Oppn to play stormy petrel

They will move a motion seeking a CBI probe into mining, land scams

BANGALORE: On the opening day of the Legislature session, the combined Opposition succeeded in achieving its goal—preventing the Governor from addressing the joint session.

They used commotion to achieve this and seem geared up to continue straining their vocal chords in the House once official business is taken up for consideration.

As per the Legislature agenda, both the Houses will pay tribute to the departed leaders and later adjourn for the day on Friday. The Houses will resume business on Monday.

The Congress and the JD(S) are hand-in-hand when it comes to demanding the ouster of Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa. They have resolved to obstruct the proceedings in the Legislature to press for their demand, which they know would not be met.

The Opposition has decided to move an adjournment motion seeking a CBI probe into the mining and land scams besides demanding the resignation of Yeddyurappa. Their argument is that when the BJP brought pressure on the UPA government to remove Union Minister Raja from the Cabinet over the 2G spectrum scam, they should be adopting similar policy here too. The party should make Yeddyurappa resign as he is facing charges of corruption. Till an inquiry is completed, he should be out of power, they argue.

The BJP government had on several occasions said there would be no CBI probe into the mining and land scams.

Remove speaker

The Congress and the JD(S) have jointly submitted a notice to the secretary of the Legislative Assembly to move a resolution in the House to remove Speaker K G Bopaiah.

The parties have sought his removal alleging that he has been acting as a member of the ruling party and violated the Constitution to help the ruling BJP prove majority.

The Opposition parties have submitted the notice as per the Article 179 (C) of the Constitution, which says the Speaker can be removed from his office by a resolution of the Assembly passed by a majority of all the then members.

As per the rule book, the Speaker can include matter of the notice in the agenda of the House proceedings, 14 days after submission of the notice. The matter may come up in the House on January 20.
Scrap Reddy brothers’ mining leases: CEC

Jan. 7: In a major setback to the powerful Reddy brothers of Karnataka, the Supreme Court appointed Central Empowered Committee, in a report submitted to the top court on Friday, sought cancellation of their company OMC’s all three mining leases in Andhra Pradesh with the lease of another firm AMC citing various illegalities committed by the state government in renewing their contracts.

While coming down heavily on the AP government for the “sorry state of affairs” in processing the renewal of the mining leases of Reddy brothers’ Obulapuram Mining Company and that of Ananthapur Mining Company, the CEC also recommended fresh demarcation of mining leases of two other companies BIOP Ltd and YMS Ltd.

Besides, it recommended imposition of exemplary compensation of 20 times of the annual fee paid to AP forest department on BIOP and YMS for extending their mining operations into the reserved forests.

“The first renewal period of 25.9 hectares of OMC expired on December 13, 2004 and the permission granted by AP to treat the mining lease valid up to April 25, 2017 is illegal and needs to be set aside,” the CEC in its 69-page stinging report, annexed with voluminous documents said.

Regarding second and third leases of 39.5 and 68.5 hectares respectively of the OMC, the report said these “differed materially” from what had been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act by the state government and, therefore, were “illegal and needs to be cancelled”. The report specifically pointed out that in the 68.5 hectare third lease, 6.5 hectare “appears to be far in excess of what could have been extracted as per the size of the pit”.

While stating that the AP mining department had given permission for transportation from the lease areas “illegally”, the CEC said all the three companies — OMC, BIOP and YMS — used the forest areas outside the approved leased boundaries for “dumping the over-burden in violation of the Forest Conservation Act”.

The report was submitted before a special forest bench of Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia and Justices Aftab Alam and K.S. Radhakrishnan, which declined to take up the case urgently as sought by the counsel for OMC and the lawyers of the other two firms. The CJI said that the matter was second in the roster and would be taken up only after finishing the hearing in the Lafarge’s Meghalaya mining case.

The CEC further recommended that minerals extracted by all the six lease holders should not be allowed to be lifted while mining activities by them should remain suspended till the boundary between AP and Karnataka is fully marked in the entire Bellary region.
Steel giants may bid for mines in Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 7 January

Steel giants such as Tata, Essar and SAIL are likely to put in bids for the Hajigak mines in Afghanistan, which contain an estimated 1.8 billion tonnes of iron ore deposits, but may also form a consortium for the purpose.

The war-torn country has invited an expression of interest (EoI) to develop its mines, which it said is a part of huge proven reserves worth an estimated $3 trillion. 'Major steel players like the Tata, Essar, SAIL, Jindal and others have evinced interest in bidding for the Hajigak mines in Afghanistan. They may either bid jointly or proceed independently,' Mines Secretary S Vijay Kumar said today. Another official of the Mines Ministry said around 15 firms had so far evinced interest in the project and have already initiated talks with the Afghan government.

Afghanistan has invited EoIs for multiple exploration concessions falling within the Hijigak mines, which closes on January 13. The selected bidder will be granted concessions under Afghan Mineral Law. The need to form a consortium was felt in view of the huge investment requirement for developing the mines and creation of basic infrastructure there.

Earlier, Afghan Mines Minister Wahidullah Shahram had said a number of Indian companies, including Essar, Indian-origin ArcelorMittal, Jindals and Tatas, had showed interest in developing the assets. He had met his Indian counterpart last November. The two countries are also working toward a memorandum of understanding for collaborating in the mining sector.
Jindal subsidiaries get coal blocks in Mozambique for exploration

BS REPORTER
New Delhi, 7 January

Jindal Poly Films Ltd, part of the ₹3,000-crore B C Jindal Group, today said its subsidiary, Jindal Resources (Mozambique) Ltd, had been awarded a coal block for prospecting and exploration.

"The company has been allotted Block-2 in Moatize district of Tete province," the company said in a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange. The licence for exploring the block covers an area of 1,480 hectares, estimated to possess reserves of around 150 million tonnes. The block is situated near the Moatize rail head, connected to Beira port by a railway.

The company also said another subsidiary, Jindal Metal and Mining, had entered into a joint venture agreement with a Mozambique-based company for prospecting, exploration and mining of coal. This block is estimated to contain thermal coal reserves of around 300 million tonnes. Many Indian companies active in the power and steel sectors have shown interest in acquiring coal assets abroad. Mozambique, South Africa, Australia and Indonesia have emerged as favourite hunting grounds.

Coal India Ltd, largest domestic producer of the dry fuel, was awarded two blocks with estimated reserves of a billion tonnes in Mozambique last year.

Gurgaon-based Lanco Infratech had last month agreed to acquire Australia's Griffin Coal Mining Company and Carpenter Mine Management Pvt Ltd, owned by Collie-based Griffin Coal. The mines house overall reserves of around 1.1 billion tonnes. In a similar acquisition, India's largest coal importer, Adani Enterprises, had bought the Australian coal asset of Link Energy in a deal worth over ₹12,500 crore in August last year.

