज का उपयोग पिछले वर्ष की समस्या अवकाश की कुल में 8.69 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। खान अंतराल की ओर से जारी किए गए कहाने के अनुसार में में खानिज का उपयोग पिछले वर्ष की समस्या अवकाश की कुल में 8.69 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है। हालांकि मंत्रालय की ओर से उपयोग की माप के संबंध में तुलनात्मक अवकाश नहीं दिया गया है। क्रियाओं के लिहाज से में में कोष्ठक का उपयोग 3,716 करोड़ रुपये का है। आयात का उपयोग 2,620 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोग करोड़ रुपये का है।