कितना दबा पड़ा है खजाना!

केंद्र सरकार कर दी हुई तलाश, पांच साल की विस्तृत कार्ययोजना

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केंद्र सरकार भारत में देख पड़े खनिजों का खजाना पाना करना रहा है। इसलिए चालू खदानों में भी देखे खनिज भण्डारों का पता लगाना जा रहा है।

इसमें जानकारी यह जुटाई जाएगी कि वहाँ खनिज फिटनी सही और फिटनी मात्रा में कहर-कहर देख पड़े हैं। यह जानकारी जुटाने में करीब पांच साल लग सकते हैं। केंद्र सरकार ने दालदाल ही सभी राज्यों को हिस्ट्री दी है कि वे प्रधान खनिजों के मौजूद खनन पदार्थों से ही पुरुषिकरण करवाएं कि अब उनकी खदान में कितना मिला और दबा पड़ा है। यह पुरुषिकरण खदान मालिक को अपने खदान पर ही करना होगा। भारत सरकार ने खदान मालिकों से मानना के अनुसार एक से पांच साल में सर्वश्रेष्ठ चिन्हांकण गिनती करके बनाया है।

भारत सरकार के इस आदेश के बाद जमानत में खदान मालिकों के खदान मालिकों को नोटिश जारी करने के लिए राज्य के सभी मालिकों को इस समझना निरेष्ठ जारी कर दिया है। खदान मालिक के 2003 से पहले पांच मालिक का आवंटन पुरुषिकरण के दिन ही किया है, अब वह इसके बाद की खदान, लौन, पुरुषिकरण के बाद की है।

इससमें इस्लाम के खदान पहुँच के मिनस और उसके भण्डार के बाद में चाहे भण्डार को मोटा-मोटा अंतर है भक्ति पूर्व का किरदार नहीं है।

यह पुरुषिकरण होने के बाद इसका वर्तमान सुनिश्चित करें।

खदान विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि सरकार का यह संचालन करने के पीछे मालिक का पता लगाना है कि मौजूदा दौर में संचालन खजाना की रूप में अन्तर्निहित और उपरोक्त किया हुआ तक और कितनी है।

इसके अलावा भविष्य को संसाधनों को भी जानकारी मिलेगी।

वो है प्रधान खनिज

सोपरीडो, प्रायोगिकाओं, ब्याट्सी, फॉयलाइट, लेडर-जजना, टिंक फेलाइट, फेलाइट, लाइम डेविट लियम, विश्वास, इंसुलाइट, केल्साइट, माइक्रेट आदि।

हमारे पास खजान की सर्वाधिक तैयारी है आवश्यक अवधि, उनके अनुसार इसी समय की आवश्यक तुलना जारी की जा रही है।

के के पे हिस्ट्री निर्माण बिज्ञान, प्रायोगिक जैवज्ञानी उत्तर
केरन का पूरा हुआ सौंदर्य

भूमि भूमि भूमि भूमि भूमि। ब्रिटिश की तरह, जब भारतीय केरन के अपने कंपनी ने अपने भारतीय इंडस्ट्री में विनियमक विस्तार, उन्होंने बाज़ार को प्रभावित किया। केरन की विस्तार का सौंदर्य पूरा होने की शृंखला शुरू होने की अवसर है। केरन इंडस्ट्री के चार महीने में प्रति वर्ष 10 प्रतिशत विस्तार की शृंखला की विस्तार की 1.4 से 4.1 अरब उपलब्ध है। कंपनी ने वृद्धि में केरन इंडिया के 10 प्रतिशत विस्तार की शृंखला की 1.4 से 4.1 अरब उपलब्ध है। (प्रतिशत)
Sesa Goa: Lower prices, demand mar prospects

Stock to remain subdued on falling spot iron ore prices, moderating Chinese demand

JITENDRA KUMAR GUPTA

Sesa Goa acquired an additional 1.5 per cent stake in Cairn India at an average price of ₹325 a share on Wednesday, taking its overall holding in the latter to 20 per cent. Based on the current price, Sesa Goa’s stake in Cairn is valued at ₹9,800 crore or ₹13 per share (after applying a 20 per cent holding company discount, which analysts typically do). While the gains from this investment (in the form of an increase in its value or otherwise) will only reflect in the long term, it also means the company will lose out on interest income in the near term.

