Minister mining rider

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

New Delhi, July 6: Union tribal affairs minister V.K.C. Deo has blamed Left-wing extremism on mining in tribal areas and said minerals should be explored with the consent of the people and only for domestic use.

“One of the biggest issues responsible for Naxalism is mining. This sector needs to be regulated properly,” I have spoken to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi. We need to have a roadmap on it. Mining should be done to meet domestic requirements and that too with the consent of the local people and without causing any environmental damage,” Deo told The Telegraph today.

The views of the minister come days after he questioned last week’s controversial encounter in Chhattisgarh in which 19 persons were killed. Rights activists have said the victims, many of them women and children, were not rebels but villagers.

Deo’s views on mining may upset votaries of economic growth in the government who believe in optimal harnessing of natural resources. But the Congress leader insisted exploration in most areas did not benefit the local residents, creating a situation exploited by Maoists to spread their ideology.

The minister cited examples of bauxite mining leases granted in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh, the state from where he has been elected to the Lok Sabha. He claimed such deals had stoked resentment and helped Maoists regroup in the region.

Deo stressed the need for an inclusive policy and called for export-driven mining to be suspended. “Our government follows inclusive policy. The Prime Minister has agreed with me that the mining and other developmental activities have to be inclusive.”

Over 60 districts in the country, including some in Bengal, have been identified as mineral-rich and dominated by tribal people.
Make environment clearance must for miners to move ore dump: Mines Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Panaji, July 7

The Union mines ministry has asked the Goa government to make it mandatory for mine owners to procure environment clearance (EC) certificates for moving ore dumps (rejects) that are scattered across the state.

In a letter written to Goa mines secretary R K Verma, the Union ministry has rejected the submission made by Advocate General of Goa last year, in which, he had claimed that ‘dump removal does not require environmental clearance’.

"The ministry is of the opinion that since the dumps are a result of mining operations and that their handling involves impact on environment, appropriate environmental clearance and other clearances should be a prerequisite," Anil Subramanium, under secretary of Union mines ministry has said in his letter.

In October 2011, against the backdrop of allegations of rampant illegal mining activity in the state, the Goa government had frozen the handling of the dumps.

The new mineral policy -- Goa Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2012, is expected to lift the ban, allowing the mine owners to sell the dumps.

The mountains of ore dumps are left behind once the ore is tapped. The rejects have suddenly got a demand in the international market like China.

The mines ministry has said that the state may consult them before notifying the policy.

The Union Ministry has also urged the need to have a water-tight arrangement to ensure that there is no royalty leakage while handling (exporting) the dumps.

The letter suggests that before allowing the dumps to be handled, there is a need for exact quantification of grade and quantity of ore and geo-referencing of the dumps.

Goa is India's largest export of iron ore, which is extracted from its 90-odd mining leases. The state had exported 43 million metric tonnes of ore last financial year.
हमारी रोजगार की सिद्धित एस्ब्रास्ट्स और इसमें आवश्यक चीजों का इस्तेमाल ही-बी-दिन बहादुर गया है। यह जाना उचित कि इसका सेवा और प्रसारण पर अत्याधुनिक प्रणाली है। केईस जैसी व्यवस्था को चैनल में एस्ब्रास्ट्स का बड़ा हाव है। इसके प्रभाव से हमें आवश्यक चीजों और सुखद भर से चर्चा देने वाले अद्वितीय बदल फूल है।

एस्ब्रास्ट्स में छिपे खतरे
एम्बेस्टर्स में छिपे खतरे

पेज एक का बाकी

कभी कभी भारत दुनिया के उन पचम देशों का अनुसरण कर पाए, जिन्होंने एम्बेस्टर्स पर पूरा तत्त्व से प्रतिबंध लगाया है? यह मौके का इतिहास है कि दुनिया के बाकी समूह में एम्बेस्टर्स पर प्रतिबंध लगाया है, उसे बड़ा का सकारात्मक नाम लगाया है, अदालतों का विरोध रख सकता है।

ध्वनि माध्यम के एक जैसे किसीं है। उद्देश्य के शांति में भी शांति जांची जायेगी। एम्बेस्टर्स के बाकी अन्य देशों के जीवन में सुखों दुखों तथा संकटों में उन पर प्रभाव लगाने से मना कर दिया गया है।

भारत में एम्बेस्टर्स के दर्ज करने के लिए जारी करार्यालय के बिना, फिर भी इसके बाद से सेवकों ने भी जारी कराया है। एम्बेस्टर्स से बचने के लिए बनाये गए उद्देश्य के लिए भी बनाया गया है। देश के दूतावासों के लिए अपने स्वागत इसके एम्बेस्टर्स का बड़ा शुभकामना जो स्वागत समारोह ने इस पर प्रतिक्रिया लगाने से भर गया था।
Battle against sand mafia to be fought in SC

National Legal Services Authority To File PIL, Seek A Stop To Incessant Digging Of Rivers

New Delhi: To protect rivers from sand mafia, the country's top official legal aid institution on Saturday decided to move the Supreme Court with a PIL seeking to stop incessant digging of river beds that reduces the river's capacity to irrigate agricultural land.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the chairmanship of senior most Supreme Court Judge, Justice Altamas Kabir, took the decision to file a writ petition before the Green Bench of the apex court as it felt that the sand mafia operating in collusion with police and politicians were flouting norms and orders restricting extraction of sand from river beds.

"Due to unregulated and excessive sand mining by the mafia, the river bed deepens allowing the water to flow at a depth to mar the prospects of irrigation," NALSA secretary general U Sarath Chandran said.

