AP lost Rs 1 lakh crore by gifting 3,000 acres to Gali

Land was given for airport to be used by Gali's company

Hyderabad: A massive 3000-acre allotment for the jailed mining baron Gali Janardhana Reddy tops the amount of land the Andhra Pradesh government had gifted away to private companies causing a loss of Rs 1 lakh crore to the state exchequer, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed.

The government had given away 88,492 acres to 1,027 private parties between 2006 and 2011, with the allocation of land for Gali brothers for an airport by the YSR government coming under serious scrutiny.

Disregarding the fact that a commercial airport was being proposed at Kadapa, the Reddy government went out of its way to offer land for the Gali brothers at Jammalamadugu which was just 50 km away from the proposed airport.

While the land earmarked for the proposed airport was only 600 acres, the government offered an incredible 3,115.64 acres for the mining baron and his brothers for the airport and flying academy, the CAG has pointed out in a report tabled in the state assembly on Thursday.

The report stated that the YSR government in March 2008 allotted land at Ambavaram Village at Jammalamadugu block in Kadapa district to the Brahmani Industries Limited floated by the Reddy brothers for a throw-away price of Rs25,000 per acre.

The airport, which was intended for captive use by Gali's steel plant, was also to be used for commercial operations. For the steel plant, the government had made another allotment of 10,760.66 acres in June 2007 at a rate of Rs18,000 per acre.

While such an allotment is against the existing GOI regulations (which do not allow commercial airports under private management), the site had also been rendered unsuitable by authorities for airports, the CAG noted. More over, the land had been originally allocated for Scheduled Tribe farmers and a petition of an individual claiming ownership is pending before a Kadapa district judge.

The CAG also mentioned that the state government had gone ahead with the allotment despite being cautioned by the chief commissioner of land administration against commissioning a second airport in the area.

The government also provided 304.66 acres to Reddy brothers at Obulapuram village in Anantapur district for their mining venture.

The Obulapuram Mining Company that handled the mining business occupied land allotted for the landless without proper authorisation.

This way, the state had given 88,500 acres to private companies at an estimated loss of Rs 1 lakh crore to the exchequer.

CAG has highlighted irregularities in the deals with Vanpic, Obulapuram Mining Company and Aurobindo Pharma, which are already under the CBI scanner in the Jagan assets case.

"The audit found that land allotments for commercial purposes were not made in a fair, consistent and transparent manner so as to serve the public interest," the report observed. In 60 cases, alienation cost amounting to Rs 2,559 crore was not collected by the district collectors from the institutions to which land was allocated between 2003-04 and 2010-11, CAG said.

DH News Service
Another charge sheet against Srilakshmi in OMC case

IAS officer charged with deleting a word from govt order

HYDERABAD: The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday filed an additional charge sheet naming former Andhra Pradesh Secretary of Industries In-charge Mines, V Srilakshmi, in the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) case.

The CBI in its charge sheet termed the senior IAS officer accused number six and pointed out that the officer has intentionally deleted the word “captive” from the final Government Order, there by paving way for the OMC to mine the iron ores even before the company had built a steel plant to utilise it.

The agency further said the officer has used her position to benefit a particular company without any concern for the revenue to the exchequer.

The investigating agency submitted a 39-page charge sheet in special CBI court that includes 11 witnesses including the then Mining Minister P Sabita Indra Reddy and 14 sets of supporting documents.

The CBI had in December, 2011 filed the 186-page charge sheet against former Karnataka minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, B V Srinivasa Reddy, Managing Director OMCPL, V D Rajagopal, the then Director, Mines and Geology, Andhra Pradesh government; and late R Linga Reddy, the then Assistant Director Mines, and Geology, Anantapur.

The cases were filed under sections 120-B r/w 420 (Cheating), 409 , 468 (Forgery for the purpose of Cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document) of Indian Penal Code; Section 13(2) r/w 13 (1) (d) (Criminal Misconduct) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in Obulapuram mining case.