Meanwhile, the valuations suggest the market is valuing the core business (and remaining investments) of Sesa Goa at ₹67 per share, given its current price of ₹68. Though these look attractive from the long-term view (considering the company’s huge iron ore reserves), they reflect the absence of significant revenue growth and the pressure on earnings over the next two years. The stock has been consistently declining from its all-time peak of ₹404.30 in April 2010, and the deteriorating fundamentals will keep the share price under pressure, believe analysts.

Pricing woes

Considering the global economic headwinds, especially moderation in Chinese demand, analysts expect spot iron ore prices in the international markets to correct further to about ₹120 a tonne from the current ₹130 a tonne. They are already down 20-23 per cent since September.

Sesa Goa, which exports a little over 90 per cent of its ore production (a majority of it to China), could thus see pressure on realisation. “We have cut our FY12-13 estimated EPS by three to seven percent, as we incorporate the lower spot price estimate, lower volumes and a weaker rupee. We believe iron ore prices could correct further and re-test recent lows of ₹120 per tonne in the near term,” says Bhaskar N Basu, analyst with DSP Merrill Lynch, in a recent note on the company.
FIR filed against
Krishna, 2 others
for illegal mining

HT Correspondent

BANGALORE: The Lokayukta police on Thursday registered FIRs against external affairs minister SM Krishna and two other former Karnataka chief ministers, N Dharam Singh and HD Kumaraswamy, on a private complaint alleging that they had facilitated illegal mining during their tenure as chief ministers.

The Lokayukta police action, however, ignores a comprehensive investigation by former lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde into all mining-related decisions between 2000 and 2008 that had absolved Krishna of all charges.

The Lokayukta special court had last week ordered a probe into the complaint of Bengaluru-based social worker Abraham T Joseph — a BSP activist — against the three. Joseph had accused them as well as 11 bureaucrats of causing huge losses to the state exchequer.

A special team headed by Lokayukta SP Jagadish Prasad has been formed to investigate the allegations. The state police have been asked to probe the charges of misuse of power and corruption.

LAST WEEK, LOYAKYUTA SPECIAL COURT HAD ORDERED A PROBE INTO COMPLAINT BY A BSP ACTIVIST AGAINST THE THREE.

Krishna was Karnataka CM between October 1999 and May 2004 but did not hold mining portfolio.

JD-S state president Kumaraswamy, who was at the helm of affairs in the state from February 2006 to October 2007, has been accused of illegally approving a mining lease over 550 acres in favour of Shree Sai Venkateshwara Minerals and committing illegalities with Janikal Mining Company.

In New Delhi, Krishna denied he had any role in illegal mining and expressed confidence that the judiciary would put to rest "unholy attempts at his character assassination".

"To the best of my knowledge, no mining licence was issued during my tenure," Krishna said. "My legal team will take appropriate action at the appropriate time." (With agency inputs)
खनन घोटाले में एसएम कृष्णा पर एफआईआर

बैगलूरः खनन घोटाले में फंसे विदेश मंत्री एसएम कृष्णा की जगह पहले बड़े गृहमंत्री गृहमंत्री ने उनके और चार संगठन के दो और दो पुर्व मुख्यमंत्रियों के विकास प्रशिक्षक दर्ज कीं। यह क्षण ने लोकायुक्त अदालत में दिखाया कि उसकी बातचीत की थी कि उन्होंने गृहमंत्री बनाने में इन सभी ने लाभ्रोक्षन के लिए अदालत खनन की इजाजत दी थी। उसकी विकासकंपनी के आमंत्र के लिए गृहमंत्री में 11 प्रश्नों की भी मानवाधिकारी मानी जाती है।

