

MINING & INDUSTRIALISATION UPDATE

ORISSA

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION ON INDUSTRIES AND MINING IN ORISSA

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EDITORIAL

'Industrialization at any cost' has become the mantra of State Government and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI. All regulatory authorities have come together to clear industrial and mining projects even in ecologically and culturally sensitive areas. The State Government has signed 43 MoU's with various companies to establish Steel plant in the state, out of which 13 projects have been completed and nine companies have started their production. Apart from steel, a number of Thermal Power Plants are also cropping up in the State. Other companies like Neyvelli Lignite Corporation, Reliance energy; Vedanta and NTPC are also in the queue to set up power plants. On the whole, so far, Orissa has attracted investment proposals of an astronomical Rs 4,05,000 Crore. The steel sector has attracted investments of Rs 1,92,156 Crore. It is closely followed by proposals in power sector which total Rs 1,56,980 Crore and investment in the aluminum sector which is a substantial Rs 56,000 Crore.

We must realize that all this industrialization also has its social and economic costs. Companies who operate for higher profits and expanded markets seldom plan to address social and environmental costs. A sad fact in our country is that the common man lacks the will or the power to fight for his right to a healthy life. As a result, the violators of environmental laws continue to act with impunity. When the time comes for the industry to wind up, they simply dump their hazardous waste at the abandoned site. There are a large number of such abandoned sites in Orissa which spell doom for the community in vicinity. Recently, the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on Hazardous Waste visited Orissa and chided the Orissa State Pollution Control Board for their callousness and nonchalance in implementing the order of the apex court on construction of the transport, storage and disposal facility of pollutants (including a hazardous waste incinerator). The committee also expressed its deep concern over the mushrooming of a large number of Integrated Steel and Sponge Iron Units in the State and urged the Orissa State Pollution Control Board to lay restraint on such indiscriminate and liberal grant of NOCs to these polluting units.

Can depletion of resources and environmental costs be brushed aside? Where will all this rampant mining and industrialization lead us to? Although there is a possibility of discovering new reserves, this possibility is shrouded by a realm of uncertainty. Can mining our natural resources till they are completely exhausted to fulfill the needs of international markets be termed as 'Development' in a true sense? Does industrialization and mining which serves to increase corporate profits of MNCs qualify as public purpose? What are the choices in front of us? Friends, we must decide what is more important to us – the inflow of huge investments in the state due to development proposals or the general well being of the self sufficient citizens of this State?

- Editor

PROJECTS THAT HAVE OBTAINED ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

- ❖ Expansion of 150,000 TPY Sponge Iron, 30,000 TPY Billet, 200,000 TPY Fastnet and 48 MW Captive Power Plant of M/s Orissa Sponge Iron Limited.
- ❖ Utkal B2 OCP of M/s Monnet Ispat
- ❖ Natraj UG Mine of M/s MCL, for a Mining Lease Area of 483.227 ha with a Prod. Capacity of 0.64 MTPA
- ❖ Sameleshwari OC Expansion Project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
- ❖ Ananta OC Expansion of M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd.

PROJECTS THAT HAVE OBTAINED IN-PRINCIPLE FOREST CLEARANCE

- ❖ Diversion of Forest Land In Gandhamardan Block 'B' By Orissa Mining Corporation Limited
- ❖ Mining Lease For Samaleswari OCP By M/S Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL)
- ❖ Iron and Manganese Ore Mining in Joda East Iron Mine and Mannora Manganese Mine of M/S Tisco Ltd in Keonjhar Forest Division For 2nd Renewal
- ❖ Mining Lease to Bhanja Minerals Ltd
- ❖ Diversion of 0.797 Hactares of Forest Land For Construction of Approach Road to Vishal Metallic Pvt Limited
- ❖ Regularization of Encroachment
- ❖ Regularization of Human Settlement

CENTER APPROVES TEN ROAD PROJECT IN ORISSA

Orissa Diary News

New Delhi, July 07: The Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Thiru T. R. Baalu has approved ten road improvement works under Central Road Fund (CRF) proposals in the State of Orissa at a total cost of about Rs. 5829.10 lakh. The approval has been granted for the following works in Orissa:

1. Rs.2646.47 lakh has been approved for construction of Cuttack-Paradeep road (SH-12) with 10 m wide rigid pavement.
2. Rs. 453.06 lakh has been granted for Improvement of Riding Quality of intermediate-lane carriageway from Km 12/750 to 26/300 of Nayagarh-Laukhal road (SH-21)
3. An amount of Rs. 167.86 lakh has been approved for reconstruction of bridge over Singida Nallah at 23 km of Angul-Chhendipada-Sarapal-Budhapal road of SH-63.
4. Rs.400 lakh has been approved for widening of existing single lane carriageway to intermediate lane carriageway with improvement of riding quality of km 9/0 to 19/500 of Gudiakateni-Hindol road.
5. Rs. 332.32 lakh has been approved for construction of bridges over Bauli River at 12th and 14th km and construction of Concrete Pavement from 46/0-47/500 in a length of 900 m of Angul-Tikarapada road of SH-23.
6. An amount of Rs. 229.66 lakh has been approved for widening and strengthening of existing single lane carriageway to intermediate-lane carriageway with improvement of riding quality from km 51/980 to 55/440 of Sonepur-Binika-Rampur-Dungurapalli road.
7. An amount of Rs.94.21 lakh has been approved for reconstruction of HL Bridge over Panchama Nallah at 22nd km of Narsighpur-Balliput road.
8. Rs. 465.52 lakh has been approved for improvement of riding quality of existing intermediate-lane carriageway from km 0/0 to 29/0 of Moter-Jayapathan road.
9. Rs. 540.00 lakh approved for widening and strengthening of existing single lane carriageway to intermediate-lane carriageway with improvement of riding quality from km 23/700 to 34/200 of Sambalpur-Sonepur road (SH-15)
10. An amount of Rs. 500.00 lakh has been approved for widening of existing single lane carriageway to intermediate-lane carriageway with improvement of riding quality from km 31 to km 39/500 of Angul-Chhendipada-Srpal-Budhapal road of SH-63.



WORKING GROUP FOR MITTAL PROJECT

Statesman News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 11: The Orissa government has constituted a joint working group under the chairmanship of the chief secretary to co-ordinate and facilitate the Arcelor-Mittal steel plant proposal. The working group will include three nominees of Mittals. Secretary of steel and mines, CMD IPICOL, transport secretary and managing director IDCO will be there from from the government side, said officials here.

Constitution of the group follows a visit by Mr LN Mittal and his team to Bhubaneswar on 7 July. Mr Mittal had said that he would explore possibilities of setting up a 12 million ton steel plant in the state with a possible investment of Rs 40,000 crore. Chief minister Mr Naveen Patnaik discussed with Mr Mittal and assured him that a core group would be formed to expedite the process.

Mr Mittal had expressed his unhappiness over the tardy progress regarding his Jharkhand steel project. This had caused speculations that he would shift from Jharkhand to Orissa. Mr Mittal seems to have put the two states on a race with each other as the steel baron had said that he would set up the plant wherever things move fast.

The Jharkhand government had initiated several steps to expedite work on the MoU signed with Mr Mittal last year. The Jharkhand chief minister had said that the delay was in finalising the rehabilitation and resettlement policy.

Two days ago, the Jharkhand government had issued a letter assuring the Arcelor-Mittal group of iron ore. This was done in view of speculations that the group was skeptical of allotment of iron ore mines since its first choice in mines Chirya was turned down as it was with Sail.

Orissa has not indicated any mining area but speculations are that the plant might come up in Keonjhar district and the mining area is possibly the Gandharmardhan Melantoli. These mines are with OMC and one with a tie-up with Australian mining company Rio Tinto which is a supplier of iron ore to Mittal plants in other countries.