However, the CBI had not mentioned the name of Srilakshmi in the charge sheet, as the agency needed permission from the Centre and the collection of evidence against her was in progress.

DH News Service
Green tribunal nixes Posco project

NEW DELHI, 30 MARCH: The environment clearance granted to South Korean major Posco's proposed mega-steel project in Odisha was suspended by the National Green Tribunal today in another blow to the country's single largest foreign direct investment venture.

The tribunal directed the Union environment and forest ministry (MoEF) to review afresh the clearance for the long-delayed project and attach 'specific conditions' which Posco would have to follow in a 'defined timeline'. "The environment clearance granted on 31 January 2011 to the project shall remain suspended till such review and appraisal is done by the ministry," a Bench of the Tribunal comprising Mr Justice CV Ramanul and Mr Justice Devendra Kumar Agarwal held.

The tribunal's decision came just days after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in Seoul that the project will be implemented and there was progress on it.

Environment minister Mrs Jayanthi Natarajan did not think that the tribunal's decision is a setback to the project, seen in the light of the assurance by the PM. "I don't think the two things are connected," she said. She said her predecessor Mr. Jairam Ramesh, who granted the clearance to Posco, had followed "very strict and very transparent procedure and systems which have been put in place".

The tribunal pointed out that memorandum of understanding between the Odisha government and Posco states that the project is for production of 12 million ton of steel per annum (MTPA) but the environment impact assessment (EIA) report has been prepared only for 4 MTPA steel production in the first phase. It said the MoEF should take "policy decision" that in projects of such magnitude the EIA should be done for the complete project.

The Bench said appointment of Ms Meena Gupta as chairman of the committee to review the environmental clearance showed "departmental bias" as she had "supported" the clearance granted to Posco earlier during her tenure as the secretary, the MoEF. "The entire process was vitiated in the eyes of law," it said in this regard.
गर्मियों में कॉपर के घरेलू दाम सुधरने के आसार

पिछले एक पहाड़े में घरेलू बाजार में कॉपर के दाम दो फीसदी बढ़े।

विज्ञान भाषा के लाइनी

कॉपर के दाम गर्मियों के सीजन में और बढ़ने की संभावना है। पिछले एक पहाड़े के दौरान में कोपर दाम और आमर्ग-के-दाम की कीमत 10-12 रुपये (दो फीसदी) बढ़ गई है। गर्मियों में एकमात्र भारत के और भारत की तरफ़ से कॉपर दाम बढ़ जाती है। यहीं और इसके अंतर्गत विश्व के बाजार का जादुई इलाज होता है। विदेशी बाजार में भी कॉपर के मूल्य में बढ़कर की देखा जा रहा है। हालांकि भारत के कमजोर अभियंताओं के कारण विदेशी बाजार में मूल्य के मूल्य अवधारित तथा बढ़ रहा है। जब भारत का मेटल एलाम कॉपर में दूसरी मान्यता की कीमत 8.441 डॉलर प्रति टन के सतर पर पहुंच गया।

दहलू बाजार

दहलू बाजार में कॉपर की हार्मोनिज से कीमत 508 रुपये प्रति किलो की है जो 15 दिन पहले 485-495 रुपये प्रति किलो के सतर पर दिखा रहा था। इसी साल अभियंता की कीमत 12 रुपये प्रति किलो की हो गई है। स्थानीय कर्मचारियों की मांगे हो गईते हैं दहलू बाजार में आये बाजार में गांव की दाम से कॉपर की कीमत में ही उछला आई है। दहलू के डिल्रेट औद्योगिक के गोटे और क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षित मंदिर मुद्रा का उपयोग करने वाले कॉपर के आयोजन में तेजी हो गई है। दहलू के चारों ओर आर्टिफिलिक क्षेत्र में कॉपर के भौगोलिक उपभोक्ता संख्या में बढ़कर, वातावरण में सुरक्षित मुद्रा का उपयोग करने वाले कॉपर के आयोजन में ही उछला आई है।
Copper Traders Most Bearish in Two Months

Rising inventories, China’s lower growth target, Europe’s recession suggest sluggish demand

BLOOMBERG
LONDON

Copper traders are the most bearish in two months after stockpiles tracked by the biggest metals bourse rose for the first time in five weeks and Goldman Sachs Group cut its recommendation on commodities to neutral.