लोकायुक्त पुलिस के अनुसार बैगलूर के विदेश मंत्री के रहस्य रहा एक विवादित चरण ने बनाए, 'कृष्णा के एक नायक कांग्रेस के विरोध नेता एक बयान रिलीज़ और जनता दल के एक जनता की कमांडर के विकास प्रशिक्षक दर्ज की भी गई। सभी अधिकारियों एवं पुर्व मुख्यमंत्रियों के विकास प्रशिक्षक वर्गीकरण के नेता जीवेंद्र, प्रदा कांग्रेस नेता रामचंद्र के मुख्य, नन्द शर्मा नन्द, रामनाथ कुवेल, बल अभियुवर और जीवेंद्र एवं जीवेंद्र एवं विकास कांग्रेस (एनएसआरडी) की भागी रवाबळ्ट में एक का दर्ज की गई। तीन दिनों को दो देर्य के हैं अभियुक्तों के विवरण की निःशुलिंग विकासकंपनी के विकास प्रशिक्षक कांग्रेस ने लोकायुक्त पुलिस को दर्ज की जानकारी देने का आदेश देकर 6 जनवरी के पहले रेपोर्ट देने का कहा था। अभियुक्त ने अपनी विकासकंपनी के लिए अभियुक्त रहने में तालमेल लोकायुक्त को संतोष हेतु देखा गया।
खनन घोटाले में एसएम कृष्णा पर एकआइआर

प्रदेश सरकार को दी गई रिपोर्ट को आवाहन नहीं किया। अधीक्षक खनन मामले में
निम्नलिखित सरकार के आवाहन पर लोकसभा सभी हस्ताक्षरक के बार पूर्व
सुनवाईदेखी के खिलाफ आवाहन नहीं किया। सिर्जा एसएम कृष्णा तक 1999 के
अंतर्वेश में तक के कानून के सुझावों के। पूर्व सुझावों दो
एसएम कृष्णा अभी हाल हो में उपलब्धता पर दिखाई हुए हैं।
The ore issue

A proposed ban on export of ores won’t solve the problem of illegal mining

The Justice M.B. Shah commission that was tasked with looking into the illegal mining of iron and manganese ore, in its first interim report, has suggested a ban on exports of the ores in order to conserve the minerals for posterity. The commission is of the view that the mining mafia is plundering natural resources and making “unimaginable profits” and could use this money to influence state policy. A ban, “till things are streamlined and illegal activities controlled”, would help the growth of steel plants and generate employment for locals.

However, the very idea — as endorsed by various political parties since the Karnataka mining scam — that captive mining licences be given to steel plants for converting the ore into steel and thereby increasing profits and tax revenue, is based on an incomplete understanding of mining best practices. This argument, like the Justice Shah commission’s report, conflates the two issues of illegal and commercial mining. While it’s true that commercial mining, with its eye to profit, prioritises exports, how else would the mining sector get the resources necessary for investment in technological upgrade and good extraction practices? For example, in 1980, India had 11.5 billion tonnes of iron ore reserves as compared to Australia’s 15 bn tonnes. In 2005, India had 13.8 bn tonnes while Australia had shot up to 40 bn tonnes. Without the technology and expedient that professional firms bring, mineral resources cannot increase substantially because capital investment cannot be made in new explorations and existing mines.

A mining firm needs to manage its existing mineral resources so that the mine can work for years and also find new deposits. This entails more intensive mining since new deposits are not easy to come by. It isn’t anybody’s case that minerals are not finite and mines will not get exhausted eventually. But measures like an outright ban on exports miss the heart of the problem and fly in the face of acceptable trade practices. Resources cannot be preserved and harnessed by preventing them from going to end-users abroad. Rather, the effort should be to ensure the mining industry gains in productivity and resource optimisation while law-enforcers take care of illegal mining.
Illegal mining: FIR against Krishna, 2 former CMs

THE Karnataka Lokayukta police on Thursday registered an FIR against three former chief ministers, including current External Affairs Minister S M Krishna, on the directions of a Lokayukta court following a private complaint that accused the three of facilitating illegal mining by de-reserving forest land and granting mining leases in the Bellary region between 1999 and 2006.

The FIR was registered against Krishna, and the two chief ministers who succeeded him — N Dharam Singh of the Congress and H D Kumaraswamy of the JDS — under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Forest Conservation Act, Forest Act and Minerals and Metals Regulation and Development Act and the Indian Penal Code.

Eleven government officials have also been named in the FIR filed on the basis of the court order of December 3, Additional Director General of Police at the Lokayukta office Satyanarayana Rao said.

The Lokayukta police has been given time till January 6 by the Lokayukta court to file a report in the matter.

The complaint was filed by a former BJP party worker TJ Abraham.

Krishna was the chief minister between 1999 and 2004, Dharam Singh was chief minister between 2005 and 2006, and Kumaraswamy was chief minister between 2006 and 2007.