The Essar Group, through its subsidiary, Essar Minerals, had acquired America's Trinity Coal from private equity firm Denham Capital for ₹2,750 crore last year. Trinity Coal has reserves of around 200 million tonnes.
SCREAP REDDY BROTHERS’ MINING LEASE, SAYS SC PANEL

The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has recommended cancellation of mining leases to Karnataka’s powerful Reddy brothers’ firms in Andhra Pradesh, saying their Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) had openly flouted various environmental laws in mining operations.

The committee also slammed Andhra Pradesh government officials, saying the violations could not have taken place without their connivance.

The high-powered panel, which gave its report today to the apex court, recommended cancellation of the lease to four different mines spread over 140 acres on grounds of, among others, large-scale illegal mining in the Bellary Reserve Forest area.

The Reddy brothers include G Janardhan Reddy and G Karunakar Reddy who are ministers of Karnataka.

Among other reasons cited by the committee for cancellation of mining lease are illegal extension of the lease by authorities, illegal mining beyond approved area and up to a depth three times more than the permissible limit, besides illegal construction within the reserved forest area within which they have the mining lease.

The committee also recommended suspension of all transportation activities from the four mines of the Reddy brothers till formal determination of the boundary between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in the Bellary reserve forest area and setting up of permanent boundary pillars.

In its 70-page report, the panel also said the lease deeds of some of the mines were ‘illegally extended’ by state government officials while in the case of others, they were extended years after they actually expired.

It further found that in another 65 hectare mine of the Reddy brothers, another group firm Ananthapur Mining Corporation, the lease was renewed by state officials 17 years after it expired while “1 lach metric tonne iron ore was transported out of it without obtaining permit from the forest department” for it. It also said the mineral extracted from this mine was transported under the guise of mineral extracted from other mines, which were in far excess of that area.

The CEC said these violations could not have happened without the help of Andhra Pradesh government officials.
Reddy bothers flouted green norms: Panel

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has indicted the Reddy brothers for openly flouting various environmental law in their mining operations. Both, G Janardhan Reddy and G Karunakar Reddy, are ministers in the Karnataka government and carry out mining operations in the Bellary region under Ohalpuram Mining Company. In its report, submitted to the Supreme Court on Friday, CEC has recommend cancellation of their mining lease and slammed the state for allegedly conniving with the Reddy brothers.
एनबीएफसी चालू करेगी श्री गणेश ज्वेलरी

अमीत सिंह • मुंबई

हैदराबाद के जेलखों में रहने को सज्जित बड़ी निर्मलता के लिए 3,000 करोड़ रुपये के आर्थिक जाल जी मदन जोशी अपने सहयोगी ने मैनपुरी, ने मैनपुरी की सरकार चुकाया। इसके लिए व्यक्ति अपने हाथों में रिजर्व बैंक के पास आवेदन करने का आदेश दिया।

संबंधित कंपनी के अधिकारियों के द्वारा न्यूज़ायर बैंक के शासक के रूप में एनबीएफसी के नए प्रमुख कार्यकारी के रूप में न्यूज़ायर बैंक की रफ्तार में विकास का आदेश करते हुए, जो एनबीएफसी के नए निदेशक के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

एनबीएफसी की यह नई निदेशक के रूप में कार्य चुकाने का आदेश दिया है। आदेश करने के लिए एनबीएफसी के प्रमुख कार्यकारी के रूप में चुकाया। इसके साथ ही एनबीएफसी के प्रमुख कार्यकारी के रूप में चुकाया।

लेखक

श्री गणेश ज्वेलरी ने निर्मलता के रूप में विकास का आदेश करते हुए, जो एनबीएफसी के नए निदेशक के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

लेखक

मुख्य कंपनी को चुकाया, इसलिए वे एनबीएफसी के वर्तमान कंपनी के रूप में विकास का आदेश करते हैं। और इस्तीफ़ा के रूप में विकास का आदेश करते हैं।

एनबीएफसी के रूप में चुकाया। इसके साथ ही एनबीएफसी के प्रमुख कार्यकारी के रूप में चुकाया।
आभूषणों का निर्यात बढ़ा

मुंबई में जल्द ही चर्चा तीन सियासतियों में 181 और आभूषणों का निर्यात 38.3 पॉसिशन बढ़कर 23.5 अरब डॉलर रहा है। जेम्स एड जीनेसी एप्सोर्ट प्रमोशन कार्यालय (जीजीएफ) की ओर से जारी आंकड़ों के पुनरुक्तिवर, यह लिखा गया है कि आभूषणों की आपूर्ति-परिसंचरण अनुवंश में इसका निर्यात 14.46 अरब डॉलर रहा था। जीजीएफ के अपने संबंधित जैन ने बताया कि भारतीय का निर्यात रोकने से ज्यादा रहा है और अमेरिका को होने वाले निर्यात में 20 पॉसिशन बढ़ती दर्जे की ख़ासियत है। जैन ने कहा कि लिस्ट वर्ष 2011 में निर्यात में 25-30 पॉसिशन बढ़ती की उम्मीद है। देश के आभूषण निर्यातों का 50 पॉसिशन अमेरिका को निर्यात होता है। इसके अलावा यह मात्र-पूर्व के देशों, हांगकांग और जपान को भी निर्यात किया जाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि भूगोलात्मक बाजार महत्व गंभीर से विकसित नहीं कर रहा है।
SC for scrapping Reddy brothers’ mining lease

NEW DELHI, 7 JAN: The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee has recommended cancellation of mining lease to Karnataka’s powerful Reddy brothers’ firms in Andhra Pradesh, saying their Obulapuram Mining Company had openly flouted various environmental laws in mining operations.

The committee also slammed Andhra Pradesh government officials saying the violations could not have taken place without their connivance.

The high-powered panel, which submitted its report today to the apex court, recommended cancellation of the lease to four different mines spread over 140 acres on grounds of, among others, large-scale illegal mining in Bellary reserve forest area.

The Reddy brothers include G Janardhan Reddy and G Karunakar Reddy who are ministers of Karnataka.
SC panel...

continued from page 1

Among other reasons cited by the committee for cancellation of mining lease are illegal extension of the lease by authorities, illegal mining beyond approved area and up to depth three times more than the permissible limit besides illegal construction within the reserved forest area within which they have the mining lease.

The committee also recommended suspension of all transportation activities from the four mines of the Reddy brothers till formal determination of the inter-state boundary between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in Bellary reserve forest area and setting up of permanent boundary pillars.

In its 70-page report, the committee said the lease deeds of some of the mines were "illegally extended" by state government officials while in others they were extended years after they actually expired. Mentioning illegal construction, the panel said it has found that in one mine of 68.5 hectare, five roads has been illegally constructed in the reserved forest area and outside the approved lease in violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act and the condition on which the lease was given.

The committee said "almost non-existing monitoring mechanism largely contributed to the large-scale illegalities which have occurred." It has also recommended that the Reddy group of firms should not be allowed any mining activities till exemplary compensation is paid by them in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA).

CEC gave its report after inspecting six mining sites of the Reddy brothers-owned firm OMC and AMC, S K Modi group firm Bellary Iron Ore Private Limited following the Supreme Court directions on 19 November 2010.