PATNAIK DELIGHTED WITH MITTAL'S PLANS TO SET UP PLANT IN ORISSA

The Hindu Business Line, Prafulla Das

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The Orissa Chief Minister, Mr Naveen Patnaik, seemed to be full of joy on Friday when he announced Lakshmi Niwas Mittal-owned Arcelor-Mittal's plans to set up a mega steel plant in the State.

"We are delighted that Mr Mittal and his team have decided to invest in the steel sector in Orissa," Mr Patnaik said at a press conference with Mr Mittal and his son, Mr Aditya Mittal. Mr Patnaik had reasons to be happy because the industrialisation process, particularly in the steel sector, had virtually come to a halt after the killing of 13 tribal men and women at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district on January 2. The tribals were killed in police firing while opposing construction of a boundary wall for the proposed six-million-tonne steel plant of Tata Steel. Barring some small ventures, no big steel project was showing any progress on the ground as people facing displacement were either resorting to protests or demanding a better rehabilitation and resettlement package before agreeing to vacate their land and homes to make space for steel mills.

The State Government officials were equally cheerful as Arcelor-Mittal had arrived with a huge investment proposal at a time when the government was grappling with resistance to the projects of Tata Steel and the much-hyped POSCO project which promised the biggest-ever foreign direct investment of Rs 51,000 crore.

The situation will change for the better with the arrival of the Mittals, an official hoped. The project of Arcelor-Mittal was likely to have a smooth-sailing as head of the company's India operations, Mr Sanak Mishra, happened to be from the State and also had the experience of successfully running the SAIL-owned Rourkela Steel Plant before his retirement. As the proposal is at an initial stage, Arcelor-Mittal has kept its options open to either go in for a port-based plant or a land-locked plant site. The company is likely to go for a site having little human habitation to avoid any resistance from the people.

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ARCELOR-MITTAL PREFER PORT-BASED LOCATION TO SET UP STEEL PLANT

Orissa Diary News

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Arcelor-Mittal, the largest producer of steel in the world, indicated that its proposed 12-million tonne steel project in Orissa would be a port-based plant. It was announced by Sanak Mishra, chief executive officer of Arcelor-Mittal's India operation. He said "We will prefer to have a port-based plant here".

Mishra was here along with two officers of the company to attend the first meeting of the joint working group set up by the state government recently to facilitate and expedite implementation of the project. During the meeting, the state government suggested that the company choose from seven sites for the project's location. The sites are situated across the four districts of Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Balasore and

Ganjam. Of these, while one site belongs to Keonjhar, the latter three districts have two sites each on offer.

Incidentally, Keonjhar is located inland while the other three districts have long sea frontages. Bhadrak and Balasore are close to the upcoming Dhamra port and Ganjam has the Gopalpur port, which is currently being developed into an all-weather port with private participation. The respective district collectors attending the meeting made a detailed presentation to the company on the locational advantages, communication and infrastructure facilities and availability of land at each of the possible sites.

Mishra said, apart from being shore-based, the selection of the site would depend on its proximity to road, railway line and mines. He said the company team would make site visits from tomorrow and conduct a comparative study before deciding on the location.

The meeting was chaired by RN Bohidar, agriculture production commissioner, in the absence of the chief secretary and was attended by Steel and Mines Secretary LN Gupta, CMD of the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation (Ipicol) and the MD of the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco).

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MONNET ISPAT TO INVEST RS 4,000 CR IN STATE Sambad Internet News Edition

New Delhi, July 22: Aiming to increase its presence in the mining and energy sectors, Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd on Thursday said it would invest nearly Rs 4,000 crore for setting up a 0.25 MT sponge iron and steel plant and a 1,000 MW power plant in Odisha. "MIEL has planned to set up a 600 MW Integrated Power Plant (IPP) in Orissa at an investment of Rs 2,400 crore. There is a plan to raise this capacity to 1,000 MW with an additional investment of Rs 1,200 crore. This is over and above Rs 300 crore investments planned for 0.25 mt sponge iron and steel plant in the Phase-I," company vice president (marketing and corporate) Amitabh S Mudgal said.

Under the first phase, a 300 MW unit would become operational by 2009, whereas phase-I of the steel plant would be functional by December next year.

Giving details of MIEL's expansion plans, he said the company was definitely looking for acquisition of steel mills and mines in Europe and in Africa and investment projection would vary depending on the opportunity.

Expressing resentment on the Hoda Committee's recommendations on standalone and captive mines, he said not allowing mining of Minerals for captive purposes belied the expectations of the industry.

Companies like Monnet, who have a proven track record in mining and also in steel manufacturing, should have been definitely given some preference, irrespective of their present capacities since the total integration is only going to help in increasing the capacities, Mudgal reasoned.

On the issue of export of iron ore and chrome ore, he said: "We do strongly favour capping Iron Ore and Chrome Ore exports with emphasis on putting up pelletisation plant for use of Iron Ore Fines."



ANIL AMBANI TO INVEST RS 61,500 CR IN ORISSA

Pioneer News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 22: The power sector in Orissa received a major boost on Friday with Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group unveiling its whopping Rs 60,000 crore plan to set up a 12,000 MW thermal power plant at Hirma in Jharsuguda district. The Group will also invest in the IT and health sectors. The total investment of the Group in Orissa would be around Rs 61,500 crore over the next few years.

In this connection, a joint communiqué was signed by the Orissa Government and ADA Group at the State Secretariat here. Earlier, Anil Ambani visited the Jagannath Temple in Puri. Disclosing the investment plans, Ambani said the company would invest Rs 60,000 crore in the proposed power plant in a phased manner. "This would be the highest investment at a single location in the world," he asserted, adding that the biggest power generation company in South Africa is producing 4,500 MW only.

In the first phase, the Hirma project would generate 4,000 MW with an investment of Rs 18,000 crore. Later, the generation capacity of the plant would be enhanced to 12,000 MW, he said. In a bid to boost IT education in Orissa, Ambani said his group would set up an institute of higher learning, Dhirubhai Ambani University, in Bhubaneswar. "The university will be run on a non-profit basis and be a centre of higher learning like the one in Gandhinagar," said Ambani. He added that Rs 1,000 crore would be invested in this project.

Ambani said his group is keen to utilise ICT infrastructure for promoting IT and ITES industries in Orissa. It may go in for setting up its own software development, BPO centre, data storage management and communications infrastructure for use by industry and Government, he said.

He also announced ADAG would set up a Health City with an investment of Rs 500 crore with world class health institutions, like hospitals, a research centre and medical education facilities.

Encouraged by the positive response of the Orissa Government, Ambani said, "We have lined up our plan for investment in the State and we will be the engine of growth in Orissa. He also said the company would work under the policy framed by the Government. "We will be abiding by all the points of power and R & R policies of the State," said Ambani. On the issue of generation of nuclear energy, Ambani said Reliance Energy is eager to join the fray once policy framework to allow private players in the sector is okayed.

Speaking on the occasion, Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the State has 61 billion tonnes of coal deposits, which is sufficient to generate one lakh MW power that can turn Orissa into the powerhouse of the nation.

To expedite investment, Patnaik announced the constitution of a Task Force comprising officials of Orissa Government and ADA Group. "Besides the investment proposals, the Task Force would look into all the contentious issues relating to the three distribution companies managed by Reliance Energy, such as payment of dues of Gridco and State Government, renewal of shareholders' agreement and financial and managerial support to distribution companies," said Patnaik, adding all contentious issues would be solved before the finalisation of the MoU. Patnaik also stressed on the issues of environment and resettlement and rehabilitation. Meanwhile, ADAG has submitted a preliminary project report for 4,000 MW plant. Industry Minister Biswa Bhusana Harichandan, Energy and IT Minister Surya Narayan Patro, Chief Secretary Subas Pani and other officials were present on the occasion.



