Panel to set green mining rules

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Jan. 13: The cabinet today decided to set up a group of ministers to identify the areas for coal mining as the government seeks to end the row between the coal and environment ministries over the division of forest land into "go" and "no-go" areas.

Sources said the ministerial panel would develop a balanced approach towards the issue of environmental clearances for mining.

The environment ministry has declared 203 mining blocks as no-go areas, which can produce 600 million tonnes of coal annually. The coal and mining ministries had been pressing the environment ministry to lift the ban, but the latter had refused to relent. The matter then reached the Prime Minister's Office, which was keen to find a solution, sources added.

The GoM is likely to be headed by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee. It will include home minister P. Chidambaram, coal minister Sriprakash Jaiswal, environment minister Jairam Ramesh, mines minister B.K. Handique and Planning Commission deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the sources said.

The environment ministry had divided forest areas into go and no-go zones, depending on the tree cover.

The no-go areas had been identified as those that had over 30 per cent gross forest cover.

The power ministry feared about 630 million tonnes of coal would be lost that could generate 130,000MW of electricity. Estimates of coal demand for power are 555 million tonnes by 2012-13 and 950 million tonnes by 2016-17.

According to the steel ministry, the restriction on mining will affect existing projects as well as future investments.
Birla plant in Assam

New Delhi, Jan. 13: Birla Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Assam Mineral Development Corporation to set up a 1-million-tonne cement plant in Assam. The Rs 460-crore joint venture project is proposed to be set up at Umangshu in Assam.
Assam sees ₹4,000-cr investment in cement sector

Our Bureau

Ravi Kapoor said the state has decent limestone reserves, which seem to be a big draw for cement companies. “We have several investment proposals in the cement sector from Cement Manufacturing Co Ltd (CMCL), Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL), Calcom Cement India and Meghalaya Cements Ltd.”

State-owned Assam Mineral Development Corporation (AMDC) inked an MoU with MP Birla Group flagship Birla Corp on Thursday for setting up a 1-mtpa greenfield cement plant through a JV in Umangshu in North Cachar Hills with an investment of ₹490 crore in Assam.

Earlier, AMDC had inked an MoU with Jaiprakash Associates for setting up a ₹1,050-crure plant in the state that will crank out 2 mtpa.

Birla Corp Chairman Harsh Lodha, who was in Guwahati on Thursday, said the North East had significant potential for growth and development.
The Financial Express, Delhi
Sunday, 16th January 2011, Page: 13

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Indiato double construction, mining equipment sales in South East Asia

Singapore, Jan 15: India’s construction and mining equipment exports to South- east Asian markets is expected to double to 10% in the next three years, a senior CII official said on Saturday. “Our members are targeting the Indonesian, Myanmar, Vietnamese and the Philippines markets, where India-made construction and mining equipment have been tried and tested,” said Anand Sundaresan, vice-chairman for the Chennai zone at CII.

Sundaresan is attending the India Show held in the country during 14-16 January. The India-based manufacturers of the heavy-duty equipment include global brands Caterpillar, Schwing, Universal and Greaves Cotton & Co that have been serving the Indian markets for several decades by producing locally. But now the time has come for these companies to expand their markets beyond the Indian subcontinent. “A strong foothold has been established with at least a 5% market share gained in the last three years for some of the equipment,” he said. Their next phase of expansion would be Australia and New Zealand. “We have started exporting India-made equipment to these markets,” said Sundaresan. The Indian equipment are competitively priced, given that their production costs are 30% lower than those made in Europe and the US.  

PTI
Nalco, IREL to set up ₹400 cr Titanium project in Orissa

Bhubaneswar: National Aluminium Co (Nalco) and Indian Rare Earths (IREL), a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy, will jointly set up a ₹400 crore titanium project in Orissa. The project will come up at Chatarpur in Ganjam district for making value-added products from beach sand minerals, which would subsequently be used for making titanium and allied products.

The MoU was signed between Nalco and IREL on Friday. Both PSUs will float a joint venture company with IREL holding 51% stake and Nalco, the remaining 49%. "We propose to produce titanium and export. The JV will buy raw materials from the IREL at market price", Nalco director (finance) BL Bagra on Saturday told ET. Titanium has a strategic importance for the country and is a key material used in space, aviation, nuclear, automobile, and paint industries. The country imports titanium to meet huge demand for this product as there is not a single project in the country. — Our Bureau
A tusker park gets quiet burial for a coal mine

Chhattisgarh Clears Mining In No-Go Area

Supriya Sharma [TN]

Korba: The Chhattisgarh government first shrunk a proposed elephant reserve, then delayed notifying it and shelved it quietly to clear the way for coal mining in a virgin forest, documents show.

With the prime minister creating a ministerial committee to resolve the coal vs forest tussle over no-go areas, the trajectory of this aborted elephant reserve holds important insights, particularly since it falls in Hasdeo Arand, a contentious no-go area for miners.