Mr. Janardhana Reddy today accused the Centre of launching "vindictive action" against him, his brother and Jagannathan Reddy to "finish them" at a hurriedly called press conference here.

Reddy dubbed the panel report as "biased" and "prejudiced" and alleged "it had been compiled under pressure". He said, "there is a political hand behind this CEC report. I will disclose the name of this political power in a couple of days".
Bellarby brothers remain unfazed

SOUDEEP CHOUDHURY/TNS

BANGALORE, JANUARY 7

Reddy brothers, a source close to them told the TNS, were not unduly perturbed by the CEC’s report about illegal mining on the borders of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The report, submitted in the wake of a PIL filed in the Supreme Court by an environmental group Samaj Parishad Samudaya headed by S R Hiremath, stated that six mining companies, including Obalapuram Mining Company of Reddy brothers, were mining illegally in forest areas of Andhra Pradesh and recommended cancellation of their licences.

However, the source said the Reddys were emboldened by the fact that the CEC’s handling of a previous case of illegal mining against the Obalapuram Mining Company was strongly criticised by the Andhra Pradesh High Court. One T Ganesh had moved an application to implead CEC in a case related to illegal mining in Supreme Court.

The High Court, in an order in February last year, said the Supreme Court only had issued a notice to CEC. “But CEC, suo moto, without any direction, proceeded with the matter, conducted ex parte proceedings and finally submitted even a report to the Supreme Court”, the HC said.

No copy of the report was given to Reddys and they obtained part of the report from the media.
रेड्डी बंधुओं सहित सभी खनन पट्टों रद्द किए जाएं

अमर उजाला ख्यात

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय उद्योगवर्ती सचिव (सीईसी) ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सुनवाई की कार्रवाई के मामले में रेड्डी बंधुओं के खनन पट्टों की निरस्त किए जाने की सख्ति में सम्मेलन की है। सीईसी ने बताया कि रेड्डी बंधुओं की पत्ती आधे प्रदेश में अंतर्गत खनन कंपनी के नाम से जो खुशियाबाबा वत्तू से संबंधित मामले का उल्लंघन कर खनन कर रही है।

सीईसी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में अंतर्गत सख्ति के अभियंताओं को भी उसगले हुए कहा कि वह उल्लंघन किन्तु अंतर्गत अधिकारियों को नाराज बन जाने के नहीं विरोध कर रही है। उद्योगवर्ती सचिव ने 140 एकड़ को जमीन में पैलेट खनन के सभी पट्टों को रद्द किए जाने की
एनआरडीसी की हिमाचल परियोजना को हरी झंडी

परियोजना क्षेत्र में बड़े और इससे प्रभावित लोगों के लिए वेशजन रिसेप्टर्स्टेशन एंड रिसेप्टर्स्टेशन पोर्टशी 2007 के तहत पुनर्वास कार्यक्रम चलाया जाएगा। मंत्रालय ने दस हज़ार लोगों में चेतावनी दी है कि इससे किसी तरह की कोशियाँ से कंपनी की मंजूरी द्वारा बिगाड़ गया वकीलेय वार्ड ले लिया जाएगा।

प्रश्नों | नई विदेशी

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी नेशनल मिनियल रिसेप्टर्स्टेशन (एनआरडीसी) के बिमारी और परियोजना वाले 274 क्षेत्र को स्थान मुख्य मंत्री व राज्य सरकार के सब व परीक्षाओं में वाले और आरोपी शहीदे दे दी है।

वन व परिवार नं. 30 चौथे मंजूरी ने एनआरडीसी को लिए हालिया पत्र में कहा है कि मंजूरी ने परियोजना के लिए दिया गया राशि अवश्य प्रदान किया है। इसे सान्तवा 30 लाख नं. वाले परियोजना वाले परियोजना के लिए परीक्षाओं मंजूरी की गयी हो गयी है। हालांकि, मंजूरी ने परियोजना पर इस तरह की अन्य वाणिज्यिक अपराध का दर्जा नहीं किया है।

उससे सारांश किया गया है कि इसके बाद भी परियोजना शुरू करने के लिए कंपनी की राज्य सरकार की कृपा में भारतीय सांस्कृतिक कला संस्थान और अर्थात पुरातात्त्विक संसथान के बाहिरियों के लिए दी गई पुरातत्त्विक संसथान कलाकारों ने जारी रखा है।

एनआरडीसी ने एक अन्य सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी रिसकोल अफिशटाइल रिसेप्टर्स्टेशन (आरडीसी) के साथ इस परियोजना के लिए वार्ड किया था। यह कार्य सन्दर्भ 2009 में किया गया था। इसके रूपाये तहत इसे कंपनी का परियोजना वाले के संलग्न किये हुए अर्थ और अन्य कार्य (पुनर्निर्माण) के अंतर्गत 30 लाख नं. वाले परियोजना की परियोजना विविधता करती थी।

यह परियोजना कीमत 232.6 लाखमें फैली गई। इस पर 274.26 करोड़ रुपये 240 लाख तक मिला गया। इसके अलावा परीक्षण संसथानों द्वारा तीन अंक दो इकाई की गई। 

मंजूरी का लेखन है कि परियोजना क्षेत्र में बड़े और इससे प्रभावित लोगों के लिए वेशजन रिसेप्टर्स्टेशन एंड रिसेप्टर्स्टेशन पोर्टशी 2007 के तहत पुनर्वास कार्यक्रम चलाया जाएगा। मंत्रालय ने एक हज़ार लोगों में चेतावनी दी है कि इससे किसी तरह की कोशियाँ से कंपनी की मंजूरी द्वारा दिया गया कवरेज बस्ते ले लिया जाएगा।
रद्द हो सकते हैं रेडी बंधुओं के खानन पट्टे

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के पैनल ने की सिफारिश, बेलनारिके संस्थानों ने अदालत खानन का आरोप।

निरस्त हो सकते हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने रेडी बंधुओं की संस्थानों के खानन का आरोप किया। यह सिफारिश कहीं भी नहीं की। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कर्मनकर्ता-आईमेंट की अम्लनिधि सीमा पर अर्धव खानन का जांच के लिए इस समिति का गठन किया था। समिति ने जांच में पता किया कि रेडी बंधुओं की तीनों जनसेवाओं और जो कर्मनकर्ता के लिए खानन का जांच के लिए इस समिति का गठन किया। समिति ने जांच में पता किया कि रेडी बंधुओं की तीनों जनसेवाओं और जो कर्मनकर्ता के लिए खानन का जांच के लिए इस समिति का गठन किया। समिति ने जांच में पता किया कि रेडी बंधुओं की तीनों जनसेवाओं और जो कर्मनकर्ता के लिए खानन का जांच के लिए इस समिति का गठन किया।

निरस्त करने का आदेश:

अपने पदों को निरस्त करने के आदेश देने की अपील दी जा सकती है। इस्तीफा देने के आदेश देने की अपील दी जा सकती है।
प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी

प्रेम कविता के फैलाव का स्त्रीसमाज

निर्मला चटर्जी
SC panel lands mine barons in Reddymade soup

By Gyanant Singh in New Delhi

A SUPREME Court-appointed panel has said the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC), owned by the powerful Reddy brothers of Karnataka, is carrying out illegal mining operations in Andhra Pradesh.