"Taking into account the needs of the construction industries and the need to protect the rivers in the country, a policy needs to be framed in tune with the principles of sustainable development, for regulating sand-mining activities to meet the present needs without jeopardizing the future generation's right over natural resources," Chandran said.

NALSA has also decided to gather extensive evidence of excessive extraction of sand from river beds by engaging law students to collect data and photographic evidence of this ecological menace.

The decision to file a PIL on sand mafia was an attempt by the legal aid authority to play a larger role in social justice litigation. Earlier, it had filed a petition in the SC seeking direction to governments for protection of widows of Vrindavan who live in pitiable conditions after being abandoned by their kith and kin. In the Vrindavan widows' case, the SC has already constituted a committee for an elaborate survey of the number of widows, their condition and the facilities extended to them by the government. NALSA also decided to file a PIL seeking to protect the legal rights of transgender community, he added.
Vedanta wants to pick up ‘small stake’ in proposed Rajasthan refinery

Anil Agarwal meets Ashok Gehlot to discuss project

Siddhartha P. Saikia
New Delhi, July 7

Vedanta Resources, which recently picked up a controlling stake of 58.86 per cent in Cairn India, now wants to participate in the proposed 9 million tonnes a year refinery in Rajasthan.

The Vedanta Group’s Chairman, Mr Anil Agarwal, called on the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr Ashok Gehlot, in New Delhi. The Vedanta Chairman told the Chief Minister that his company would support the refinery by picking up a ‘small stake’ in the project.

“Mr Agarwal discussed the issue of the proposed refinery in Rajasthan. With a positive gesture, he expressed his interest in participation in this ambitious project,” said a statement issued by the Rajasthan Government on Saturday.

Currently, Cairn India is pumping out 175,000 barrels of oil per day from Barmer fields in Rajasthan. The State is aggressively pushing for a refinery in the vicinity of Barmer. Public sector companies ONGC and HPCL have already evinced interest to join hands for project.

The Rajasthan Government said that HPCL, ONGC and other agencies are actively participating in discussion with the State and “we are hopeful for positive outcome of these efforts”.

At the same time, Mr Agarwal also discussed the need for continuing exploration to achieve the target of three lakh barrels a day from Barmer. At this production level, Rajasthan will meet almost 50 per cent of country’s domestic crude oil production, the statement said.

In August 2009, the Rajasthan Government constituted a committee, headed by former Petroleum Secretary, Mr S.C. Tripathi, to do a feasibility study for setting up a refinery to process crude oil mined from Barmer.

The panel recommended that the State Government should have 26 per cent equity in the refinery and rest by oil companies. It may also offer a concession of $1 a barrel from Cairn India.

The State accepted Mr Tripathi’s committee recommendations. At the same time, a proposal to offer interest-free loan for 15 years, starting 2016-17 to 2030-31, for repayment in equal annual instalments over 16 years — from 2031-32 have been mooted.
Act against bauxite mining, Deo urges A.P. Governor

Narasimhan passes the buck to State government which had signed MoUs

Smita Gupta

NEW DELHI: Three months after Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Y. Kishore Chandra Deo wrote to Andhra Pradesh Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan, urging him to exercise his constitutional powers to cancel the permission given for bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam as it was fuelling left wing extremism there, the latter has finally responded. He has referred the matter to the State government which, had, in the first place, signed MoUs with several companies to permit bauxite mining.

Commenting on Mr. Narasimhan’s letter, Mr. Deo told The Hindu: “The Governor just has to verify the facts and take action. I don’t know why he has referred the matter to the State government.”

In his 14-page letter, dated April 7, Mr. Deo pointed out that ever since the State government signed a series of MoUs (between 2005 and 2010) with several companies “neither owned nor controlled by people belonging to Scheduled Tribes,” and then went on to recommend 13 more applications in favour of the A.P. Mining Development Corporation “for prior approval of mining leases,” Maoists have begun to gain ground in Visakhapatnam district “by gaining the sympathy of the locals only due to the threat of bauxite mining.”

Meets PM, Sonia

Mr. Deo, who is familiar with Visakhapatnam as it is one of the four districts that falls in his Araku parliamentary constituency, had met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi to explain the situation before he called on Mr. Narasimhan to hand over his letter. Copies of his letter were then sent to Dr. Singh, Ms. Gandhi and the Union Ministers for Home, Law and Environment for information.

The MoUs signed with various companies as well as the clearing of the APDMC’s applications by the then government led by Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy, Mr. Deo writes, “betray our commitment for the cause of people who belong to the Scheduled Tribe community... [and] amount to a flagrant violation and affront of our constitutional provisions.”

Powers of Governors

In the letter, Mr. Deo says Governors are empowered by the Constitution to make regulations for peace and good governance, including those relating to Land Allotment and Transfer Allotment of Land in Schedule V areas (designated tribal areas in the mainland, just as Schedule VI refers to tribal areas in the Northeast). For this purpose, the Governor can repeal or amend any Central or State law or any existing law applicable to such an area. Further, the Governor is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in performance of functions under Schedule V.

The impugned orders of the late Chief Minister, Mr. Deo adds, also negate the purpose for which the Forest Rights Act and the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act were enacted. If the first promised to give tribals and forest dwellers rights over the land they live on, the PESA gave the people control over their own resources, with the gram sabhas approving plans related to a host of issues connected with land, including recommending prospecting licences and mining leases for minor minerals.

Bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam, Mr. Deo says, will also destroy the sources of the three rivers which originate in this region — Goshaani, Champavathi and Sarada — and which are the main sources of irrigation and drinking water in Visianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts.