Mining disasters in Meghalaya

How many more deaths will it take to shake the Government of Meghalaya from its stupor and push it to pass the Meghalaya Mining and Minerals Act? Granted that the State Government led by its Chief Minister is fighting raging battles on several fronts, but should the Mining Minister, BM Lanong not have rushed to the disaster spot to get a first-hand account of the tragedy? At this point we wonder if things can be left to the wisdom of the state government only. It is high time people file public interest litigations to demand that coal mining be declassified from a cottage industry to a large scale, extractive activity that generates crore of rupees daily and which should therefore follow strict safety regulations. Coal mining in Meghalaya can by no stretch of imagination be called a cottage industry just because some politician made populist moves to win votes at one time. But who will inform the powers that be in Delhi? At this juncture the only way forward is judicial intervention. The fact that coal is still mined using archaic methods is inexcusable. And that miners are made to crawl like rats into the insides of the earth to earn their bread and then to die because there are no mine safety regulations is criminal. Where mining is concerned the State Government has completely failed to regulate the process and rein in the rapacious miners for whom greed know no bounds. We have always known that human lives are expendable in the coal mines but this is the rare occasion when the issue has got the limelight it deserves because it involves 15 miners trapped in a hell hole.

That it takes a disaster relief team from Assam to rush to the site for rescue operations also tells us that Meghalaya is totally unprepared to meet such mining disasters and yet this is a mineral rich state! Somebody somewhere has to be made accountable. The mine owners’ names should be made public and they should adequately compensate the family members of the miners even though money will never compensate for human life. Mining can no longer be allowed to be a privately conducted laissez faire, all for profit business. The Government has to immediately come out with its Mining Policy and implement it to the letter. The mafia raj cannot co-exist with the rule of law. It has to be one or the other. Civil society and individual activists have been clamouring for the Mining Policy but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears. This is an opportunity for civil society to take the Government to task.
मानसून के सीजन में कॉपर की खपत घटने का अनुमान

रुपये की कमजोरी से कॉपर के मूल्य में 15 फीसदी की तेजी

विज्ञापन भाषक • नई वित्तीय

अमेरिकी कॉपर के मुक्कल्ले रुपए कमजोर होने से कॉपर को आयात कम हो गया है। अमेरिका में 50 फीसदी के बाजार में इसके प्रमुख विक्रेताओं में 15 फीसदी तक जुड़ गए हैं।

इस दौरान बंधुत्व बाजार में कॉपर का भाव 454 रुपये से बढ़कर 520 रुपये प्रति किलो के स्तर पर पहुंच गया है। लेकिन इसका मांग कमजोर 30 फीसदी तक कम हो गया है। मानसून का सीजन आने पर कॉपर की खपत में कमी आ जाती है।

कारोबारियों के मुताबिक कॉपर की मांग में और कमी आने के आस पास है।

दिल्ली के ब्रीडर केनेडी में अमेरिकन एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष सूचना उद्योग ने बताया कि विशेष रूप से बढ़ी गई मांग के लिए गूंगो के मुक्कल्ले रुपए कमजोर होने के कारण कॉपर के आयात में कमी आई है।

कॉपर का आयात मोड़कर 50 फीसदी से भी कम रह गया है। ऐसे में बंधुत्व बाजार में कॉपर की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। कॉपर मांग कमजोर होने के कारण इसके खपत कम हो गई है।

उन्होंने बताया कि इसके कॉपर की मांग में कम से कम 30 फीसदी तक की गिद्दाहट आई है। लोन मैंनून एक्स्पाउंज में सेल्वक को तीन मह दिल्ली की कॉपर का भाव 7,640 रुपए प्रति टन था, जो एक मह 7,545 रुपए प्रति टन था। इसलिए विशेष रूप से कॉपर के मुक्कल्ले रुपए कमजोर होने व बढ़कर के समय बढ़ी जमीन में मांग घटने से कॉपर के मूल्य में पिछले दो सप्ताह से पहली दर्जे की जा रही है।

शेरार दामों कमजोर होने के प्रभाव से मुक्कल्ले रुपए कॉपर के संकट को लेकर अमेरिकी वैश्विक इंडेक्स के कोर्सिस्टों ने बताया कि अपनी ही दिल्ली में फ्रीडम की लोकतांत्रिक देशों से बेस में रूपांतरण की कीमतों में चेज आने की संभावना बनाकर सकती है।
नंद को बलनदीता अवार्ड

शक्ति कंपनी एनयूएमडीसी के निदेशक एक नंद को अभिलेख नंदा नेशनलियन मॅगजीनिंग इंजीनियर अवार्ड 2011 अवार्ड से पुरस्कृत किया गया है। नंद को यह अवार्ड सन 2010-11 के लिए मिला है।

यह अवार्ड मॅगजीनिंग इंजीनियरिंग एक्सपोजिशन की तरफ से नंद को दिया गया है। यह अवार्ड नए तरीके के प्राप्ति तथा स्थानीय नंद के अपनी कला की सुस्पष्ट हिंदी का कार्यकाल ने मॅगजीनिंग इंजीनियरिंग की इंडस्ट्री से की थी।

डैनिक जग्रान, दिल्ली
तर्डन, 17 जुलाई 2012, पृष्ठ: 12
विचल: 8.89 विचल: 3.98 विचल, रिफ: pmin.2012-07-17.65.181
नंद को बालदोता मेमोरियल अवार्ड

वहाँ दिल्ली। राजनीतिज्ञ के निम्नलिखित एक नंद को आंदोलन बालदोता मेमोरियल अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया। नाइनोंगरा इंडियन सर्किट अफ इंडिया की और से नंद को यह अवार्ड 2010-11 के लिए 'नाइनोन ऑफ द ईयर' के रूप में दिया गया। यह अवार्ड किसी की नाइनोंगरा इंडियन सर्किट की और से एक स्ट्रीट में उस्मानीय विदेश अवार्ड के लिए प्रदान किया जाता है।
Maharashtra PSU, NTPC Ltd. bagged 3rd rank in India's Best Companies to Work For 2012 by The Great Place to Work and The Economic Times, in a glittering award ceremony in Mumbai on Friday. With this, NTPC reaffirms as one of the very best Employers in India. NTPC has also been ranked first amongst PSUs, 1st amongst large organizations (more than 10,000 employees) and 1st amongst manufacturing and production industries. SP Singh, Director (HR) and S Roy, Executive Director (HR), NTPC Ltd. received the award.

NK Nanda, Director of NMDC, is conferred with Abheraj Baldota Memorial Award 'Mining Engineer of the Year' for 2010-11 by Mining Engineers Association of India in its Annual General Meeting held on Friday at Ahmedabad. The award is given every year in recognition of meritorious contribution to the mining industry by a Mining Engineer. NK Nanda a graduate and postgraduate in Mining Engineering from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad started his career as Mining Engineer in Hindustan Copper Limited and made considerable impact in successful management of its Malanjkhand mine.
Centre's reply on pleas against mining verdict sought

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's response on a host of petitions filed by mining companies and the Karnataka government, seeking review of the 2010 apex court verdict directing the State to consider within four months the pleas of companies vying for lease of iron ore mines in the Kumaraswamy range.

A bench of justices P Sathasivam and H L Dattu allowed a plea of Attorney General G E Vahanvati, seeking a chance to present the Centre's point of view in the matter. "We were never heard in the matter," the government's top law officer said. The bench allowing the plea posted the matter for further hearing for September 4. It also directed different parties to file their counter affidavits by then.

JSW Steel Ltd, Kalyani Steels, the Karnataka government and others had approached the apex court with the review petitions.

DH News Service
Nanda gets Abheraj award

NK Nanda, director of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) was conferred with Abheraj Baldota Memorial Award 'Mining Engineer of the Year' for 2010-11 by Mining Engineers Association of India on 13 July, at Ahmadabad. The award is given every year in recognition of meritorious contribution to the mining industry by a mining engineer.
Consultant for aluminium plan soon

In an aim to achieve optimal growth in the aluminium sector, the mines ministry will shortly appoint a consultant to prepare a National Aluminium Plan. "Eight consultancy firms had responded to the expression of interest we sought earlier. We have shortlisted five among them and they have made detailed presentation to us on May 7. They are being evaluated for selecting the one which will help us to prepare the Plan," Mines Secretary Vishwapati Trivedi said.
मेधात्म वनन एल्यू मैनुक्लियर

प्रिय सरकारियों, ग्रामीणों और समाज,

जिन्होंने केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वनन एल्यू मैनुक्लियर के लिए उपलब्ध किया गया है,

वनन एल्यू मैनुक्लियर उपकरण का उपयोग ग्रामीणों के लिए मुश्किलों को कम करने के लिए किया जा सकता है। इस उपकरण का उपयोग अगले वर्ष की ग्रामीणों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता के लिए आयोजित किया जा सकता है।

(प्रमुख तथ्य)
खदान मालिकों की जवाबदेही
तथा करेली मेमालत सरकार

शिलांग, 16 जुलाई (भाषा)। मेमालत के दस्तकार गार्डर फरवरीमें जिले में कोस्मों को खदान में 15 खनिजों के लाभ तो जाने की आदेश घटना के बाद राज्य सरकार अब चाहती है कि जिन खदान मालिकों को उनके खदान में ऐसे घटनाओं के लिए विशेष तत्त्वावधान जारी किया। प्रदेश के उपमुख्यमंत्री और खनन व भूगोल विभाग के प्रशासनी मंत्री विद्यारथ मैथु ने कहा कि हम जाने हैं 55 विषय में कार्यकारी आदेश जारी करेंगे क्योकि सरकार पूरे राज्य में खनन क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा प्रतिक्रियाएं के साथ भरे पिंडित हैं। 55 व्यक्ति से इन खानों में काम करने वाले हासिल खनिजों को जाने का समय लगना पड़ रहा है।

खनिजों को पुनरुत्थान शाले राज्य में अपने कोई खनन नीति नहीं है और खनन के मालिक अपनी मनमानी से कोचशा का लाभ जानकारी की सूची करते हैं। खनिजों के अनुसार, खनन के क्षेत्र में 15 खनिजों को ऐसे घटनाओं के लिए विशेष तत्त्वावधान जारी करेंगे क्योंकि इस मिशन में बचावकम्यों के समान ही खतरे उत्पन्न हो गए थे। करें 200 घंटे तक खनिजों के घरों में आक्रोश कारण नहीं पलटने के बाद जिला प्रशासन ने कहा कि खदान में अनेक संगठन के जीवित होने की उम्मीद खाने हो गई है।

दस्तकार गार्डर फरवरीमें जिले में उपयुक्त – बारे में राज्य में कहा कि खदान में अनेक अन्य खनिजों की अधिक स्रोतों में सफलता मिलती है तो यह किसी चमककर से जम नहीं होगा।
‘Cap Iron Ore Mining in Goa at 25 mt a Yr’

MEERA MOHANTY

NEW DELHI

A panel of experts has recommended capping iron ore mining in Goa between 20 and 25 million tonnes a year for the next five years, nearly half of what the state produces and exports today. But the committee wants another high-powered committee to arrive at a more ‘evidence-based’ threshold limit for mining in the state.

“We don’t want any figure to be taken as sacrosanct,” said Raghunath Anant Mashelkar who chaired the Goa Golden Jubilee Development Council. The panel recently submitted its roadmap up to 2035 for Goa. The mining threshold was recommended by a sub group on environment and sustainable development, led by ecologist, Madhav Gadgil. “It was agreed that a vision document might not be the place for a very rigid ceiling,” agreed Gadgil.

As mining is a big contributor to the state’s coffers, Mashelkar said a ceiling on mining should be arrived at by a dedicated committee that considers environment as well as economic and trade parameters.

This, along with stronger evidence-based method and greater stakeholder engagement, will be more acceptable, he added.

The 20-25 million tonnes threshold is based on a detailed TERI exercise that covered mining in the state but showed adverse impact on air quality, agricultural output, loss of land and water pollution, and recorded people’s dissatisfaction, even when volumes stood at 17 mt in 1997.

“Given that output by 2011 had crossed 50 mt with no evidence of improved practices, and considerable evidence of stress when we visited the mining regions in 2011, it was possible to conclude that there was need of a cap on fresh mining and another on dump mining as both had different types of impact,” Lipta Noronha, resource economist at TERI and a key member of the panel.

Both Gadgil, as chairperson, and Noronha were part of the Western Ghat’s Committee which has recommended that mining be phased out in five years in the most ecologically sensitive pockets of the Ghat. It has, however, left it to the respective states and local institutions to draw the boundaries of these zones.

The ceiling on mining does not, however, cover Goa’s notorious dumps,
Nalco in Talks for Indonesian Smelter

RAKHIMAZUMDAR
KOLKATA

National Aluminium Company (Nalco) has joined the fray along with a clutch of Japanese firms to operate a 2.25 lakh-tonne smelter unit in Indonesia, said sources close to the development. Talks are on between Nalco and the Indonesian government on a range of options, including picking up a stake or operating Indonesia’s Ahsan Aluminium (Inalum).

For Nalco, which is investing in a thermal power plant and a smelter in the south Asian country, the latest development is part of a strategic move to integrate its business plan in the country. The state-owned aluminium major could well be the latest in a growing list of Indian companies venturing into Indonesia.