The central empowered committee on Friday submitted its report to the apex court’s forest bench. It ruled the OMC had flouted environmental laws during mining operations with the tacit support of state government officials.

The panel recommended that the mining leases of OMC—owned by G. Karunakar and G. Janardhan Reddy—be cancelled.

On Friday, Janardhan Reddy accused the Centre of launching vindictive action against him and his brother for supporting Kadapa MP Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

“This is a conspiracy to finish us and also Jagan, with whom we have business links. The report is biased. There is a political hand behind this,” he said.

The committee has recommended that operations at three OMC mines be stopped.

Says Reddy brothers carrying out illegal operations in Bellary

The committee said mining operations in six mines, including three owned by the Bellary-based OMC, were being carried out in the Bellary reserve forest area in violation of the Forest Conservation Act.

The panel recommended suspension of all activities till a system for effective monitoring was set up and boundaries were laid out. It further recommended the recovery of “exemplary compensation” from the mine owners for exploiting the reserve forest area.

The committee said the lease for a 26.5-hectare mine belonging to the OMC had expired in 2004 but the state government had illegally extended the lease till April 2017. “This extension should be cancelled and the value of the mineral extracted from the reserve forest area after 2004 should be recovered from the company,” it said.

The panel also said the boundary of another OMC mine, spread over 39.5 hectares, differed materially from what had been approved under the Forest Conservation Act and so, lease had to be cancelled.

For a third OMC mine measuring 68.5 hectares, the committee again recommended axing the lease as the area on the ground differed from what had been approved. The OMC had even constructed five roads near the mine in violation of the Forest Conservation Act, it said.

The apex court-appointed board said the minerals extracted appeared to be far in excess of what could be extracted from the leased areas. There have been several violations in the remaining three mines, too.

The committee said such violations reflected the sorry state of affairs which could not have taken place without the connivance of state government officials.

“Non-existent monitoring mechanism largely contributed to the large-scale illegality that occurred,” the report states.

The panel had looked into the matter following directions by the Supreme Court in November last year.

With agency inputs
Bellary iron ore leases may be scrapped

By Nikhil Kanekal

New Delhi

The central empowered committee (CEC) recommended to the Supreme Court on Friday the cancellation of six iron ore mining leases in the Bellary reserve forest of Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district, including three owned by Karnataka minister and Bharatiya Janata Party lawmaker Gali Janardhan Reddy and his brothers through the Obulapuram Mining Co. Pvt. Ltd (OMC).

The CEC report said exemplary costs should be imposed on four firms operating in the region for violating forest laws and the value of the ore mined from 2004 should be recovered. The other three companies are Bellary Iron Ore Pvt. Ltd, Y Mahabaleshwara and Sons and Anantapur Mining Corp.

CEC, headed by M.K. Jeevrajika and Mahendra Vyas, visited the region, conducted two hearings and filed the report after an order from the apex court's forest bench headed by Chief Justice of India S.H. Kapadia on 19 November.

In the report, CEC criticized former Andhra Pradesh government officials, saying that the "sorry state of affairs" was due to their "active connivance". It also said that there was an "almost non-existent monitoring mechanism", which largely contributed to the current scenario. However, CEC expressed its appreciation for contributions from some officials of the state government and the Sami Reddy Committee, which was constituted earlier to investigate the issue.

CEC said all the four firms mined illegally in forest areas and that OMC also illegally constructed five roads in the mining areas.

On the whole, CEC said the amount of iron ore transported from the region was far in excess of what could have been mined in the permitted areas.

It has asked for all mining operations (including the transport of already mined ore) to be suspended till the inter-state boundary dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is resolved, the boundaries of the mining leases are determined and exemplary compensation paid by the miners.
अवैध खनन पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट की कमेटी ने रेडी बंधुओं को घेरा

नई दिल्ली (एएमएस)। राजनीति में अपराधिक खनन के 
गौरवमयों पर रुकने की खबर को एक अद्वितीय क्रम 
(एएमएस) ने कार्यक्त के दो वर्ष तक चलने को निर्देश दिया।

उनकी अपराधी ओब्सरवर गाइडलाइन कमेटी (ओएमएस) की खनन को तीन तीन दिन देर वर्ष के लिए निर्देशित की गई थी।

कार्यक्त के परिवर्तन में बदलाव रेडी और उनके पास जी.के.जे के साधित रेडी तथा राजनीति रेडी पर कार्यक्त के गाइडलाइंस के लिए निर्देशित किया गया है।

पहले ही प्रश्न के आवधि से लिया 

कार्यक्त की पहली उपलब्ध 

विदेश तथा अन्तरराष्ट्रीय 

वाद चरम की रिपोर्ज पर होने के 

विदेश राजस्थानीय रूप से संक्षिप्त 

गाई जा चुकी है।

कार्यक्त और अन्तरराष्ट्रीय 

वाद शुरू की गई थी।

विदेश राजस्थानीय रूप से संक्षिप्त 

रिपोर्ज को हमारी रिपोर्ज पर 

अप्रैल 2004 से राजस्थान 

वाद चरम की रिपोर्ज पर 

विदेश राजस्थानीय रूप से संक्षिप्त 

कार्यक्त की पहली उपलब्ध 

विदेश तथा अन्तरराष्ट्रीय 

वाद चरम की रिपोर्ज पर 

विदेश राजस्थानीय रूप से संक्षिप्त 

गाई जा चुकी है।

रिपोर्ज की हमारी रिपोर्ज पर 

अप्रैल 2004 से राजस्थान 

वाद चरम की रिपोर्ज पर 

विदेश राजस्थानीय रूप से संक्षिप्त 

गाई जा चुकी है।
टवांग मंड पर भूस्खलन का खतरा

ईटान (एस.एस.)। अब्दुल्ला प्रस्त फिरा एलिमेन्ट के सबसे बड़े और 300 सख्त पुरुषों टॉप मंड के अधिन में भूस्खलन की कदमे से सतर्क रहने हटे हैं।

उन्होंने सही हुई हस्तलक्ष्य सहित है कि यह भूस्खलन हुआ वा उबाल रहे वाले फिरा देश की सुरक्षा के लिए बुरी से प्राणी के रूप में जारी रखा है।

शहीदों की सत्ता है 10 पार्सी धर्म की तरह के सामान हम पूरा 1680-89 में नया लोग लोगों के पुरी तरह और इससे 570 से ज्यादा फिरा रहे हैं। इस मंड के मदलों के पुरुष फिरा हस्तलक्ष्य ने जाना कि उन्होंने दर्ज मंड को इससे अहसास कराया है। उन्होंने मंड के आस-पास बड़ी संख्या में बीमारी काटी और प्राणी करने की सलाह दी। रिपोर्टें ने कहा कि उन्होंने जहां और केंद्र सरकार से इससे सुरक्षा की आपील की है। जहां के खान एवं बांध नगराधिकारियों ने नाटा कि उन्होंने शहीद शहीद महाेल के अधिकारियों सरकार एवं के सुरक्षा को भी इस विषय में हस्तक्षेप रहे हैं और उन्होंने तरफ से यह आश्वासन दिया कि वह जहां रहे शहीद भारतीय विदेशी सहित उन्हें एक दल भेजेगा।
The Pioneer, Delhi
Saturday, 8th January 2011, Page: 1

SC committee singles out Reddys for action

ABRAHAM THOMAS
NEW DELHI

In a major setback to Karnataka’s powerful Reddy brothers, the Supreme Court’s green monitor — Central Empowered Committee (CEC) — on Friday recommended cancellation of four mining leases in the Bellary reserved forest.

Interestingly, while the CEC report found glaring irregularities in the operation of all six mining leases in the area, it spared the remaining two leases operated by Bellary Iron Ore Private Limited (BIOP) and Y Mahabaleshrwarappa & Sons (YMS), against which only a heavy fine was recommended.


“We respect the judiciary. It is a political conspiracy by the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Centre. We are ready to face anything. It’s totally with a prejudiced mind... it is totally against us. When the time comes, I will name the politicians owned a major chunk, with three leases being operated by Oshalapuram Mining Corporation (OMC) on 68.5 hectare, 39.5 hectare and 25.98 hectare. Another of its sister concern, the Anantpur Mining Corporation (AMC) — against which also cancellation was recommended by CEC — operated on 6.5 hectares forest land.

Indicting OMC for committing serious irregularities on its 25.98-hectare lease, the CEC suggested, “It should be cancelled in view that the lease deed has been illegally extended.” It also talked about illegal mining outside the approved lease area and illegal use of reserved forest outside the approved lease area as “overburdened dump space”.

On the larger lease area of 68.5 hectare, the CEC recommended cancellation at “the lease deed executed by Mines Department differs materially from forest area”, for which approval under the Forest Conservation Act was obtained. Further, it said, the OMC had “illegally” constructed five roads in violation of the lease conditions and extracted minerals far in excess.

Continued on Page 4
SC committee...

From Page 1 of the size of mining pits, which led the CEC to arrive at its conclusion.

Against the third lease of OMC, the expert panel felt, "The mining lease of 39.5 hectares should be cancelled as the lease executed by the Mines Department differs materially from forest area, for which approval under the Act has been obtained."

In the case of AMC, the CEC found that mining between 1986 and 2003 had been carried out without a valid mining lease. This gap of 17 years, coupled with the fact that 11 lakh MT iron ore was transported without any permit from Forest Department, became the ground to seek its cancellation too.

But the remaining two leases — operated by BIOP (27.12 hectares) and YMS (20.24 hectares) — were spared despite not being above board. The CEC report stated, "None of the six mining leases have complied with this vital condition (under the Forest Conservation Act that permanent boundary pillars at 20-metre intervals be erected all along the lease boundary)."

It added, "The areas falling outside the approved lease area have been used by OMC, BIOP and YMS for overburden dumping... This is a blatant and brazen violation of the Act." This was cited as ground to cancel one of the OMC leases.

Sparing BIOP and YMS lightly, the CEC suggested suspension of all mining activity till the inter-State and inter-lease boundaries were clearly drawn up. It fixed a rate of 20 times the rate of normal net existing value, payable for the forest area used by them to be paid as compensation by the duo, after which mining activity could commence.
Reddy firm questions CEC mandate on illegal mining

‘Committee traversing into areas that are not germane to issues involved’

Shamsheer Younas

Bangalore: The Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) has hit out at the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) for exceeding its brief while investigating allegations of illegal mining in the Bellary forest region.

In its submission filed before the Supreme Court-appointed Committee last week, the OMC, owned by State Tourism Minister Janardhana Reddy, has accused the CEC of looking into issues that are not within its mandate.

The OMC stated that “the Hon’ble Committee is traversing much beyond the mandate given by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, and is also traversing into various unnecessary issues which are not germane to issues involved.”

The CEC has been investigating the mining activities of the OMC after a Supreme Court order November last year.

The Supreme Court, hearing a petition between the government of Andhra Pradesh and the OMC, directed the CEC to find out whether illegal mining was going on in the forest area in Bellary region near six lease areas.

On December 16, the CEC identified 15 issues, including the encroachment of six mines in the Bellary forest area, construction of illegal roads, location of boundary pillars demarcating Andhra-Karnataka border, and illegal deployment of heavy earth machinery.

The company also criticised the CEC for conducting the entire investigation “in a manner as to support an earlier report that it had submitted in November 2009.”

On the basis of this report, the Andhra Pradesh government had then ordered the OMC to stop mining till the demarcation of the boundary of the mining leases was done.

“It can be seen from the communication dated 16.12.2010 that the Central Empowered Committee has re-commenced its exercise much before the date in the order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, and made all efforts to support its ex parte and ab initio void report dated 19.11.2010,” the OMC submitted.

Unprecedented move

The OMC also questioned the wisdom of appointing another committee when the Composite Survey Committee had already submitted a report in June last year.

The mining firm has claimed that asking the CEC to comment on the report prepared by experts of the Composite Survey Committee was “unprecedented”. DH News Service
Jindal Poly arm gets coal block in Mozambique

Jindal Resources (Mozambique) Limitada, a subsidiary of Jindal Poly Films, said it has been awarded coal block in Mozambique. Jindal Resources had participated in the tenders issued by ministry of mineral resources, Government of Mozambique for auction of coal blocks for geological prospecting and exploration of coal in Mozambique, a company stated. The company has been allotted Block-2 situated in Moatize district, Tete Province.
Scrap Reddys’ mine licences, says SC panel

Indu Bhan

New Delhi, Jan 7: Karnataka’s influential Reddy brothers received a major jolt with a Supreme Court-appointed expert panel on Friday recommending cancellation of iron ore mining leases belonging to two of their firms. The panel confirmed illegal mining in the Bellary forest region by the Reddy firms and two other entities since 2004. The report could have wider ramifications for firms involved in illegal mining, as the court could impose severe penalties on them, besides directing that such mines be shut down.

Taking serious note of the panel report, a special forest bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice SH Kapadia on Friday gave two weeks to all four mining firms to file their objections, if any, against the report. It also said: “We are going to examine (the issue) on a much wider platform, not on an individual case.”

The Centrally Empowered Committee (CEC) has recommended that Reddy’s firms—Obulapuram and Ananthapur—should be made to pay “exemplary compensation” for extracting more minerals than permitted. The committee proposed the compensation to be 20 times the normal net present value payable for the forest area used.

The panel further suggested that all the mining activity in the region—Andhra Pradesh’s Anantapur district bordering Bellary in Karnataka—be suspended immediately till the boundaries of the leases were determined by an independent agency.

The report submitted by the panel set up to look into the controversy surrounding illegal mining and violations of forest rules, stated that four mining companies including Obulapuram Mining Company owned by Janardhana Reddy, Karnataka’s tourism minister, and his brother Karramakar Reddy have been mining in areas demarcated as forest areas since 2004 “with the connivance of Andhra Pradesh government officials.”

The committee has recommended cancellation of all mining operations including transportation of already mined material till the boundary between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh was determined, the boundaries of all lease holders were decided, adequate compensation for illegal mining was paid to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA) and an effective monitoring system put in place to check further illegal mining.

CEC was set up by the SC in 2002 under the chairmanship of PV Jayakrishnan to protect and conserve forest and wildlife. Besides, the apex court is also being assisted by senior counsel Harish Salve and ADN Rao as amicus curiae in environment and forest-related matters.

However, Janardhana Reddy on Friday sought to refute the report saying “the report has been prepared” totally with a prejudiced mind... it is totally against us. When time comes, I will tell the names of the politicians of this country who want to finish the steel industry and the Janardhana Reddy family.”

He further said that the report was without jurisdiction since the SC had not directed CEC to submit such a report and CEC was not even a party to the petition and it was an “ox parts report” as OMC “was never heard before making the report.”

Continued on Page 2.
Scrap Reddys’ mine licences, says SC panel

The report was submitted after the apex court asking CEC to look into the alleged illegal mining activities in the Bellary Reserve Forest area.

Though the Karnataka minister maintains that there was no illegality in mining, the CEC report also indicts the Andhra Pradesh government, saying the state functionaries’ effort was “to cover up illegal mining by OMC” in areas outside those approved in mining lease claims.

In a scathing criticism of the previous Andhra government headed by the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy, the panel said that “the objectivity, fairness and impartiality expected from a state government is shocking lacking here and does not inspire confidence. There are substantial differences and serious discrepancies in the mining lease boundaries determined and those fixed now by the state forest department.”
Jindal Resources wins coal block

New Delhi, Jan. 7

Jindal Resources (Mozambique), a subsidiary of Jindal Poly Films Ltd, on Friday announced that it has been allotted a coal block in Mozambique. The company had participated in the tenders issued by Ministry of Mineral Resources, Government of Mozambique, for auction of coal blocks for geological prospecting and exploration of coal in the country. The company has been allotted Block-2 situated in Moatize district, Tete Province. The licence covers an area of 1,480 hectares, which may have a potential to contain a resource of 150 million tonnes of coal including coking and thermal coal. The nearest rail head and coal loading station in Moatize is in the west of the licence area. The Moatize rail head is connected to Beira port by railways. In addition, Jindal Metal and Mining Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jindal Poly Films Ltd, has also entered into a joint venture agreement with a Mozambique entrepreneur for prospecting, exploration and mining of coal. The exploration licence is situated around 80 kms south west of Tete town in Changara district, Tete Province. — Our Bureau
Steel majors may jointly bid for Afghan mines

Steel giants like the Tata, Essar and SAIL are likely to put in bids for the Hajigak mines in Afghanistan, which contain an estimated 1.8 billion tonne of iron ore deposits, but may also form a consortium for the purpose. The war-torn country has invited an Expression of interest to develop the mine, which it said is a part of huge "proven" reserves worth an estimated $3 trillion. "Steel players like the Tatas, Essar, SAIL, Jindal and others have evinced interest in bidding for the Hajigak mines in Afghanistan, mines secretary S Vijay Kumar said."
Scrap Reddy brothers’ mining lease, says apex court panel

The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee has recommended cancellation of the Reddy brothers’ mining leases in Andhra Pradesh on grounds of various illegalities.

The committee said in its 69-page report: “The sorry state of affairs could not have taken place without the active connivance of the concerned (AP) State Government officers. The almost non-existent monitoring mechanism largely contributed to the large-scale illegalities which have occurred.”

The Reddy brothers include the Karnataka Ministers, Mr G. Karunakar Reddy and Mr G. Janardhan Reddy. The committee comprised officials of the Survey of India, Andhra Pradesh Government’s revenue, forest and irrigation departments, and the mining firms’ representatives.

The committee, which looked into the six mining leases in Bellary Reserve Forest in Andhra Pradesh following the apex court’s directions, recommended that four mining leases spread over 140 hectares be cancelled.

These include 3 given to Reddy brothers’ Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) and one to Anantapur Mining Corporation (AMC). The mining sites looked into included that of OMC, AMC, S K Modi group’s Bellary Iron Ore Pvt Ltd (BIOP) and Y Mahabaleshwarappa & Sons (YMS).

More on the Web: www.businessline.in/webextras
Mining lease to Reddy brothers should be cancelled: SC panel

Says OMC Carries Out Illegal Mining In AP’s Portion Of Bellary Reserve Forest Area

IN A major jolt to Karnataka’s powerful mining barons, Reddy brothers, the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has on Friday recommended cancellation of three mining leases given to the Obulapuram Mining Corporation (OMC). The panel said the company has been carrying out illegal mining activities in Andhra’s portion of Bellary Reserve Forest Area.

“The sorry state of affairs could not have taken place without the active connivance of the officers concerned of the Andhra Pradesh government,” said the CEC in its 69-page report.

The CEC urged the apex court that all mining operation in the area should remain suspended till AP-Karnataka boundary and the lease areas are demarcated.

On mining in AP’s Bellary Reserve Forest Area, the CEC, in its report, said the lease for 25.98 hectare, owned by Karnataka minister Janardhan Reddy, had expired on December 13, 2004. But the then YSR government in Andhra treated the lease to be valid for next 13 years, up to April 4, 2017.

Andhra mining department issued permits only on the basis of statements/returns filed by the lease-holders for transportation of minerals and without any physical verification, providing the lease-holder ample opportunity for illegal mining and related activities, the panel said in its report.

The ministry of environment and forest (MoEF) under the UPA-I had approved the state government’s decision. The MoEF by its July 27, 2007, letter had granted permission under the Forest Conservation Act for such mining lease for 10 years with effect from July 19, 2005, but on a representation by the OMC, it on November 6, 2007, permitted extension of the lease till April 25, 2017, the CEC pointed out.

The apex court environmental panel said the other two mining leases given to the OMC for 39.5 hectare and 68.52 hectare were also approved by the industry and commerce department of YSR government as well as the MoEF under the UPA-I.

It also recommended for the recovery of market value of illegally mined mineral since 2004 and the demarcation of AP-Karnataka boundaries using satellite imagery.
Gold slips to 6-week low

Reuters
London, Jan. 7

Gold slid 1 per cent to a near six-week low in Europe on Friday as the dollar hit a four-month high versus the euro, but moves in the metal were muted ahead of keenly anticipated US payrolls data later in the day.

Spot gold touched a low of $1,356.50 an ounce, its weakest since Nov. 29, and was bid at $1,359.05 an ounce at 1510 GMT against $1,371.15 late in New York on Thursday. The metal is on track for its worst weekly decline since May last year. US gold futures for February delivery fell $13 an ounce to $1,358.70.

