

Mining affects milch cows in Chitradurga district

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CHITRADURGA: Reckless mining has cast an adverse effect on dairy farming in the district. Seven milk co-operative societies have shut down owing to drastic decline in milk yield.

The ill-effects of mining on cattle and dairy farming have been detailed in a report submitted by the district administration to the committee appointed by the Supreme Court to suggest reclamation and restoration measures in mining-ravaged areas.

Mining was rampant in Chitradurga, Hosadurga and Ho-



A mining area near Lakkehalli in Hosadurga taluk, Chitradurga district. DH PHOTO

lalkere taluks. Cattle are found to have developed infertility due of lack of natural fodder, and consumption of contaminated water. Mining has consumed large swathes of land,

CBI grills Reddy aides

The CBI, probing into illegal mining in Bellary, on Friday, interrogated STD Manjunath Swastik and Nagaraj, both close associates of former minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, reports *DHNS* from Bellary.

The investigation agency had asked the two to appear for inquiry in connection with their alleged involvement in illegal mining purported to have been carried out by the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) and Associated Mining Company (AMC). Both were grilled at the Gymkhana Guest House. The CBI, a few days ago, had raided the residences of Manjunath and Nagaraj at Sandur and Hospet.

thus depriving animals of even a grazing space. High concentration of manganese and other hazardous minerals has robbed the soil of its fertility. Fodder has become scarce as lands have

been dug up indiscriminately for mining. Lack of food has led to anaemia and consequent decline in milk yield in the cattle, according to the report.

Milk co-operative societies in Kadleguddu, Kodagavalli, Singapura in Chitradurga taluk, and those in Dandigenahalli, Ganjigatte, Gyarehalli and Garaga of Hosadurga taluk have been shut down owing to shortage of milk, depriving a steady source of income to hundreds of farmers.

The report also states that destruction of forests has led to straying of wild animals into human habitation.

DH News Service

Prices of iron ore on the rise in Karnataka

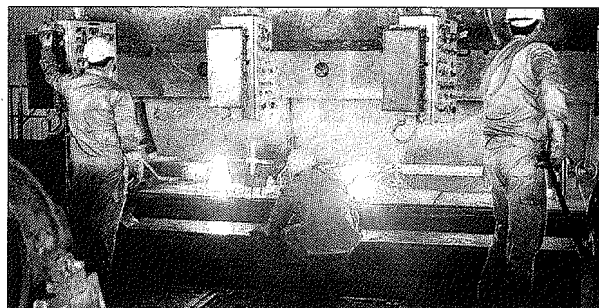
Manufacturers looking at sourcing the mineral from other states

NEW DELHI: Ore-starved iron and steel manufacturers in Karnataka have started looking at sourcing the mineral from other states like Odisha and Jharkhand, as the prices of the raw material in the southern state, sold through e-auction route, are hitting the roof.

The trend was visible in the last round of auctions held on last Friday and Saturday, where about 59 per cent of the offered

quantity of ore remained unsold as prices touched as high as Rs 3,900 per tonne for 62 per cent grade of ore, industry sources said. The high prices were witnessed against a base price of Rs 2,010 per tonne for the 57-per cent grade to a base price of Rs 2,750 per tonne for 62-per cent grade of ore, the sources added.

The Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee had put on offer 8,76,000



Iron and steel industries in Karnataka are facing acute shortage of ore.

tonnes of ore, having iron content of 55 to 62 per cent, for the auctions. Of this, only

3,64,000 tonnes of ore found buyers due to higher prices, the sources said.

“Bringing iron ore from Jharkhand or Odisha has at least assured supply. But here in Karnataka, no one knows when they would get the delivery of ore, bought in e-auctions due to logistical issues.

“For example, our purchase of ore was about 3.2 lakh tonnes since the beginning of the auctions on September 14 but the delivery has been little over 30,000 tonnes of ore,” said an official of BMM Ispat, which runs a sponge iron unit of 7.5 lakh tonnes a year capacity. The official, who requested anonymity, said ore in Jharkhand is avail-

able at about Rs 4,200 per tonne, including the transportation cost of Rs 2,200, but the supplies would be timely.