Eleven of 25 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg expect copper to drop next week, the highest proportion since January 6. Seven were neutral. Inventories reported by the London Metal Exchange rose 1.4% on March 27, the first gain since February 22. They retreated the following two days and rose again on Friday. Reserves in Shanghai’s bonded warehouses tripled since November and any strengthening in demand next quarter may be “tepid,” Barclays Capital said in a report March 20.

China is the biggest copper buyer, using two in every five tonnes, and Premier Wen Jiabao cut the nation’s growth target to 7.5% earlier this month, the lowest since 2004. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg anticipate a recession in Europe, which accounts for 18% of copper demand. That’s outweighing signs of an accelerating US expansion and paring this year’s rally in prices of as much as 15%.

“There is a disconnect between the physical and economic evidence coming out of China and what’s happening within the industrial metals,” said Jeremy Baker, who manages $6.5 billion of assets for the Bel vista Commodity Fund, part of the Ventobel Group in Zurich. “The US is improving, but the US is still a very small proportion of a total consumption equation for metals. We need to have some kind of a shakeout.”

COMMODITY RESEARCH
Copper fell 3.9% from this year’s peak of $8,785 a tonne on February 9, paring its advance to 11%, as the LME index of six industrial metals dropped 7.1%. The Standard & Poor’s GSCI gauge of 24 commodities climbed 6.5% this year and the MSCI All-Country World Index of equities added 11%. Treasuries lost 1%, a Bank of America index shows. Goldman’s commodity research team, led by Jeffrey Currie in London, reduced its three-month recommendation on raw materials to neutral from overweight on March 28. Prices already reached the bank’s targets and the economy will “soften” next quarter, they wrote in a report. They advised clients to remain overweight in commodities over a 12-month period.

Traders in China now have as much as 65,000 tonne in bonded warehouses in Shanghai, which are exempt from value-added tax and import duties, from 2,000 tonne in November, Barclays estimates. That coincided with a decline of about 46% in LME stockpiles since October, suggesting not all of the metal was actually consumed, bourse data show. Growth in Chinese copper demand will slow to 5.6% this year; from 7% in 2011, Barclays estimates.

European consumption will drop to 5.7 million tonne in 2012, from 7.8 million tonne last year, the bank predicts. The 17-nation euro economy will contract for three consecutive quarters through Commission data show. Of 18 economist estimates compiled by Bloomberg show.

Prices rallied this year on prospects for changes, with Barclays forecasting a deficit of 3,230,000 tonne, more than the 2,56,275 tonne left in LME-monitored warehouses. Mining companies have failed to keep up with global demand that jumpe Traders in China now have as much as 65,000 tonne in bonded warehouses in Shanghai, which are exempt from a value-added tax and import duties, from 2,000 tonne in November. about 38% in the past decade, according to Barclays.

Hedge funds and other money managers are getting more bullish, raising their bets on higher prices by 20% to 17,060 futures and options in the week ended March 20, Commodity Futures Trading Commission data show. That’s the biggest so-called net-long position since August, Goldman’s research team is forecasting a copper price of $8,900 in six months. Chinese growth of 7.5% would still be more than twice the anticipated expansion in the US, whose economy may gain 2.9% in the first quarter and 2.8% in the second, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said. But on Thursday North America accounts for 35% of copper demand, according to Barclays.

“Those willing to take a risk on Chinese growth, there is potential value in the base metals,” said Nick Brown, head of commodities research at Natixis Commodity Markets in London. “The market could be much tighter than people expect.”
Obulapuram case:
CBI charges
ex-Industries Secretary
Srilakshmi

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, March 30

The Central Bureau of Investigation has on Monday filed a supplementary chargesheet against former Secretary of Industries, Ms Y Srilakshmi, in the Obulapuram mining case.