BIG PLAYERS MAY THREATEN SMALLER STEEL COMPANIES

Pioneer News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The entry of big players like Mittal-Arcelor and Posco into the steel sector in Orissa is cause of concern for the small and medium sector plants that have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the State Government. Only two companies, Tata and Jindal, out of the 43 companies with which the Government has signed MoUs, are known to be big enough or have the resources to compete with Mital-Arcelor and Posco.

The projected investment of Posco is Rs 51,000 crore, and if Mittal sets up its plant, it will invest Rs 30,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore. Compared to the investment of Rs 90,000 crore by the big two, the combined investment of all other steel plants is a mere Rs 35,000 crore. And this is the reason of feeling jittery for the small players. They feel the bigger

investors will have a say on matters like the captive mines issue, while they may not be given the same importance.

With the signing of MoUs with the bigger companies, the small ones now know that the Government has better leverage to make them toe its line. Recently, the Government had cancelled the MoUs of seven companies and signed MoUs with seven new ones for setting up of plants.

The scenario for the small players looks quite uncertain despite Minister of Steel and Mines Padmanabh Behera saying that his Government would not be partial to anybody and that it would provide equal opportunities to everybody, big or small, and they have no reason to be apprehensive.

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NAVEEN CALLS FOR HIGH LEVELS OF INVESTMENTS IN STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Orissa Diary News

Kolkata, July 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday called for high levels of investment in infrastructure like roads, ports, railways, power generation and distribution to attract private sector investment in the state. There has been a surge in the private sector investments in mining and related industries in the state on account of the rich mineral resources, he said while addressing the regional meeting on draft approach paper for the 11th Five Year Plan at Kolkata.

The Chief Minister said Orissa has already initiated PPP mechanism for infrastructure development in the field of port and road development. But PPP alone cannot be the answer to infrastructure development throughout the state for all the national and state highways, Patnaik said, adding, poor states like Orissa needed greater investments in the non-PPP mode than more advanced states where returns on investment in infrastructure was much higher.

He claimed that on account of the single window clearance mechanism, transparent procedures and well thought out R&R policy, the state has been facilitating setting up of industries, particularly private sector players in mining and related industries. Patnaik stressed the immediate need for increasing irrigation potential and drought proofing, which he said were critical pre-requisites to enhance agricultural productivity.

The Chief Minister suggested for increasing the funding under AIBP as the state planned to step up the irrigation potential substantially in the 11th Plan period, for which massive resources will be required. Stating that Orissa's poverty indicators are much more severe than other states with 47 per cent families lying below the poverty line, Patnaik said any national growth strategy has to give special

attention to the issue of widening income gap by enhancing public investment in states which are lagging behind. To meet this gap, there has to be a national framework by which larger resources could flow to Orissa and similarly placed states, Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister demanded covering all the 30 districts instead of 19 districts under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP). He said heavy incidence and persistence of poverty in KBK region of the state has been a cause of concern for the state government. Though the region has improved through implementation of the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTP), it was still lagging behind many other regions, he opined. In order to bring this region at par with other areas, the RLTP has to be extended beyond the year 2006-07 and up to the end of the 11th Five Year Plan, Patnaik said and suggested extending the backward district initiative to more districts of the state.

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ORISSA COULD BECOME INDIA'S POWERHOUSE, SAYS CM

The Hindu Business Line, Prafulla Das

Bhubaneswar, July 21: While attracting huge investments in the steel sector to become a major steel hub in the world, Orissa also appears to be on course to become the country's powerhouse by producing huge volumes of electricity in the coming years.

"Orissa has 61 billion tonnes of coal reserve, which can sustain power generation in the order of 100,000 MW for a century. The State, which also has vast water resources, can become the powerhouse of the nation," the Chief Minister, Mr Naveen Patnaik, said on Friday, while addressing presspersons with the Chairman of the Reliance ADA Group, Mr Anil Ambani. Mr Patnaik's observations were supported by Mr Ambani. "As we look at the future of the energy sector, there is no doubt in my mind that Orissa, having huge reserves of coal, will become the power hub of the country," he said, while announcing his Group's plans to set up a 12,000 MW thermal power plant at Hirma in western Orissa.

The power scene

Mr Patnaik's words might become true if all the projects in the pipeline are implemented without hurdles. If Mr Ambani's proposed investment of around Rs 60,000 crore in the Hirma project is taken into account, the total investment in the proposed thermal power projects in the State is well over Rs 1,00,000 crore, to produce more than 37,000 MW of power.

While some companies have already signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs), many have disclosed plans to set up

thermal power units in the State. The companies keen to enter the State's power sector include Tata Power Company Ltd, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Sterlite Energy Private Ltd, AES Corporation, Calcutta Electricity Supply Company and Monet Ispat Ltd. At present, a total of 7,332 MW of power is being produced in Orissa out of which nearly 2,000 MW is being availed by the State and the remaining goes to other States. The Centre-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) alone is producing 3,000 MW of power. In the hydro power sector, Orissa is producing an average of 700 MW at present.

Apart from the power producing companies, companies running other industries in the State have been increasing the production capacity of their captive power plants in recent years. Many such companies are already selling their excess power to the Grid Corporation of Orissa (Gridco).



THERMAL PLANT TO BOOST STATE POWER SECTOR

Pioneer News Service, Sanjeev Patro

Bhubaneswar, July 13: The recent move by the Government to set up a thermal power plant with an investment of Rs 4,000 crore and the signing of three more MoUs with independent power producers (IPPs), which together will add an additional 4,070 MW to the State's installed capacity in next four to five years, is a much awaited move to aid the State's growth pace, which is assumed by economists to be at 8 per cent.

However, the future seems to be insecure, if one goes by the system performance report of January 2006 by SLDC and also the 15th power survey report by OHPC (Orissa Hydro Power Corporation), which unambiguously states that the current pace of capacity addition cannot satiate the State's growth needs. The SLDC report states, in January 2006, the peak demand stood at 2,408 MW and average demand at 1,757 MW with surplus at only 70 MW. Envisaging the future demand scenario, it says, as per national rural electricity programme, 46,000 villages are to be electrified by 2009 and this is going to push the demand by 1,629 MW.

Again, the proposed mega steel and aluminium projects to be operational few years hence will see an added demand of 4,391 MW and assuming the T&D loss at 4 per cent in ET and at 80 per cent availability, it needs an additional installed capacity of 5,717 MW by 2010.

So, in total the State needs an additional capacity of nearly 9,100 MW by 2010. Similarly, the OHPC report too maintains that the present generation capacity of 16,000 mu (million units) will not suffice the demand of 16,300 mu in 2008-09.

Viewing the impending soar in the energy demand in years to come, the report states, even in case of good monsoon and even with full capacity hydropower generation, the State will be facing acute deficit in 2007-08 and the worse, power famine, come 2009-10.

As of March 31, 2005, the total installed capacity stood at 4,907 MW of which State accounts 2,304 MW and the central sector accounts 26.1 MW, whereas the private sector accounts a measly 1.44 MW. As per the OHPC report in December 2005, against the peak demand of 2,370 MW, the availability stood at 2,353 MW thus leaving a shortfall of 0.7 per cent. And this is only to accentuate in coming years, as the consumption is set to grow by 7.3 per cent.

Although experts agree to speed up efforts to meet the emerging energy challenge they differ on generation modalities. The widely held perception is, since Orissa has the 2nd largest stock of fossil fuels like coal (24 per cent), with adequate power grade coal reserves and the added benefit of cheaper production cost entitles it to explore the harnessing of thermal power in a big way.

They are of the opinion that Orissa needs an ultra mega thermal power project to slake its growth thirst. Recently, the Centre has identified Orissa as one of its locations to set up an ultra mega thermal power project with clean coal technology and sustainable emission standards.

But others put stress on exploring the pollution free energy sources like hydel projects and non-conventional energy sources like biomass, wind and solar energy

The experts sight the example of States like TN, Gujarat, Kerala and AP who have diversified their energy basket to meet their almost insatiable growth needs. Kerala relied on small hydel power projects, whereas TN and Gujarat tapped wind energy and Andhra is exploring the option of nuclear energy, all of which are pollution free, cheap and sustainable in nature.

Orissa at present has only 1.1 mu installed wind power capacity. Even the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) promotes in a big way the New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) - based power generation by way of making it cost - competitive, providing tax incentives, technology innovations and commercial applicabilities.

It even set the target to electrify all 18,000 villages across the country, which could not be accessed through conventional power grid, by 2012. The wind power system underwent a paradigm change, especially after the setting up of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) in Chennai.

MNES also prepared a master plan for potential sites in 10 States including Orissa way back in 2003-04. The country has a wind power generating capacity totaling 1, 00,000- 4, 50, 00MW. The bottomline is, Orissa should line up more power projects besides upgrading the present installed units and reduce T&D losses to spruce up energy availability and should also take into account the sustainable energy diversification programmes of TN, Gujarat, Kerala and AP to keep pace with its growth needs.

But the challenge at hand is to avert the prognosis of power famine in 2009 as all power projects in pipeline will materialise only after 2009, thanks to the nonchalance of Government in 1996 when power experts pleaded for the need of new power projects to satisfy the increasing demand, but none heeded.

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NLC & MCL TO SET UP THERMAL POWER PLANTS AT IB: COAL MINISTER

Orissa Diary News

New Delhi, July 26: A 2000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plan at IB Valley in Orissa under the joint venture of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) and the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. is on the process of implementation.

In a meeting of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Neyveli Lignite Corporation with the Government of Orissa, it was decided to identify the suitable land for setting up the project as the site earlier identified near Hirma village was allocated to private firms. Rengall Village, Sambalpur District has been identified as alternate site and collection of land details is in progress. After firming up the project site MOU will be signed with Government of Orissa and the project will be taken up for implementation.

The annual coal requirement of the project has been estimated to be about 11-12 million tonnes and Talabira II & III coal blocks have been allocated for joint mining by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), Mahandadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) & HINDALCO for the purpose. Central Electricity Authority has made a tentative power allocation from this project to Western Region and State of Orissa. The tentative cost of the project is estimated as Rs. 9000 crore and the project is expected to generate power in the XI Plan period. Advance Action Plan for preparation of feasibility report, environment report and survey work is under implementation.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Coal, Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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ORISSA GOVERNMENT'S PLAN FOR NEW SEAPORTS: WAITING PRIVATE PARTICIPATION.

Orissatv.com

Bhubaneswar, July 12: The state government is ready to construct 10 additional sea ports except Paradeep, Gopalpur and Dhamara. Now Government is waiting for the Industrial Houses who are interested for sea port in the state. But deal is final for development of Dhamara & Gopalpur. Major companies are giving priority on sea ports before setting up Steel Plants in Orissa. Viewing this prospect the state government has decided to go ahead with its industrial policy and offering Port based industries. Now Paradeep Port is only functional. And the deal is final in case of Gopalpur and Dhamara Port. There is proposal of the state Government for setting of Port at Mouth of Subarnarekha River, Bahabalapur, Chadipur, Inchudi, Chudamani, Astaranga, Baliharachandi, Palur, Mouth of Bahuda, Jatadhari Muhana. But there is no progress in this regard.

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ORISSA ALLOTING IRON ORE MINES FASTER THAN ANY OTHER STATES

CNBC

Bhubaneswar, July 13: Orissa appears to be allotting iron ore mines faster than neighbouring Jharkhand. Naveen Patnaik's government has assured Tata Steel of mining leases and the company is placing orders for equipment for its proposed steel plant in Orissa next month.

Last Friday, Lakshmi Niwas Mittal went to Bhubaneswar to explore the possibility of setting up a 12 million tonne steel plant in Orissa. He said that he was looking beyond Jharkhand for Arcelor-Mittal's India foray. Mittal had signed an MOU with Jharkhand nine months ago for a 12 million tonne steel plant, but he is now displeased with the state for not being able to allot land and iron ore mines as yet. For Tata Steel too, the situation isn't much different. Naveen Patnaik's government has assured it of an iron ore linkage, and it is placing orders for equipment for its proposed plant in Orissa next month. But in its home state Jharkhand, Tata Steel hasn't been able to make much progress. Tata Steel had signed an MOU with Jharkhand in September last year to build a second steel plant in the state. But it has not been able to acquire land as yet, and mines, too, have not been identified. Managing Director, Tata Steel, B Muthuraman said, "For the Jharkhand project we are yet to procure the land. That process is on. A survey is going on. The government is just announcing the rehabilitation policy and land acquisition is going on in Jharkhand. As far as Orissa is concerned, all that is over. We are about to place orders." Muthuraman, however, is

confident that getting mining leases in Jharkhand wouldn't be a problem. But there's no denying that his company's second plant in its home state is way behind schedule.



NEW MINING POLICY TO BOOST INVESTMENTS

The Hindu Business Line, Our Bureau

New Delhi , June 29: The Ministry of Mines will formulate a new National Mining Policy, which will help the country attract domestic and foreign direct investments to the tune of Rs 1,00,000 crore in the mining sector. It will also generate direct and indirect employment for about five lakh skilled and unskilled labour force by 2011, the Union Minister for Mines, Mr Sish Ram Ola, said, while inaugurating a summit on Indian Metal & Mining Sector organised by the Assocham here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Dr Prodipto Ghosh, said in order to facilitate mining operations steps have been initiated to make the process of granting of environmental clearances for mining projects in a speedy manner. He said that his Ministry would shortly come out with a notification that would re-engineer, reform and rationalise old guidelines to quickly give environmental and forest clearances.

New Rules

Dr Ghosh, however, clarified that the new and modified environment and forest guidelines will have 'no relaxation' for degradation of environment and forests to ensure that exploration of mining potential does not compromise on it.

He said that guidelines formulated by the Environment Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Mines have been sent to the Prime Minister's Office for necessary approval. After the PMO sends it back to the Ministry with the necessary approvals the Government would come out with the relevant notifications, he added.

The new guidelines for according environmental and forests clearances have been amply reformed and rationalised to suit the current spirit of liberalisation so that the mining sector contribution significantly goes up in national GDP, he said.

Better prospects

Elaborating on the liberalisation of the mining sector the Minister said that the existing mining policy of 1993 had become outdated and contains stringent provisions, which restrict investors to put their money into Indian mining and mineral sector. It is because of this reason that the Government intends to come out with a policy that will attract huge investments as this sector has big potential, which has not been realised, he said.

Mr Ola also announced that his Ministry had signed a Memoranda of Understanding to attract investments in the domestic mining sector from countries like Australia, Canada, China, Iran, South Africa, Mozambique and Kazakhstan. These countries have in principal agreed to transfer their technological know-how to India, he said.



MINING CO-OPERATIVES TO BECOME A REALITY

The Hindu Business Line, Ambarish Mukherjee

New Delhi, July 4: Mining co-operatives are all set to become a reality in India. While the coal sector is being opened up to private sector in a phased manner with allocation of captive mines followed by marketing rights, the Coal Ministry has initiated plans to position the co-operatives as the third player in this sector. The Ministry has asked Coal India Ltd (CIL) to prepare a plan to promote formation of cooperatives involving local people in coal bearing areas and engage them in gainful activities by initially entrusting them with transportation and loading jobs. In the second stage, these cooperatives can also be considered for allocation of small and isolated coal blocks, officials told Business Line.

CIL to prepare plan

The Minister of Coal, Mr Sibu Soren, on Tuesday instructed CIL to prepare the plan by this month end when it would be again taken up for further action. In a review meeting of the functioning of CIL held in the Ministry on Tuesday, it was noted that land acquisition is posing to be the biggest hurdle in expanding CIL's mining activities because land losers are insisting employment much beyond the numbers the coal companies can accommodate.