The three former chief ministers have been accused of opening up forests in the Bellary region for iron ore mining, leasing out land to private entities and profiting from these actions. The region was opened up for mining at the fag end of S M Krishna's tenure as chief minister.

The Lokayukta which delved into the issue of illegal mining during the periods of the three former chief ministers had found evidence of impropriety only in the case of Dharam Singh and several government officials in the course of its first report.

Singh's name was, however, ordered to be removed from the report by former governor Rameshwar Thakur.
SM Krishna, 2 ex-CMs booked over charges of illegal mining

Bangalore, Dec 8

An FIR was registered against external affairs minister S M Krishna and two other former Karnataka chief ministers by the Lokayukta Police on Thursday on a private complaint alleging that they facilitated illegal mining during their tenure.

Apart from Krishna, his senior Congress colleague N Dharam Singh and JDS state unit President H D Kumaraswamy, who succeeded him as chief ministers, have been named in the first information report (FIR), Lokayukta ADGP Satyanarayana Rao told PTI.

Eleven bureaucrats have also been named in the FIR filed under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Forest Conservation Act, Forest Act and Minerals and Metals Regulation and Development Act (MMRDA) and Indian Penal Code.

Admitting a private complaint filed by TJ Abraham on December 3, Lokayukta Court judge NK Sudhindra Rao had directed the police to investigate it and submit a report on or before January 6.

The complainant has alleged Krishna, who was the chief minister of Karnataka from October 1999 to May 2004, and Dharam Singh and Kumaraswamy permitted illegal mining for pecuniary gains.

Abraham, a city-based social activist and a businessman, had submitted that his complaint was based on the report on illegal mining presented to the government by then Lokayukta Santosh Hegde in August.

With this, four former chief ministers are facing Lokayukta police probe based on private complaints. BS Yeddyurappa was released on bail last month after his arrest on a private complaint alleging irregularities in land denotifications to benefit his family members. PTI
Jindal may block Lanco project

Noor Mohammad
New Delhi, Dec 8

There is more trouble for Lanco Infratech’s Rs 16,000-crore Gare Palma-II coal mining-cum-power generation project in the Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh as Jindal Power proposes to set up an ash dyke for its 2,400 mw expansion power project on a part of land claimed by Mahatamil Colleries as coal-bearing area of its mine.

If Jindal goes ahead with its plan to set up an ash dyke at the proposed site of 241 Ha, mining plan for Mahatamil’s captive coal block could get upset. Mahatamil has approached the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) for cancellation of the environmental clearance granted to the Jindal’s power project, alleging that the private power producer misled the MoEF by hiding the facts. “You may kindly revoke the permission granted to Jindal Power for expansion of their power plant,” N Rama Rao, managing director, Mahatamil, said in a letter sent to the environment ministry.

Jindal has tried to block Mahatamil’s move by saying it has already reduced the ash disposal area by 250 Ha when it came to its notice that a portion of the proposed ash dyke fell in a coal bearing area. Based on that, the MoEF granted environmental clearance for the project.

“Now we are surprised to read this complaint of Mahatamil claiming that our ash disposal falls within their mining block,” Jindal said in reply. "The captive block, which has potential to produce 15 million tonnes coal a year, is allocated to Mahatamil, a joint venture between Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and Maharashtra State Mining Corporation. While 3.45 million tonnes must be supplied to the Maharashtra entity, the balance will be used by Mahatamil for a 2,500 mw associated power plant. Lanco bagged the project by quoting the lowest price for coal mining. Mahatamil is already under pressure from the Union power ministry to scrap tendering for its failure to comply with national tariff policy which mandates allocation of power project through tariff bidding route. The ministry has asked Mahatamil to hold separate bidding for coal mining and power generation projects.
‘Myths on aluminium use hurting sector’

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, Dec. 8

Even though the Indian aluminium utensils industry has been growing at 45 per cent in the last three years, “myths” surrounding the impact of these utensils on health has been stalling the prospects of this sector.

The Federation of All-India Aluminium Utensils Manufacturers has dismissed the “rumours” as baseless, quoting scientific studies that show that, on the contrary, the use of aluminium utensils can significantly save fuel consumption. There are 4,000-odd factories engaged in the production of two-lakh tonnes of aluminium utensils every year, with most of the stocks coming from recycled metal. The industry exports about 15 per cent of its production to West Asia, Europe and Africa.