In a rare burst of unity in March 2005, the Chhattisgarh assembly had passed a unanimous resolution seeking Central approval for two elephant reserves to halt the growing man-animal conflicts caused by elephants from neighbouring Orissa and Jharkhand. One of them was the Lemru reserve in Korba district.

"The people of the state cannot sustain the pressure of such a large number of elephants for long. Urgent steps are needed," said a letter from the state government to the Centre in 2005.

On October 5, 2007, the ministry of environment and forests gave its consent to two elephant reserves — Lemru in Korba (450 sq km) and Badalkhol-Tamarpingla in Jashpur and Sarguja (1288 sq km).

When it did not hear back from the state government for a year, it sent a reminder: "The ministry has been providing assistance to the state under Project Elephant to the tune of Rs 70-80 lakh in anticipation of the declaration of the reserves. It is, therefore, requested to urgently notify the same," the letter said.

There was still no response. Concerned at the escalating delay, a Korba-based environmental NGO, Sarthak, petitioned the central empowered committee (CEC), asking it to direct Chhattisgarh to expedite notification of the reserves. The CEC’s July 2009 notice to the state government was ignored. In August 2010, MoEF released Gajah, the report of the elephant task force, which listed the two reserves of Chhattisgarh, although with a rider: "Approved by Govt of India, not yet notified by the state."

As it now emerges, this assumption was wrong. The state government had quietly struck Lemru off the list, as revealed in internal correspondence of the state forest department, seen by TOI.

In a letter of July 20, 2009, Kaushalendra Singh, state forest secretary, informed the chief conservator that the government would continue work on Badalkhol, Samersot and Tamarpingla reserves. No other reserve would be made at any other location.

Activists shocked, P 16
Shelving of park plan shocks green groups

Continued from P1

Cues to why the state let the reserve die can be found in an exchange of letters between the government and the state unit of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

On 5 February 2008, CII state chief wrote to the forest department, “The area in and around the (elephant) sanctuary has been established to be coal bearing. The proposed sanctuary, if finalized, will block at least 40 million tonne per annum of coal production.”

The letter gave details of coal blocks that had been allocated, requesting the forest department to shift the sanctuary to another location.

While the department did not shift the sanctuary, it reduced its area from 450 to 332 sq km. The six forests compartments it excluded, incidentally were exactly those allocated to a coal mining consortium.

By April 2008, the area of the reserve was further pruned to just 285 sq km. But realizing that even a shrunk elephant reserve in Korba might pose a threat to future coal clearances, the government finally shelved the entire proposal.

Industry lobbies have been influencing governments both at the Centre and in the state. Chhattisgarh government quietly sacrificed both the concerns of tribal people and conservation to suit the needs of companies,” said Sudip Srivastava, lawyer and activist.

The decision to drop Lemru was never made public. Asked about the reserves, Yunus Ali, special forest secretary, said, “They are under consideration. A final decision has not been taken.” But he added, “Lemru reserve has been excluded.”

Green groups are shocked. “Last year when the chief minister visited Korba, he evaded a direct reply on the pending notification of the reserve,” said Laxmi Chauhan, director of Surthak. The reluctance of the state government to go public with the exclusion of Lemru reserve perhaps stems from its potential political fallout.
एक ही झटके में ₹500 किलो तक लुड़की चांदी

₹145 दूर्टकर ₹20535 पर पहुंचा सोना

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NALCO signs MoU with IREL

BHUBANESWAR, 15 JAN: National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a PSU under the department of atomic energy, for making value-added products from beach sand minerals.

The final product would subsequently be used for making titanium and allied products. The MoU was signed between two Central PSUs in the presence of directors and senior officers of both the companies, here yesterday. The project is estimated to cost Rs 400 crore and is planned to be set up at Chhatrapur in Ganjam district of Orissa. Titanium has a strategic importance for the country and is a key material used in space, aviation, nuclear, automobile and paint industries. pti
कितना दम दिखाएगो मनमहन सिंह?

गुप-शाप
हरिभक्त काव्य

मन्महन सिंह के मिठाई ना देख पुलिसकर लोग सरकार की हंसती है। वर्तमान में एक नए मनमहन सिंह का नाम तथा दम दिखाएगो मनमहन सिंह का नाम बना है। इस वर्तमान में एक नए मनमहन सिंह का नाम तथा दम दिखाएगो मनमहन सिंह का नाम बना है। इस वर्तमान में एक नए मनमहन सिंह का नाम तथा दम दिखाएगो मनमहन सिंह का नाम बना है।

पंजाब के प्रमुख मनमहन सिंह के आलोक ने कहा कि आप नहीं देख पुलिसकर लोग सरकार की हंसती है। इस वर्तमान में एक नए मनमहन सिंह का नाम तथा दम दिखाएगो मनमहन सिंह का नाम बना है। इस वर्तमान में एक नए मनमहन सिंह का नाम तथा दम दिखाएगो मनमहन सिंह का नाम बना है।

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