Employment

In order to create more employment opportunities to accommodate the increasing number of employment seekers, though may not be within the company, this plan is being initiated. Earlier, CIL had helped its ex-employees by giving them these types of transportation and loading jobs, officials said.



END FIXED MINERAL ROYALTY: CM

Newindpress.com

Bhubaneswar, July 18: Any national growth strategy would have to give special attention to the issue of widening income gap by enhancing public investment in states which are lagging behind, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. At the regional meeting on the draft approach paper prepared by the Planning Commission for the 11th Five-Year plan at Kolkata on Monday, Patnaik said it is ironical that states which need large investments are cash-strapped.

Stating that Orissa would make all efforts to raise the resources needed for public investment, the Chief Minister said there would still be a substantial gap between the resources raised and what is required. To meet this gap, there has to be a national framework by which larger resources can flow to Orissa and similarly placed states, he said. In tune with the focus of the approach paper, Orissa has given emphasis for a higher growth rate in agriculture and allied activities, Patnaik said adding that availability of credit is critical for increasing farm output.

Requesting the Centre to quickly act on the recapitalisation of cooperatives, he said while on the one hand steps are being taken to revitalise the cooperative sector on the other several policy distortions are being introduced which will affect the availability as well as cost of credit to farmers.

He demanded that the Centre should put in place an appropriate macro policy framework to make the farm sector productive and profitable. He suggested that funding under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) should be stepped up adequately.

Since return on these, investments are meagre, resource flow for creating additional irrigation potential has to be primarily of a non-debt creating nature, he said.

Maintaining that policy distortions are proving to be a hindrance to mineral rich states, the Chief Minister alleged that Orissa lost Rs 150 crore in the last few years due to delayed revision of royalty.

The Chief Minister underscored the need for more focus in the 11th Plan on social sector investments in areas of health, education, poverty eradication as well as adequate provision of social safety net, gender equality, child and women welfare, disadvantaged sections and employment promotion.

Stating that the richer states are getting progressively richer, Patnaik said the objective of the plan should be to correct these distortions by regional specific interventions. Later, the Chief Minister told media persons that he called for ad-valorem mineral royalty instead of fixed mineral royalty policy. Orissa also pitched for inclusion of 30 districts under the backward areas list from 19 districts at present, he added. Finance Minister Prafulla Chandra Ghadei and Planning Coordination Minister Padmanabha Behera also attended the meeting.

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ORISSA MINING CORP TO CAUSE LOSS TO EXCHEQUER: JENA

Newindpress.com

Bhubaneswar, July 26: With only six days left for the monsoon session of the Assembly, the Congress on Tuesday upped the ante against Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

alleging that there is largescale irregularities in the deal between the State Government and the Vedanta Alumina Limited (VAL) for the mining of bauxite ore.

Former union minister and senior Congress leader Srikant Jena demanded cancellation of the agreement with VAL in the interest of the State and the people of Kalahandi. In a letter to the Chief Minister, copies of which were released at a news conference here, Jena alleged that the agreement between the VAL and the Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), a state owned public sector undertaking, would cause the state exchequer a loss of Rs 50,000 crore. The Congress leader charged the Chief Minister with not following the international practice of valuing the mineral at market price. He said while the international price for alumina grade bauxite is about Rs 2350 per tonne, the OMC has agreed to sell the ore to VAL at Rs 178 per tonne.

Jena alleged that the OMC has not followed the State's industrial policy and transparent tender process to fetch real market value of bauxite. The agreement with the VAL, he alleged was a 'conspiracy' to defraud the State.

He criticised the OMC for following double standards in selling of different ores. While tender process is being followed for selling of iron and chrome ores, OMC has adopted negotiation route for bauxite ore for favouring VAL, he said.

The former union minister said, "A host of domestic and international companies are rushing to the State to loot the bounty of nature and you (the Chief Minister) have made a deliberate attempt to woo these companies by selling minerals only to enrich yourself and your cronies."

Jena asked the Chief Minister if he would accept the offer of a cooperative or a company for sale of bauxite from OMC at Rs 500 per tonne instead of Rs 178 offered to VAL with all condition intact.

The former union minister criticised the Chief Minister for not responding to these issues repeatedly raised by him. Instead, he engaged Minister for Steel and Mines Padmanabha Behera to reply to the charges to cover up the scam, he said.

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CONTROVERSY CONTINUES REGARDING POSCO: INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES FEAR EXHAUSTION OF MINERALS

Newindpress.com

Bhubaneswar, July 07: Controversy still continues regarding the issue to provide mines to POSCO. It is feared that reserved iron-ore resources will get exhausted. Again the Chairman of Arcelor-Mittal group has given proposal to establish a Steel Plant of 12 million ton capacity, and if this

unit is established, then does the state have abundant mineral resources or raw materials? If the state has, then for how many years they can use it. According to the joint survey by Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological survey of India, there are 3789.392 million tons of iron-ore in the state and every year around 43 million ton iron-ore are raised from the state. Again if 43 Steel projects who have signed MOU's with state government will start their production then nearly 90 million ton iron-ore will be raised every year and this will rise to 133 million ton of iron-ore rising. So also it is expected that if the iron-ore raising continues at this rate, then in the next 25 to 30 years, the resources will be exhausted. Even it is feared that if Mittal group start its project then the resources will be exhausted quickly. But the mines and Steel minister is different to this opinion. Now it is demanded for further survey and discussion over this issue for clear cut details.

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REASSESS MINING RESERVES: OGP

Newindpress.com

Bhubaneswar, Jul 10: Orissa Gana Parishad (OGP) president Bijay Mohapatra on Sunday demanded that iron ore reserves in the State should be reassessed, both in lease holds and virgin mines, and a new leasing policy should be formulated keeping in view the larger interest of the State.

Addressing a media conference here, Mohapatra said that this had become necessary in view of the large number of MoUs signed by the State Government to set up steel plants. The State Government has signed MoUs with 43 companies for establishment of steel plants and assured all of them captive mines. The High Power Committee (HPC) has cleared signing of MoUs with seven more companies for establishment of steel plants. The announcement of Arcelor-Mittal to set up a 12 million tonne steel plant in the State has made the situation all the more competitive.

Mohapatra also criticised Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his role in starting the process of proposal for disinvestment in Nalco. The process started in 1997 and the Disinvestment Commission, which submitted its report in 1998, had proposed 30 percent disinvestment in the public sector undertaking. As the then Minister for Mines in the NDA Government at the Centre, Naveen had cleared the proposal on May 22, 1998, he claimed. The OGP leader said that Naveen had supported the NDA Government's decision for off-loading shares from Nalco during the three-day debate in the Assembly on October 1, 2002. Naveen maintained that the decision to off load stakes from Nalco was taken on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission to strengthen the organization further.

Alleging that Naveen was the person behind the process to privatise Nalco, Mohapatra said that neither BJD nor Congress should take any credit for the withdrawal of the decision. The decision to put on hold divestment was taken by the Centre following pressure from Tamil Nadu, he said.

He demanded that the Centre should bury the issue of privatisation of Nalco once for all by passing a resolution in the Cabinet.

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RS 9.42CR RELEASED FOR NILACHAL ISPAT DISPLACED

Pioneer News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 15: Chairman of the Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) SD Kapoor called on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Orissa Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday. Kapoor is also functioning as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of MMTC. The Chief Minister reviewed the progress on rehabilitation programmes of the displaced concerning the NINL project in Jajpur district. The chairman informed the Chief Minister that a sum of Rs 9.42 crore is being released immediately to the Collector, Jajpur for payment of house building assistance at Rs 1.05 lakh per family to 628 eligible displaced families.