Nalco has already made a detailed presentation to a cabinet committee in Indonesia highlighting plans for its growth. When contacted, a senior Nalco official said the proposal is in its early stages.

“We have submitted a proposal to the Indonesian government to get associated with Inalum. However, we are yet to hear from them. It depends entirely on the Indonesian government whether they will offer Nalco part or full equity in Inalum. If it works out, the deal to acquire the company could be worth close to Rs 8,000 crore,” he said.

In recent times, many top companies have flocked to Indonesia to start businesses. “The country’s attractiveness as an investment destination for Indian companies rests on three pillars. Its 250 million-plus population with a 6.5% GDP growth rate makes it a strong consumer goods market,” said Prakash Subramaniam KV, Managing Director and Head-GLOBAL Markets, Standard Chartered Bank, Jakarta.
No Illegal Mining in Forest Areas of Goa: Minister

PANJIM: Goa on Monday told the assembly that there was no illegal mining in forest areas of the state and 26 mining leases were operating that were sanctioned after environmental clearance. State forest and environment minister Alina Saidanha told the assembly that “there is no illegal mining being carried out in the forest areas”. The list given on the floor of the House mentioned that there are 26 mining leases, which are operated by state’s mining giants, including VM Salgaoncar & Bros, Sociedade Timblo Irmão and Talaulicar & Sons.
Gold declines on speculation dollar will gain

Bloomberg
July 16

Gold declined in London on speculation Europe’s debt crisis will strengthen the dollar, curtailing demand for the metal as an alternative investment.

Bullion for immediate delivery fell 0.4 per cent to $1,584.30 an ounce by 1211 a.m. in London. August-delivery futures were 0.5 per cent lower at $1,584 on the COMEX in New York.

Gold at the morning fixing, used by some mining companies to sell output, declined to $1,584 in London from $1,595.80 in the afternoon on July 13.

Hedge funds and other money managers cut their bets on higher gold prices by 18 per cent in the week ended July 10, US Commodity Futures Trading Commission data show.

Gold has been pulled and pushed on the back of expectations of further quantitative easing and remains under pressure from the stronger dollar, Ms Suki Cooper, an analyst at Barclays Plc in New York, wrote in a report.

Silver for immediate delivery fell 0.7 per cent to $27.14 an ounce. Palladium declined 1.1 per cent to $578.65 an ounce.

Platinum was down 0.7 per cent at $1,420.72 an ounce.

BULLION RATES


Chennai: Bar silver (1 kg): Rs 51,835; retail silver (1 gm): Rs 55.50; standard gold (for 10 gm): Rs 29,390; retail ornament gold (22 carat a gm): Rs 2,748.
Euro Zone debt worries weigh on copper

Reuters
London, July 16

Copper edged lower on Monday as a weak euro and worries over the Euro Zone debt crisis weighed, and as investors grew concerned over whether a presentation by the US Federal Reserve chairman this week would yield any clues on monetary easing.

Recent data showed China's economic growth slowed for a sixth successive quarter to 7.6 per cent in April to June.

The number met market forecasts, however, offering investors some relief.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange was untraded in official midday rings but last bid down 0.78 per cent to $7,658 a tonne.

Prices had rallied 1.9 per cent to a one-week high at $7,730 on Friday on relief over the Chinese growth data.

In other metals traded, battery material lead traded down 0.64 per cent at $1,868 a tonne, zinc, used in galvanizing was last bid down 0.93 per cent at $1,856.50, while aluminium was last bid down 0.94 per cent to $1,892.

Soldering metal tin was last bid down 0.19 at $18,745 a tonne, while stainless-steel ingredient nickel fell 0.83 per cent to $16,065.

Also weighing on copper, the euro hovered near a two-year low versus the dollar, exacerbated by a report suggesting a change in the European Central Bank's stance on how some bondholders could be treated under Spain's bank bailout.

A weak euro makes dollar-priced metals costlier for European investors.

"Commodities have been very much affected by the euro, and from the physical markets standpoint, we're going through a quiet period. The next couple of months will not be easy for commodities, we're looking for a meaningful recovery in price in the fourth quarter," Kavallis at RBS said.

Data out on Friday showed copper inventories in warehouses monitored by the Shanghai Futures Exchange rose 3.7 per cent from a week ago to their highest since late May.

Unreported bonded warehouse stocks are also said to be high.