“Exports have been encouraging, but the domestic market is not expanding at the desired level because of the myths. We have launched a string of initiatives to dispel the rumours relating to use of aluminium utensils,” Mr. Tarun Goyal, President, AI-FAUM, said.

“Aluminium conducts heat twice better than copper and about nine times better than stainless steel,” he pointed out.

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Hindalco set to unveil Eternia brand of products in January

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, Dec. 8
Aluminium major Hindalco, part of the Aditya Birla Group, is sharpening its focus on value-added products such as aluminium-based windows, door systems and building facades, as part of efforts to create new markets for the metal in India.

Hindalco will be unveiling its Eternia brand of windows and doors systems in the Indian market in January 2012, which will be the first of such branded products in the domestic market. Simultaneously, it is gearing up to introduce an all-aluminium facade for large buildings through its global brand Novelis during the same time.

“There is a wide range of colours and textures for the Eternia brand, suitable for both residential and commercial buildings. The product will hit the market in January,” Mr V. Ramaswamy, Assistant Vice-President and Head – Central Market Development Cell of the company, said on the sidelines of the on-going International Conference on Aluminium on Thursday.

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS
Mr Ramaswamy said aluminium facades for building could work out to be an economically better alternative to glass or granite.

In addition to windows and doors systems, Hindalco is assisting various original equipment manufacturers in developing innovative products in the automobiles, consumer durables and other emerging areas. “Recently, we helped a popular bicycle brand to produce an aluminium-intensive mountain bike. The weight of the bike was reduced by 35 per cent,” Mr Ramaswamy said.

The company has also developed various aluminium-based products for passenger vehicles to reduce the weight of the car and increase fuel efficiency. As a result, aluminium-based hoods, fenders, doors, drive trains and chassis are now available.

Studies have estimated that fuel savings per 100 km for a 100 kg weight reduction in vehicles could range from 0.15 to 1 lt. According to industry majors, India offers significant opportunities for aluminium, as the country's per capita aluminium consumption was about 1.5 kg; while it is 38 kg in Germany, 30 kg in Japan and 12 kg in China.

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Global aluminium demand to reach 75 m by 2020

Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Global demand for primary aluminium is set to reach 75 million tonnes by 2020 with China, India and Brazil becoming the growth centres for aluminium-based products.

The current supply is pegged at 60 million tonnes, including 10 million tonnes from recycling of industrial scrap and an equal quantity from recycling of aluminium while production reached 40 million tonnes.

Per capita consumption of the metal in India was, however, low at 1.8 kg compared to the world average of 8 kg, notwithstanding the fact that domestic demand for aluminium reached its highest with a 11 per cent growth last year, according to International Aluminium Institute (IAI) Global Projects Director Chris Bayliss.

Mr. Bayliss presented the global scenario of aluminium as part of the ongoing International Conference here on Thursday.

He was optimistic that commissioning of several power projects could fuel domestic demand while indicators for electrical sector, one of the largest consumers followed by building construction and transportation were highly encouraging.

Even as Mr. Bayliss expressed concern over the “poor capacity addition” over the last few years, aluminium major Hindalco, part of the $35 billion Aditya Birla Group, announced its entry into segments such as windows and door systems and building façade for residential and commercial properties.

Hindalco Assistant Vice-President and Head-Central Market Development V. Ramawamy said the company would introduce Etimar branded range of windows and door systems in addition to an all-aluminium façade for large buildings through its brand Novels in the domestic market.

Mr. Bayliss said one of the major concerns was the decision of China to cap smelting capacity because of various reasons. “But what we hear now is that they will reverse the decision to increase smelting capacity significantly. Only Chinese have the capacity to add smelting capacity in quick time,” he said.

IAI anticipates that smelting capacity of 5 million tonnes would be added from western Africa and 2 million tonnes in India in the next five years, but still it would result in a deficit of 28 million tonnes to reach the expected 75 million tonnes.

Coupled with this was the concern over supply of bauxite while its mining had also been not developed properly.
Copper edges higher in cautious trade

Reuters
London, Dec. 8
Copper edged up in cautious trade on Thursday, ahead of a European Union summit later this week which is expected to deliver concrete steps to resolve Europe's debt crisis which has threatened to curtail economic growth and demand for base metals.