On the issue of providing employment, Kapoor informed that employment has been provided to 233 persons and cash in lieu of employment to more 127 persons. Further, he informed that 52 eligible displaced person have been notified for employment in a phased manner from October 2006. He assured the Chief Minister that NINI would immediately come up with an action plan for employment, including training to the remaining eligible displaced person. He also agreed to set up a modern hospital and school at Kalinga Nagar for the benefit of the locals in general and employees of NINL and displaced families in particular. Patnaik later met the Union Minister of Rural Development, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, and requested him for higher-level assistance under the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS). The Chief Minister requested the Minister to provide a one-time assistance of Rs 50 crore to clear the backlog and also enhance the funding to the earlier level of Rs 43 crore per annum. On the matter relating to assistance under NFBS, Singh informed the Chief Minister that after due consultation with Planning Commission, they are now taking up the matter with the Finance Ministry.

He assured that his Ministry would recommend both one time grant of Rs 50 crore to clear the backlog and enhanced funding at the level of Rs 43 core per annum for Orissa.

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GEETA SPONGE IRON PROTESTED, DEMANDS INCLUDE REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Orissatv.com

Bhubaneswar, July 05: While the state is witnessing rapid industrialization, the problem of displaced people and the protests is increasing day by day. In Palalohada, the local people have protested against Geeta Sponge Iron with 12 charter demands. These include the issue of employment, rehabilitation, conservation of forest and land. The protestors have blocked the NH-23. Geeta sponge iron is allotted 25 acres of land and the construction of compound wall is on. But there is no agreement regarding rehabilitation of displaced people. The villagers have demanded the agreement in first place, before construction of compound wall. On the other hand, Sub-Collector has said that there was a discussion between the administration and the peace committee as the issue, and similar discussions will be held in the near future. The government has declared the new rehabilitation project for the displaced ones. But it is not followed in case of Geeta Sponge Iron. As rehabilitation and employment are the main demands of displaced persons, the company authority and state government should take initiative to solve the problem.

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LANDLESS FAMILIES GET SOME RESPITE

The New Indian Express

Bhubaneswar, July 26: The State Government has announced that landless persons or families, who have occupied Government land including 'gochar' land for residential purposes, will not be evicted.

Announcing this after the tehsildars' conference on Monday, Revenue Minister Manmohan Samal told media persons that the conference decided to de-recognize the 'kizam' (classification) of the gochar land and record it in favour of the families who have constructed houses on them. However, the homestead landless families will not be provided more than four decimal of land each.

It has come to the notice of the Government that some landless families have unauthorized constructed houses on 'gochar' land which are exclusively reserved for cow grazing. Eviction of these families has become a Herculean task as most of them are not keen to relocate their houses to other places where the Government has provided land. Since the Government has a social obligation towards these families and homestead land is provided under 'Basundhara' scheme, the Minister said the conference decided to regularize maximum four decimal of 'gochar' land in their favour. However; an equal size of land will be reserved for the purpose of gochar, he said.

The State Government launched the Basundhara programme last year and has provided land to over 72,500 out of 2.49 lakh landless families by March end. The Minister asserted that the remaining families will be given land within two years.

Land passbook will be provided to the people in a mission mode and each of the revenue inspectors has been given a target of distributing 200 passbooks in rural areas and 300 in urban areas. The revenue inspectors will be given an incentive of Rs 5 for each passbook distributed, Samal said. Approximately, 80 lakh land passbooks will be distributed and the Government has so far issued over 1.51 lakh passbooks. The Government has decided to provide land passbooks to BPL families free of cost and it will bear the cost of photography. The Minister exuded confidence that the distribution of land passbooks will be completed within next two years. The tehsildars have been instructed to dispose of the Applications requesting for 'Bhoodan' land on the first Monday of every month. Out of 6.38 lakh Bhoodan land only 57,722 acres land has remained undistributed.

The Minister said the revenue inspectors have been instructed to clear mutation cases by organising camp courts and the tehsildars will attend the camp courts for issuing certified copies of land records after mutation. The conference also resolved to dispose of about 8000 be bando bast (land pending for settlement) cases within the next two years. Member, Board of Revenue, Ajit Tripathy, Revenue Secretary T.K. Mishra, commissioners of the Board, three revenue divisional commissioners, district collectors and deputy collectors attended.

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CM ANNOUNCES SEA OF INCENTIVES FOR TRIBAL

Orissa Diary News

Bhubaneswar, July 29: In a significant development, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that the Government would provide bicycles to tribal girls of rural areas, who have passed Class 10 examination. In a bid to spread education in tribal areas, CM Patnaik also directed the officials to fill all posts lying vacant in the tribal schools of the State. The CM chaired the Tribes Advisory Council Meeting on Saturday and advised the officials to take necessary steps to uplift of the economy of tribal people. The decision to establish a 1000 tribal girls' hostels was also announced. In another significant move, the Government has decided to adhere to the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy in letter and spirit. The tribals would be settled first and then be ousted from their lands. Those who have been living in the reserve forest area prior to 1980 would be given land patta for their lands. The Government would provide necessary budgetary support for the

development of tribal handlooms. It would also bear all the costs incurred against taking the photographs of the tribals, necessary for the land passbooks. The decision to strictly follow the ORB Act was taken and some development works relating to the tribal development would be handed over to the Panchayati Raj department. Health Minister Duryodahan Majhi, SC and ST Minister Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, Chief Secretary Subas Pani, Agriculture Production Commissioner and other officials attended the meeting.



TATA COMPLETED LAND ACQUISITION FOR IT'S KALINGA NAGAR PROJECT

Orissa Diary News

Bhubaneswar, July 12: Tata Steel has completed the land acquisition process for its proposed six-million tonne per annum steel plant in Orissa, its managing director B Muthuraman said today. Muthuraman told reporters here that orders for equipment would be placed next month, following which the Orissa government would provide leases for iron ore mining in the state. As per the MOU with the Orissa government, he said mining leases would be given only after 20 per cent of the equipment orders were placed.



WATER DEPLETING, GOVT FIDDLING

Newindpress.com

Bhubaneswar, July 28: A few States, including Orissa, is hurtling towards a water crisis. Unless recharge of groundwater and installation of water harvesting structures are taken up on a priority basis, experts fear a crisis will grip the States in the next 20 years.

Citing a study conducted by the Central Groundwater Board, chairman of the city-based Institute of Advance Technology and Environmental Studies P K Jena said, nearly 15 states may face water crisis by next decade if indiscriminate use of water is not minimised.

Even urban centres like Bhubaneswar are yet to realise the utility of water harvesting while its Tamil Nadu counterpart Chennai had already woken up to the reality.

With rapid urbanisation, he said, groundwater resources in urban centres are fast depleting with no recharge mechanism in place. For example, two to three decades back, dug wells as well as bore wells in Bhubaneswar were more than enough to meet the drinking water requirement of the whole City because the scope for recharging the groundwater was quite favourable. But, things took a turn for the worse once construction activities picked up and green canopies gave way to concrete jungles with rampant digging of bore wells for multi-storied structures. Residents of Nayapalli have

already started reporting wells running dry after a few minutes of pumping. BMC, should therefore, make installation of water harvesting structures in each buildings mandatory to facilitate groundwater recharge through rain water harvesting, he emphasised.

But, there is a solution to water crisis in mining areas. Jena, also former director of Regional Research Laboratory, called for adopting an integrated mining area development programme that includes afforestation.

He said, pits dug for extracting minerals should be used for storage of rainwater and channels constructed to drain water into it. Such pits in the Talcher colliery belt can do wonders, he noted. Speaking on the sidelines of a national symposium on “Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development” here on Wednesday, he said, stake-holders must realise the magnitude of the crisis. While India receives about 1100 mm of rain on an average in a year, the elixir of life flows into the sea without any effort to harvest that. The three-day symposium, inaugurated by SC/ST Development Minister Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, is being co-sponsored by National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, and National Geo-Physical Research Institute, Hyderabad.