Hedge funds and money managers meanwhile increased their net short position in copper to 4,813 contracts in the week to July 10, data showed on Friday.
Whistle-blower in the Chandrapur mining scam suspended

Staff Reporter

NAGPUR/CHANDRAPUR: The Talathi (village official) of the Baranj village in Chandrapur district, Vinod Khobragade, who imposed a fine of Rs.32 crore on the Karnataka Emia Coal Mines Limited (KECML) for alleged illegal mining and accused the top district officials including the district collector of involvement in scam, was suspended on Monday.

"I have been suspended from service without even a show cause notice. They have suspended me for providing information to the media about the illegal mining scam in Chandrapur," Mr. Khobragade told The Hindu over phone.

Meanwhile, the villagers of Baranj have come out in support of Mr. Khobragade. "Whatever the Talathi is doing is absolutely right," Mira Parachake, the Sarpanch of the Baranj village, told The Hindu. "Due to this mining project, we are being forcibly rehabilitated," she said.

"The mining area is coming very near to the village. The government should rehabilitate us first and then it should allow the mining in the region," Sandip Randive, the Gramsevak of Baranj told The Hindu. "You can see the mining area is coming near the school in the village. Due to these mining activities, if the school building suffers damage, then who will be responsible for it," asks Mr. Randive.

But the KECML has refuted the allegations of illegal mining and forced rehabilitation. "All this is just to tarnish the image of the company on some baseless data. The allegations are baseless," Mr. Khobragade wanted to blackmail us and when he couldn't, he started this entire campaign," Arun H Jagare, the vice president of the KECML told The Hindu. "We are working as per the rules. We have acquired the land as per the process, which includes Baranj village.

Mr. Khobragade has denied the "blackmailing" allegations of KECML. "I have been making noise about the illegal mining for more than a year now. I complained to the tehsil dar and the district collector but received no response. When I asked them about the fine that I had slammed on KECML under the Right to Information Act (RTI), I was told that such information could not be provided under the RTI," said Mr. Khobragade.

The Talathi also sought permission from the district administration to go to the High Court about the illegal mining, but he has not yet been granted it.

"But now that they have suspended me, I am free to go to the High Court," says Mr. Khobragade.

But some of the documents accessed by The Hindu shows that the Baranj villagers did give their consent to a rehabilitation plan. The rehabilitation contract dated April 3, 2012, has Ms. Parachake's signature on it.

The Baranj Gramsevak accepted that the villagers had signed the contract with the company.

"But the Gramsabha voted against the contract in May this year, which makes the contract null and void" Mr. Randive told The Hindu. "But the KECML refused to accept the Gramsabha decision and continued with the mining," he said.

One villager told this correspondent that even according to the contract, the company should employ 80 per cent of villagers in the mining work, but most of the workers are outsiders in the company.
Nalco in ₹8,000 crore Indonesian buy buzz

Aluminum producer Nalco is in talks to buy Indonesia’s Ashan Aluminium (Inalum) for up to ₹8,000 crore, in what could be the largest overseas acquisition by state-owned metal firm, PTI reported. A Japanese consortium holds 99% stake in Inalum, which owns a 2.1 lakh tonne-capacity aluminum plant in North Sumatra province while the rest is with Indonesian government. Sources privy to the development said the licence of the Japanese consortium to run the firm is coming to an end next year and Indonesian government has invited the Indian flagship firm for discussions.
सोने की टैरिफ बैल्यू 506 डॉलर तय

नई दिल्ली • सरकार ने सोना और चांदी के टैरिफ बैल्यू में बदलाव किया है। वेस्टइंडीज और ब्रेटन लिवर्ड कोड (ब्रेटवर्डी) द्वारा 16 जुलाई को जारी अधिसूचना के अनुसार सोने पर टैरिफ बैल्यू 506 डॉलर प्रति 10 ग्राम के आधार पर और चांदी पर टैरिफ बैल्यू 866 डॉलर प्रति किलो के आधार पर लगाया। पूंजीवाल ब्रेट 18 टैरिफ बैल्यू 4,070 डॉलर प्रति टन (भिन्न अंग्रेज़ी) के आधार पर लगाया।

इसके अलावा फोल्डरना पर टैरिफ बैल्यू 5,611 डॉलर प्रति टन के आधार पर लगाया। अधिसूचना के अनुसार ब्रेट तेल, अर्थवाडी प्राम पेल, अन्य प्राम तेल, ब्रेट प्रामलीन, अर्थवाडी प्रामलीन, अन्य प्रामलीन और ब्रेट सेमेंट टेल के टैरिफ बैल्यू में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। (एमसी)