The suspended IAS officer, who is in judicial remand, was charge sheeted for the offences of "criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct for causing wrongful gain to Obulapuram Mining Company," Mr H. Venkatesh, Superintendent of Police, CBI, said in a release.

The sanction for prosecution against Ms Srilakshmi was awaited from the competent.

The first chargesheet was filed in December which named five accused including the former Karnataka Minister, Mr Gali Janardhana Reddy, and the Managing Director of Obulapuram Mining Company.
Panel probing illegal mining may get more time

Our Bureau

New Delhi, March 30

The M.B. Shah Commission probing illegal mining in seven States may get a one-year extension, Mr. Viswapati Trivedi, Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, said.

The Commission was set to wind up on May 18. It has submitted a report on mining in Goa, readied a report on Odisha, and working on five more States including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Jharkhand.

To curb illegal mining, the Ministry has introduced online filing of monthly returns for mining firms.

At the launch of the e-filing system, Mr. Trivedi said mandatory online registration of mining firms ended on December 31, 2011.

The Indian Bureau of Mines has suspended the operation of 1,560 mines that did not register.

Mr. Trivedi added that all stakeholders in the mining sector, from the pit to end users, would be registered. This would “enable collection, generation and continuous monitoring of data to facilitate end-to-end accounting of all major minerals”, he said.

Calling for more transparency and accountability, Mines Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan said the names of the suspended mines should be posted on the IBMI Web site.
Deccan Gold shines as mining licence close to approval

Jayanta Mallick
Kolkata, March 30

The stock of Deccan Gold Mines Ltd (DGML) witnessed some glitter on Friday. Dalal Street expectations went up after a recent announcement suggesting that one of its mining licence applications was nearing approval stage.

The Re 1 and lone listed junior explorer in yellow metal finished up 2.59 per cent at Rs 19.80 on the BSE. It clocked volumes of 94,000 shares. The irregularly traded stock touched a high of Rs 22.40 early this month. Its 52-week peak of Rs 27.60 was seen in July last year.

According to DGML, to fast-track approval process, it has written to the Union Ministry of Mines and the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). Sources told Business Line that in an attempt to bridge the time gap in the long-drawn approval process, the company requested the ministry and IBM to sort out differences on the issue of categorisation of the resources of deposits.

The application relates to Ganapur, Main deposits in Haveri district of Karnataka. Consultants — SRK — classified mineral resources estimates under JORC code in February. The Ministry, however, still recognised resources estimation under UNFC guidelines.

Mining industry sources said categorisation under JORC code is accepted globally and the resource estimators internationally have stopped doing evaluation of deposits under UNFC guidelines.

The SRK’s Scoping Study demonstrated that at a sustainable gold price greater than $850/oz, the Ganapur Main Project has the potential to develop into a viable open-pit mining operation. “Additional in-fill and deep drilling planned for completion within 2012 has the potential to further improve project attractiveness.”

Deccan Exploration Services Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of DGML, was granted prospecting licence (PL) over an area of 2.2 sq. km by the Karnataka Government in 2009. The mining licence application for 9.39 sq. km has been recommended by the Karnataka Government.

The company promoter — Rama Mines Mauritius Ltd — currently holds 44.16 per cent stake. MSPL Ltd, an iron ore miner, has 20.09 per cent stake in DGML as an investor.

jayanta_mallick
@thehindu.co.in
Copper improves as stocks fall

Reuters

London, March 30

Copper gained on Friday and was on track for an 11 per cent gain in the first quarter of the year, supported by a weaker dollar and falling metal inventories in Asia, although fears persisted of weak demand in top consumer China.

Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) rose more than 1 per cent to trade at $8,441 in official rings, from $8,350 at the close on Thursday. Copper has been trading in a $8,100-8,800 range in the last few weeks as conflicting signals have been puzzling investors.

Underpinning prices, inventories of copper in warehouses monitored by the Shanghai Futures Exchange have also started to decline in the last two weeks.