ANGUL

FUNDS FOR PERIPHERAL DEVELOPMENT UNSPENT

Statesman News Service

Angul, July 31: At a time when the government insists on industrial houses to undertake peripheral development and when villagers agitate demanding certain amenities from PSUs, the shocking fact is that huge sums earmarked for peripheral development provided by PSUs remain unspent, alleged Angul zilla parishad member and former chairman of Talcher block, Mr Digambar Garnaik. Talking to reporters here yesterday, Mr Garnaik alleged that a sum of Rs 26 crore was assured by public sectors like MCL and Nalco three years back for the peripheral development activities but the money could not be utilised due to the non-clearance of peripheral development committees. The funds available from these two PSUs in the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 remained unspent. It is ridiculous that the elected representatives and government authorities hesitate to spend the available money while in other parts of the state money is not available for developmental plans, he noted. Commenting on the newly formed Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC), formed to replace the earlier Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC), Mr Garnaik said it would only precipitate the chaos in the decision making process.



NALCO SAYS \$887 MILLION EXPANSION ON TRACK

Sambad Internet News Edition

Mumbai, July 12: The chairman of India's second-largest aluminium maker, state-run National Aluminium Co. Ltd, said on Friday it was on track to complete an ongoing \$887 million expansion by 2008.

C.R. Pradhan said the company aimed to fund the 40.90 billion rupees expansion from internal accruals, providing half the money and the remainder through loans. "The expansion is on track," he told a news agency over telephone from his office in Bhubaneswar.

The expansion, scheduled for completion in 2008, will raise its aluminium smelter's capacity in Odisha by 115,000 tonne from 345,000 tonne now.

It also involves raising alumina production capacity to 2.1 million tonnes from 1.575 million, bauxite mining to 6.3 million tonne from 4.8 million and power generation to 1,200 megawatts from 960 mw.

Pradhan said the company had suffered a production loss of about 2,000 tonne of aluminium following a two-day strike in June by workers after the federal government, which owns 87.15 percent of the firm, said it would sell 10 percent. On Thursday, the government decided to put all stake sales in state-run firms on hold after a key ally threatened to pull out of the ruling coalition.

The company expects to produce 345,000 tonnes of aluminium in the financial year ending in March 2007, Pradhan said. It is still studying plans for building a 500,000 tonne aluminium smelter in the Gulf and another for managing a smelter in Indonesia, he said.

"We are talking to different people about these projects," he said. National Aluminium is also examining a proposal to build a 1.5 million tonne aluminium smelter in Andhra Pradesh or in Odisha. This project, along with the foreign plans, is part of a five-year expansion plan, which is estimated to cost \$3.25 billion, he said.

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TALCHER ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER

Statesman News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 17: Talcher town is on the brink of an imminent disaster and if corrective measures like mines safety and construction of an irrigation canal at Rengali are not undertaken immediately anything can happen. Quoting extensively from correspondence between the directorate of mines safety, state government authorities and the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, the BJP MP Mr Dharmendra Pradhan said the danger signals cannot be ignored any longer. Lack of filling or improper filling of Deulbera colliery of Talcher and release of water through the Rengali

right main canal poses a serious threat, said Mr Pradhan. He referred to letters since the past three years wherein the director of mines safety had categorically stated that there was an urgent need to assess the stability of the canal afresh in the wake of the unstable workings of Deulbera colliery lying beneath the right main canal of the irrigation project. Part of the canal passes close to the unstable underground workings of the colliery where remnant stooks lie under a cover. Failure of any of the stooks may have a cascading effect and cause settlement of canal bed due to subsidence of strata. Pot holding is most likely to occur due to low cover of the old and sealed off workings.

Any of the above eventualities is likely to result in the canal water flowing into the mine, the mines safety organisation had stated three years ago. Mr Pradhan alleged that for over two years now the sand filling work has stopped and a blame game was on between the irrigation and the mining agencies over who should foot the sand filling bill. Several safety measures had been suggested over the years but nothing has been done and water is to be released again to the canal, he observed.

Talcher municipal area with a population of over 70,000 is sitting atop all such perils. At any given point of time at least 80 to 100 people work in the underground mines and it will take at least two hours for the workers to come out if water enters the mines, he said

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WHEN RAC DECISION FALLS FLAT ON NTPC

Newindpress.com

Angul, July 17: Unlike other Central public sector units like MCL and Nalco, the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC) has failed to crack its whip on National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in matters of rehabilitation and periphery development much to the detriment of the affected locals.

RAC is a statutory body chaired by Revenue Divisional Commissioner who charts out the rehabilitation policy of the industry for the ousters. Besides the heads of industries, the district collector concerned and local MPs and MLAs are its members. In Angul district, while the CMDs of Nalco and MCL have been attending the RAC meeting, NTPC has been an exception. Even no corporate level official of NTPC has ever attended the RAC meeting. Exasperated by the NTPC defiance, Northern Division Revenue Commissioner Ashok Dalwai, at the last RAC meeting, said if NTPC continues to ignore RAC, the latter will not be able to carry out its mandatory functions, according to the minutes of the meeting. Sources said the RAC is irked by three major issues relating to NTPC. Although RAC has allowed 15 Substantially Affected Persons (SAPs) to change their

nominees for job, NTPC since 2000 has refused to accept the nominee change on one pretext or the other.

Even in employment matters, NTPC has been ignoring RAC decisions. Deviating from its commitment in the initial days to provide all majdoor type jobs to local oustees, NTPC in a ploy to deny the jobs introduced a policy wherein 50 percent of the new posts will be filled up by inter-plant transfers.

This is a cruel joke on the 270 left-out SAPs of the total 650 who are still in the lurch 18 years after NTPC came into existence. Though the NTPC-Kaniha has started commercial production from its six 500 mw units and is earning Rs. 600 crore per annum, the SAP problem is yet to be sorted out. This despite the fact that the RAC has convened as many as 14 meetings for employment to the oustees.

Without showing any concern for the RAC decision, the NTPC has continued to squeeze jobs for oustees. Of the total 102 vacant posts at present, NTPC has decided to absorb SAPs in only 51 posts. Yet another issue is related to the peripheral development wherein NTPC is far behind the other two PSUs in fund allotment. RAC's efforts to persuade NTPC to contribute 0.5 percent of its annual profit towards periphery development as per the policy for this purpose have gone in vain.

Angul Collector S K Basista told this website's newspaper that the State Government had been requested to find some alternative mechanism to enforce the RAC decision on NTPC. Repeated efforts to contact NTPC general manager of Kaniha proved futile.

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SUBSIDENCE FEAR LOOMS OVER LINGARAJ MINE

Statesman News Service

Angul, July 26: Fears of massive subsidence have emerged in an old Talcher underground colliery, following large scale dumping of artificial hills by nearby Lingaraj opencast mine authorities, violating norms of the mines safety department.

According to reliable sources in underground mines, the continued dumping of soil extracted from Lingaraj mines has not only posed a serious threat to the underground structures, but also damaged some underground pillars, which sustain the earth over it, after the coal extraction.

Talcher underground mine authorities who were earlier silent over the dumpings on the surface of the mine, forced Lingaraj authorities recently to stop further dumping, till an expert study of the damages to their underground structure was not conducted. Talcher project officer, Mr RK Srivastava said that Central Mining Research Institute officials from Dhanbad have been called to assess the damages in the mine. In opencast mining operations, the

upper soil of earth technically called "overburden" is removed to expose coal for extraction. Instead of dumping them on their own areas, Lingaraj mining authorities used to dump artificial hills on the surfaces of the old and empty underground mines.

While the permissible height is 30 meters for overburden dumps, the heights of these dumps are over 50 meters, thus causing tremendous pressure on the exhausted underground mine, where pillars are only left to contain the earth after coal extraction.