Silver dropped to $28.42 an ounce from $29.04, having earlier touched its lowest since mid-December at $28.31 an ounce.

Holdings in the world's largest silver-backed ETF, the iShares Silver Trust, fell to 10,892.87 tonnes on Jan 6 from 10,917.19 tonnes a day before.

Platinum was at $1,722 an ounce against $1,729, while palladium was at $742.65 against $758.50.

Bullion rates
Mumbai: Silver spot (990 fineness): Rs 45,175; standard gold (99.5 Purity): Rs 20,150; Pure gold (99.9 purity): Rs 20,250.
Reddys’ mining illegal, cancel 3 leases: court panel

It also wants exemplary costs recovered from them

J. Venkatesan 2-1

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee has declared “illegal” the mining done by the Reddy brothers through three leases in Obulapuram mines in the Bellary reserved forest area, and recommended that the licences be cancelled and exemplary costs recovered from them.

In November last, the Forest Bench asked the Committee to examine whether mining was going on in the forest area of the Bellary region in Anantapur district, comprising the border areas of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, and if so, what action should be taken to stop it.

Senior counsel Harish Salve presented the report to the Bench of Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia and Justices Aftab Alam and K.S. Radhakrishnan on Friday. It granted the Reddy brothers and others two weeks to file their response.

The Committee said that besides the three leases of the Reddy brothers, the licence of Ananthapur Mining Corporation (AMC) should be cancelled as its renewal was granted almost 17 years after it had expired.

The report narrates how the Reddy brothers got the licence transferred from the original lessee and how the licences were renewed up to 2017, without the period between 1984 and 1997 being calculated. This was clearly illegal.

As for the mines of Bellary Iron Ore Private Ltd. (BIOP) and YMS, the Committee said they should be directed to pay exemplary compensation for using the reserved forest area, outside the approved lease areas, for dumping overburden.

“IT is recommended that the exemplary compensation may be assessed and recovered at the rate of 20 times of the normal Net Present Value payable for the forest area used by them.”

Another report on Page 10
A.P. permission on lease validity illegal: panel

As it expired on December 13, 2004, the mining done in the forest area thereafter is illegal

Legal Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee has said the first renewal period of the Obulapuram Mining Company’s mining lease of 25.9 hectares expired on December 13, 2004 and the permission granted by the Andhra Pradesh government to treat the lease valid up to April 25, 2017 was illegal.

“The permission granted by the Andhra Pradesh government to treat the mining lease valid up to April 25, 2017 is illegal and needs to be set aside. The mining done in the forest area after 2004 is therefore illegal, and the value of the mineral extracted from the reserved forest after April 2004 should be recovered from the leaseholders, based on the normative market value of the mineral extracted from the area,” the Committee said in its report to the Supreme Court.

Similarly, two other leases of 39.5 and 68.5 hectares should be cancelled as the mining was done illegally because the area differed from what had been approved.

All mining operations, including transport of already mined material (if any) should remain suspended until the inter-State boundary was formally determined and permanent pillars were laid on the ground; exemplary compensation payable by each of the respective mining lease holders should be deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA); and an effective system of checks and balances and monitoring should be put in place to prevent illegal mining outside the lease area. No mining should be permitted up to a distance of 50 metres on either side of the inter-State boundary.

The sorry state of affairs, as explained in the report, could not have taken place without the active connivance of Andhra Pradesh government officials, the committee said. “The almost non-existent monitoring mechanism largely contributed to the large-scale illegalities which have occurred.”
SC panel report on Reddy brothers adds to BSY woes

KESTUR VASUKI B BANGALORE

A report by the Supreme Court-appointed four-member Centrally Empowered Committee (CEC) detailing the illegality of mining operations by the two Reddy brothers in Andhra Pradesh has added to political turmoil in Karnataka where the brothers are powerful politicians and Ministers.

Even though Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa refused to comment on the issue, the Opposition parties have stepped up their demand for the resignation of Reddy brothers and the Chief Minister.

Talking to reporters in Bangalore on Friday, Yeddyurappa denied any knowledge about the CEC report. He said, "I am not aware of the report. I don't want to comment on the report."

Meanwhile, talking to reporters in Bellary, Janardhan Reddy, State Tourism Minister and owner of Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh bordering Karnataka has called it a political conspiracy and vendetta by Andhra Government and the Centre.

He said, "We respect the judiciary. It is a political conspiracy by the AP Government and the Central Government. We are ready to face anything."

It's totally with a prejudiced mind, it is totally against us. When time comes I will tell the names of politicians of this country who want to finish the steel industry and the Janardhana Reddy family."

Talking to reporters here, Congress leader Siddaramaiah said the CEC report had proved beyond doubt the involvement of Reddy brothers in illegal mining and demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister and also of Reddy brothers.

He said, "The report by the CEC vindicates our stand. This Government should go. Reddy brothers must resign and so also the Chief Minister who is involved."
CM seeks incentives for Gujaratis buying diamond mines abroad

RATHIN DAS  AHMEDABAD

Chief Minister Narendra Modi has urged the Centre to formulate a pro-active policy so that diamond traders from Gujarat can bid for purchasing diamond mines abroad.

Addressing the gems and jewellery international seminar and exhibition ‘Sparkle 2011’ at Surat on Thursday, Modi said that Gujaratis have shown the penchant for buying coal mines abroad and, if need be, they can buy diamond mines too.

Modi mulling the idea of Gujaratis buying diamond mines abroad assumes significance in the light of the processing houses in Surat having frequent confrontations in international markets over procurements of roughs to be processed here.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that Gujaratis had the capacity to buy diamond mines too. They only need some incentives, the Chief Minister added.

He also attacked the Centre for doing injustice to Surat by not providing sufficient air connectivity to the diamond city.

He said the Centre was preventing the growth of Surat by denying proper flights to the city.
Relentless plunder
Crack down on crime of illegal mining

The news of a Mumbai-based mining company extracting at least 10 times more bauxite ore than it is allowed to from a village in Ratnagiri in Maharashtra and causing the state a revenue loss of crores of rupees by not paying the royalty has once again brought to the fore the issue of rampant illegal mining across India. What is shocking is that the state government has been caught napping — or did it elect to look the other way? — while the company continued with the plunder long after its lease expired in November 2009. This is not a case in isolation. Scores of mine-owners have excavated iron ore, chromite, bauxite, manganese and other minerals much beyond the stipulated limit in Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra and other mineral-rich states. In Odisha, out of 341 mines, only 126 have been found to have a valid lease. Since most mines have been operating years after their leases have expired by using a loophole in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, we can arrive at only one conclusion: There is a nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and mining companies. How else can one explain the misuse of the deemed extension clause that is meant to ensure that mining operations do not come to an abrupt halt due to administrative delays in deciding renewal applications?