On the other hand, “cost in Karnataka, bought through e-auctions, comes to about Rs 3,200 per tonne after paying all taxes and transportation cost, but it is marred by huge delays,” the BMM Ispat official said.

Senior JSW Steel official said sky-rocketing prices are deterring the local industry from participating in the bidding rounds and companies are now exploring options like transporting it from Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand.

Since August, iron and steel industries in Karnataka have been facing acute shortage of the ore following a mining ban imposed by the Supreme Court in the state. To resolve the crisis, the apex court had allowed e-auction of 2.5 million tonnes of iron ore per month from the mines in Karnataka, including of state-run NMDC.

JSW bought only about 76,000 tonnes in the last round of auctions at a premium of over 30 per cent, which was less than 9 per cent of the total quantity on the offer, the official said.

PTI

“Amend laws for greater share of mining revenue to States”

NEW DELHI: Chhattisgarh on Saturday suggested amendment of existing laws to ensure that major parts of mining revenue flows to State governments instead of the Centre and said the present legal framework is not doing justice to mineral-rich States.

In a speech read out in his absence at the 56th National Development Council meet, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh said, “The present legal framework is not doing justice to mineral-owning States and mineral-bearing areas that are deprived of agriculture and agro-based activities.”

Suggesting ways to achieve more inclusive development, Dr. Singh said, “Mines and minerals law should be appropriately amended to ensure that major part of mining revenue flows to the mineral-owning States and mineral-bearing areas instead of Central Government.”

Dr. Singh presented the revenue and royalty figures accrued to the State in the present fiscal from mining activities.

“A large area of Chhattis-

“Out of profit of Rs. 9717 crore of NMDC in 2010-11, Chhattisgarh received only Rs. 932 crore as royalty”

garh is mineral-bearing containing coal, iron ore, lime and bauxite... Out of profit of Rs. 9717 crore of NMDC in 2010-11, the State Government received only Rs. 932 crore as royalty whereas as amount of over Rs. 5000 crore went to the Central exchequer,” he said.

To encourage market competition, he stressed on the need to further develop existing industrial clusters and focus on establishment of food processing industries.

Pointing out that Chhattisgarh has 56 per cent of its area classified as reserved and protected forests, Dr. Singh said, “The States maintaining forests in excess of national target should be compensated by the Centre and centrally-sponsored schemes should be

continued to facilitate conservation and promotion of natural resources.”

He said the country has an actual forested area of 19.3 per cent while the national target is of 33 per cent.

Pointing out that Naxalism has been posing as a hurdle in implementation of developmental schemes, Dr. Singh said the pace of inclusive growth has not been up to the expected levels in Chhattisgarh.

“Pace of inclusive growth has not been to the expected levels. Main reasons for this have been higher inflation, State’s special geographical features and difficulties faced in implementation of developmental schemes in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas,” he said.

In spite of all-round efforts made over the past 10 years, Chhattisgarh continues to lag behind the national level in terms of development and social indicators, Dr. Singh said.

Dr. Singh said despite the economic and social backwardness inherited by Chhattisgarh, it has achieved a growth of 9.3 per cent during

the 10th Five Year-Plan and during the four year-period of 11th Plan, a growth rate of 9.71 per cent is estimated to have been achieved against the target of 8.6 per cent.

Asking for a greater flexibility and freedom to States in formulating plan schemes, Dr. Singh said, “The practice for development planning needs to be changed, and region and State specific plans befitting regional potential and needs should be formulated.” On development of naxal-affected areas in Chhattisgarh, he said, “The Integrated Action Plan put in place for the LWE-affected areas needs to be extended to the entire Scheduled Areas and for this purpose, development block should be the unit instead of district.”

Mentioning that the financial autonomy of States will be adversely affected by the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill, Dr. Singh said, “The Bill regarding Goods and Services Tax should be passed only after reaching a consensus between Centre, States and other stakeholders.” - PTI