Three month copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) edged up 0.3 per cent to $7,841 a tonne by 1132 GMT, from Wednesday's close of $7,820 a tonne.

Copper has fallen 23 per cent from a record of $10,190 reached in February and has so far rebounded 18 per cent from its lowest point this year of $6,625 touched in October.

Slow demand from top copper consumer China at a time of euro zone debt crisis and while the US economy is struggling has kept copper's gains in check.

More evidence of China's economy will come from its November export data, due on Friday, which is seen growing at its weakest pace in two years.

Across other metals, zinc was at $2,025 from a close of $2,027 a tonne on Wednesday. Aluminium rose to $2,080 a tonne from Wednesday's close of $2,078, while battery metal lead was at $2,153.50 from $2,148. Tin was flat at $20,500 and nickel climbed to $18,307 from $18,050.
Hind Copper prefers ECB to Nalco equity

Miner may go for overseas debt of ₹200 crore to bridge a funding gap for expansion though it has an option to rope in Nalco as an equity partner

Sumit Moitra • KOLKATA

Hindustan Copper Ltd, the country's sole integrated copper miner, is planning to raise ₹200 crore through external commercial borrowings (ECB) to bridge a funding gap between its own cash reserves and capex need for its ongoing mine development projects.

The state-owned company has communicated this choice of funding route to the ministry as it has delinked its long-delayed follow-on public offer to its investment need, chairman and managing director Shakeel Ahmed told DNA.

The ECB would, however, be raised only in 2013-14 when this funding gap is expected to emerge.

HCL had earlier entered into a pact with another state-owned company, National Aluminium Co Ltd (Nalco), to explore ways to get equity participation for its mine development programme.

"In 2013-14, we could have a small funding gap of ₹207 crore. Now this gap may go up or down depending upon the movement of copper price at London Metal Exchange (LME) that directly influences our earnings. If that gap exists, we have two routes: either ECB or Nalco (as an equity partner). We will take a call after the current financial year is over. However, we are inclined towards debt," Ahmed said.

HCL has plans to invest close to ₹4,600 crore in the next five years to boost its copper ore output capacity from the present 3.4 mt to 12 mt. It earlier floated tenders for engineering, procurement and construction contracts for expansion of Khetri, Surda, Malanjkhand and Chapri-Sidhwar mines and reopening of the Rakha and Kenadadih mines and last month awarded contracts for most of them.

This capex plan is no more dependent upon its FPO plans as the company will no longer issue fresh shares to the extent of 10% of pre-issue equity along with government's disinvestment. The revised plan involves just a sale of 10% of the government holding of 99.59% in the company.

"We have delinked our expansion plans from the FPO as we wouldn't be issuing any new shares and only the government will divest its own stake and the proceeds would go to them. When we initiated the FPO process, LME prices were at $6,000 a tonne; we hardly had any reserve. Now we are very well off," Ahmed said. Debt funding is being preferred over equity infusion as government, being a majority stakeholder, expects high dividends, while an ECB loan would come at a far cheaper cost. "An ECB loan without hedging comes at a cost of just 4-5%. If you hedge your foreign exchange exposure interest rate would be 9%. For ECB, we don't have to hedge our exposure so we save on that cost. This is because our revenues have a natural hedge as they are linked to LME copper prices," Ahmed said.
MP govt to launch drive against illegal mining

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 8

EMBARRASSED by NDA convener Sharad Yadav's observation that Madhya Pradesh was witnessing 'Bellarly-like' scams, the BJP government on Thursday announced a campaign against illegal mining.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the month-long campaign would begin on December 15 and that he would personally review its progress after January 15.

Yadav had first levelled the allegation in Bhopal on Sunday and repeated it when he returned to the national capital the next day asking the state government to act tough.

The NDA convener's comments followed an attack launched by the Opposition Congress against BJP ministers and their relatives on the same issue both on the floor of Assembly and outside.

The MP government's proposed campaign will involve a joint operation by the administration, police, forest and officials of the mineral department.

At a video conference held on Thursday, Chouhan asked collectors to organise meetings of the task force twice a month and slap maximum fines on those indulging in illegal mining. The collectors were told to invoke Section 379 of the IPC to file an FIR for theft of government property against the perpetrators besides the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, and Mineral Minerals Rules.

The government warned that action would be taken against those involved in illegal transportation by using provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, and MP Vehicle Rules.