In other metals, prices of zinc surpassed lead this month for the first time since September 2011, reversing their traditional relationship.

Three-month lead traded at $2,021 in rings from $1,995 and zinc at $2,010 from $2,005. Nickel traded at $17,500 from $17,150.

Tin was untraded in rings, but was bid at $23,095 from $22,700 while aluminium exchanged hands at $2,138 from $2,135.
Economic Times, Delhi
Saturday, 31st March 2012, Page: 12

width: 33.40 cms height: 17.82 cms, ref: pmin.2012-03-31.38.113

Press Information Bureau
New Delhi

Government of India

Tribunal Suspend Posco's Green Clearance

The move extends the South Korean steel maker's seven-year wait in setting up of a large steel plant

our political bureau

A green tribunal suspended Posco's environmental clearance for a mega steel plant on Friday, extending the South Korean steel maker's seven-year wait and delivering another warning of the many complexities involved in setting up a large manufacturing operation.

A bench of the National Green Tribunal comprising Justice V. K. Malhotra and expert member Dr. Anuradha Kumar suspended the final environmental clearance granted to the company by former union environment minister Jairam Ramesh in January 2011. "The environment clearance granted on 31 January 2011 to the project shall remain suspended till a fresh review, appraisal by the expert appraisal committees, and final decision by the environment ministry is completed," the tribunal ruled.

The move is a blow to India's attempts to placate foreign and domestic investors demanding removal of roadblocks to investment and speedy clearances for large projects such as steel and mining. Posco's agreement with the Odisha government was signed in 2005.

The tribunal's decision comes just days after prime minister Manmohan Singh assured South Korean investors that they don't have to worry about clearances and delays for their projects in the country.

"The government is keen to move forward with the POSCO project," Singh told the business leaders on Monday, according to news agency Reuters. "But I believe that India is a stable and profitable long-term investment opportunity. I urge Korean industry to have faith in India," he said.

"The judgement is directed towards the Tribunal Suspend Posco's Green Clearance

The move extends the South Korean steel maker's seven-year wait in setting up of a large steel plant

our political bureau

A green tribunal suspended Posco's environmental clearance for a mega steel plant on Friday, extending the South Korean steel maker's seven-year wait and delivering another warning of the many complexities involved in setting up a large manufacturing operation.

A bench of the National Green Tribunal comprising Justice V. K. Malhotra and expert member Dr. Anuradha Kumar suspended the final environmental clearance granted to the company by former union environment minister Jairam Ramesh in January 2011. "The environment clearance granted on 31 January 2011 to the project shall remain suspended till a fresh review, appraisal by the expert appraisal committees, and final decision by the environment ministry is completed," the tribunal ruled.

The move is a blow to India's attempts to placate foreign and domestic investors demanding removal of roadblocks to investment and speedy clearances for large projects such as steel and mining. Posco's agreement with the Odisha government was signed in 2005.

The tribunal's decision comes just days after prime minister Manmohan Singh assured South Korean investors that they don't have to worry about clearances and delays for their projects in the country.

"The government is keen to move forward with the POSCO project," Singh told the business leaders on Monday, according to news agency Reuters. "But I believe that India is a stable and profitable long-term investment opportunity for Korean industry to have faith in India," he said.

"The judgement is directed towards the
उत्तर प्रदेश के खानिज एवं फॉटोलियम मंत्री राजेंद्र परिक ने किसानों के साथ भाषण में कहा कि राष्ट्र सरकार रायगढ़ जिले में खानिज जीवनों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अपने मंत्रियों के साथ काम करता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि खानीज जीवनों को बेहतर करने के लिए रायगढ़ जिले में खानिज दोहन के लिए जीवनों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सरकार एवं खानिज जीवनों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अपने मंत्रियों के साथ काम करता है।

उन्होंने भी कहा कि खानिज जीवनों को बेहतर करने के लिए रायगढ़ जिले में खानिज जीवनों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सरकार एवं खानिज जीवनों को बेहतर बनाने के लिए अपने मंत्रियों के साथ काम करता है।