The UPA's hyperactive minister for environment and forest, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, has been selective in acting against the mining companies that are looting India's wealth. He prefers to use different standards. As a result, companies indulging in illegal mining are also flouting the Forest Conservation Act and damaging the fragile ecosystem as a good number of mines co-exist with reserve forest areas. The bureaucrats, well aware of the large-scale pilage, turn a blind eye as long as their nests are feathered. This casts serious doubt on the Congress's assertions that it would uphold green laws and not sacrifice environmental sustainability. Worse, there is growing evidence that the revenue from illegal mining in tribal areas is going towards funding insurgent activities of Maoist outfits. Mr. Ramesh's failure to crack down heavily on illegal operators is in essence allowing law-shirking plunderers to line the pockets of anti-nationals covertly. Now that the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee has submitted its detailed report, what is needed is an expeditious implementation of CEC's recommendations without any bias and better coordination between officials of the Mining Ministry and the Environment & Forest Ministry to effectively enforce statutory provisions. Furthermore, exemplary actions must be taken against babus whose deliberate delay in disposing of mining renewal applications results in a revenue loss of crores of rupees. This is the least that Mr. Ramesh can do to stop the loot and save the country's precious mineral resources.
Cancel three mining leases of Reddys, says SC panel

A REPORT by the Supreme Court’s Central Empowered Committee (CEC) on Friday declared three mining leases of the powerful Reddy brothers-owned Obulapuram Mining Company in Bellary region of Andhra Pradesh “illegal” and called for their cancellation.

The CEC even found that one of the three leases was operating illegally since December 2004, and recommended that the court direct the recovery of every penny’s worth of minerals extracted from the mine for the past six years at market value.

The 69-page report, filed before the Green Bench led by Chief Justice of India S H Kapadia, is the result of an extensive inspection conducted by the CEC following the Supreme Court’s orders on November 19, 2010 as to whether any “mining was going on in the forest area of Bellary region”.

The court had directed the CEC to focus on six mining leases in the area, of which three, spanning 68.5 hectares, 39.50 and 25.96 hectares, are owned by G Karunakara Reddy and Janardhana Reddy.

The remaining leases are operated by M/s Bellary Iron Ore Pvt Ltd, M/s Ananthapur Mining Corporation and M/s Mahabaleswarappa & Sons. All six have been found to be illegal. The court on Friday allowed the miners to file their responses to the report.

The illegalities committed by the Karnataka politicians-cum-mining magnates, the CEC found, ranged from mining outside approved lease areas, use of reserved forest for dumping, building five roads in the reserved forest, transport of minerals far in excess of what could have been extracted from the mining pits, only to name a few.

The 25.9-hectare lease, the report says, actually expired on December 13, 2004, but the Andhra government “illegally” granted Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) an extension till April 25, 2017. “The mining done in the forest area after 2004 is therefore illegal and the value of the minerals extracted from the reserved forest after April 2004 should be recovered from the leaseholders based on the normative market value of the mineral extracted from the area,” the CEC recommended to the court.

In both the 39.5-hectare and 68.5-hectare leases the boundaries “differ materially” from what were approved under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, the report says. “The minerals extracted from the mining lease of 68.5 hectares of M/s OMC and 6.5 hectares of M/s AMC appear to be far in excess of what could have been extracted from these leases as per the size of the pits.... No effective steps were taken by the AP Mining Department to get this verified physically in the field.”

In fact, the core reason which led to these illegalities, the SC-appointed team said, is the fact that the state government officers turned a blind eye to the goings-on. An example of this lapse is how the Ananthapur Mining Corporation was granted mining lease after a gap of 17 years and the same company transported 11 lakh MT of iron ore without a permit from the Forest Department.
Reddy bros’ mining ops illegal: SC panel
Calls For Cancelling Lease And Recovering Ore Value; Says YSR, UPA-1 Complicit

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Karnataka’s politically powerful Reddy brothers were on Friday red-flagged by the Supreme Court’s environmental panel for indulging in illegal mining, which was permitted by the YSR government and with approval from the environment ministry in UPA-1 in the Andhra Pradesh portion of the Bellary reserve forest.

The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its hard-hitting report to the Supreme Court recommended cancellation of all three mining leases given to the Reddys’ owned Obulapuram Mining Corporation (OMC), recovery of market value of illegally mined mineral since 2004 and demarcation of boundaries using satellite imagery.

“The sorry state of affairs (regarding illegal mining in Bellary reserve forest) could not have taken place without the active connivance of the concerned officers of the Andhra Pradesh government,” the CEC said and recommended that all mining operation in the area should remain suspended till the AP-Karnataka boundary and the lease areas are demarcated. It also said: “The report regarding the mining leases in Karnataka and associated issues raised in the petition filed by Samaj Parivartan Samudra and others will be filed in due course of time.”

Reacting to the report submitted by CEC, Karnataka tourism minister G Janardhana Reddy claimed that the CEC committee has been constituted mainly to look into the mining operations in reserve forest area and not to give recommendations. “There are instances like NMDC where the SC has not taken CEC report into consideration. I have full faith in the judiciary and I will continue legal battle by filing objections,” Reddy said.

BSY’s own T20 to take on oppn

While the IPL franchisees are busy building fresh teams for the fourth edition of T20, chief minister B S Yeddyurappa is also building a team of 20 BJP legislators who can take on the opposition. A day after the opposition targeted him in the legislature, Yeddyurappa on Friday handpicked this 20-member team and armed them with documents relating to the scams and denotification made by opposition during its tenure. TNN

Janardhana Reddy, Karunakara Reddy and Somasekhara Reddy
येद्युरप्पा फिर मुशिकल में

कनाड़ संक्षेप

- सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा नियुक्त समिति ने रेडियो बंदोबंसों पर अवैध खानन के आरोपों को सही ठहराया

उपलब्धिकार समिति गठित की गई। समिति ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट को सीधे अपनी रिपोर्ट में ओलावुल्लु संस्थान के '140 एक स्रोत' अनुसार 'गैर बंदोबंस और अवैध प्रदर्शन' के अधिकारियों को भी आलोचना की है। समिति ने अवैध खानन के लिए 'आंद्र प्रदेश और कनाड़ के अधिकारियों की भी आलोचना की है। समिति ने जताया कि अधिकारियों की भूमिका के बारे में सब्जी नहीं हो सकता था। कनाड़ - में विपरीत कार्यक्रम रेडियो बंदोबंसों पर अवैध खानन से लेकर प्रदर्शन के साथ आलोचना जारी है।

लेकिन, रेडियो बंदोबंस कनाड़ की स्थाई में अपने प्रभाव और दिल्ली में भाषा के बड़े अनुबंधों के आलोचना में वित्तपंचायतों के अभिकारियों भी, एस. पेश्वुरुप्पा को पढ़ने पर मनमुग का नियम है। अन्य कारण को अवैध प्रदर्शन की संभावना में खाना का पेशा निषेध है, लेकिन जब केंद्र से संबंधित घोषणा में संबंधित बंदोबंसों तक में खाना करने की राय है। अपने अधिकारियों की समस्त पाठ के लिए अवैध संकेत, भविष्य में स्वीकार संभावित नहीं है।