The role of the mine safety department is intriguing since they raised neither an objection on the issue of dumping, nor prosecuted the Lingaraj authorities for the violation of safety rules, a trade unionist requesting anonymity said.

The project officer of Lingaraj OCP, Mr Anwar Hussain said that dumping has since stopped on the underground surface, and there is no harm to the mine. "If there is no harm to the mine, then why dumping has been stopped?" the trade unionist questioned. He asked: "Why CMRI has been asked to study it?"

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BERHAMPUR

TUSSLE OVER COMPENSATION FOR ACQUIRED LAND

Statesman News Service

Berhampur, July 13: The Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) is facing a tussle with villagers of Ganjam district over the issue of compensation for land acquisition for the mining of rare earth.

The Orissa Rare Earths Complex (OSCOM), a unit of IREL, is located at Matikhalo near Gopalpur port. OSCOM is now facing a row over land acquisition, with 46 families of Bada Arjipalli and Sana Arjipalli villages.

Over the last three days, members of these families have been sitting on a dharna near the Sana Arjipalli square.

They have been protesting against alleged attempts by the IREL authorities and the district administration to take over their land for rare earth mining, without providing adequate compensation to them. The villagers have also formed an organisation, named Jana Suraksha Samity.

The greatest problem faced by the villagers is that, most of them do not possess pattas or legal documents for land ownership.

Only 16 families have pattas for their lands. Legally, they are the only ones entitled for compensation. But, according to the Jana Suraksha Samity secretary, Mr Dandapani Nayak, all the families have been using these lands, since 1920.

But the government had never bothered to provide them with pattas. The state revenue department had continued to collect revenue penalties from them, due to their forcible land occupation, until 1998.

The tussle is over a total area of around 175 acres of land. The families are now in possession of the land. They are traditional marine fishermen or harijans, who depend on fishing at sea, for their livelihood.

According to the samiti president, Mr Tarakeswar Rao, they have decided to continue their indefinite dharna, even in rain, till the district administration intervenes and provides them with adequate compensation from IREL. The sandy patches of land in their possession near the seashore have been converted into cashew orchards.

Mr Nayak said that, every year, they lease out their orchards to outsiders during the cashew nut collection season and earn around Rs 1500 in return.

“The irony is that, IREL is offering only Rs 8000 as compensation for each acre of land that, it would take up for mining,” said Mr Nayak.

The villagers are demanding that, the state government should provide them with pattas for their lands and should also arrange for compensation, as per the current market price of the land.

In adjoining areas, land was acquired by Tisco for its proposed steel project near the Gopalpur port at a rate of around Rs 1 lakh per acre. Besides, the displaced were also paid compensations for their trees.



CUTTACK

POLLUTION BOARD LIKELY TO FACE CONTEMPT CHARGES FOR NOT ABIDING BY SC ORDER

Pioneer News Service

Cuttack, July 13: The Supreme Court Monitoring Committee (SCMC) for hazardous wastes has pulled up the Orissa State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) for its failure to develop Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) or carry out urgent remediation of hexavalent chromium contaminated sites (six major sites including 60,000 tonnes at the Orichem site in Angul district) and set up incineration facilities for hazardous wastes.

The OSPCB has been informed that the Committee would report the matter to the Supreme Court for possible contempt, as there was no possible reason for delay.

A three-member sub-committee of SCMC for Orissa visited Angul, Talcher, Samal and Sukinda last month. It observed that OSPCB has carried out proper surveys of the quantities of hazardous materials to be de-toxified and also worked out

detailed estimates. Eight industries generate 80 per cent of the hazardous wastes. These are being directed to go in urgently for captive landfills or common landfills. OSPCB required time for compliance of this aspect by February 2007.

Several Orissa-based voluntary bodies, including the Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), the Kendujhar Suraksha Parishad and the District Environment Protection and Pollution Control Association, Angul, vehemently complained to SCMC about the total lack of enforcement of pollution laws by OSPCB. WSO specifically complained that most of the industries generating hazardous wastes are yet to display any signboard as per the Supreme Court's directions.

It also alleged that the OSPCB website does not carry any information or data to make the process transparent. The Committee during its field visits found that the units still did not have boards as required by the SC order of October 14, 2003, though three years had passed.

WSO also appealed to SCMC that Jayshree Chemicals at Ganjam, which has recently concluded public hearing for expansion, should not be allowed to expand unless it controls the current mercury discharge level which violates the HW Rules and the apex court order.

The SC had ordered that no HW generating unit could be expanded unless it complies with all HW management rules. SCMC felt that mercury discharge is an extremely serious matter and there should be a time-bound commitment to reduce the discharge level.

WSO and other voluntary bodies alleged that no regard was given to the health of local people by OSPCB while allowing the mushrooming of sponge iron and coking plants. The Committee visited the Bindal Sponge Iron Plant at Samal, in connection with which it had also received several representations. The Committee reported that the unit was "improperly run without qualified people and is a classic example of how badly a large plant covering a vast area can be managed.

The pollution from the plant has affected the health of twelve villages in the vicinity. Water is flowing all over, with the contamination ultimately ending up in a pond, which is only a few feet away from the pristine Brahmani River.

The entire plant air is full of fine dust, which, if inhaled, can cause respiratory cancers. The unit does not have any boundary wall or even a signboard." SCMC suggested that the plant be allowed to restart only when an expert in sponge iron plants certifies that the necessary features have been installed. As for the other sponge iron plants, OSPCB agreed that every one of them would instal the necessary

boards in front of their units giving details of the unit, consent, authorisation, etc. This shall be done in 15 days.

OSPCB informed the SCMC that they were directing the units to instal specially designed IT programmes to ensure that there is an auto-lock between the ESP and the feeding of raw materials to the rotary furnace.

SCMC felt that Nalco is maintaining their plant extremely well. But there are some grey areas since there are allegations of fluoride contamination. Although Nalco recovers 99 per cent of HF and is recycling the same, the remaining 1 per cent (considering the capacity of the plant) is extremely significant - to the extent of about 10 TPD. The ambient fluoride must be monitored by the Board. This has to be reduced to 0.1 per cent.

The Committee was impressed by the management of NTPC. They monitored the surroundings and cleanliness. The company, finally, has been advised to put an on-line air quality monitoring station and display their air quality data at their main gates to gain the Public confidence. These were agreed to by NTPC. The Committee was denied visit to Orichem.

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JAJPUR

JINDAL STAINLESS EYES ACQUISITIONS IN EAST EUROPE

The Hindu Business Line, Our Bureau

New Delhi, June 30: Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSW) is looking at acquiring cold rolling capacities abroad and has zeroed in on East Europe to set its foothold in this area.

Company officials said that the stainless steel industry was growing at more than 10 per cent annually and the projections are strong. Hence, acquiring additional capacities would make good business sense. They, however, declined to name the companies that JSW was looking at, but said that they were open to acquisition of large capacities also. Mobilising resources too would not be a constraint as the balance sheet was strong, the sources pointed out.

Orissa Plant

Meanwhile, the company's proposed integrated steel plant in Orissa has been delayed by almost one year following problems in land acquisition. While the company has paid for the land and the Government has handed over the property to the company, the land is still occupied by tribals who refuse to vacate it. The encroachment problem goes back 15 years, when the then Orissa Government headed by, Mr Biju Patnaik, had acquired huge areas at Duburi for the Kalinga Nagar industrial complex for the NRI industrialist, Mr Swraj Paul, who wanted to set up a steel plant at Duburi.

The displaced people were given Rs 37,000 per acre and then in 1995 an additional amount of Rs 15,000 per acre was announced . However, because Mr Paul's project did not take off , the tribals were not displaced and continued to occupy large chunks of Government land.

Rehabilitation row

Later the Government announced an enhanced package of Rs 25,000 per acre ex-gratia on the original compensation, along with an assurance of one guaranteed job per family, a house-building assistance of Rs 50,000 and a temporary shelter allowance of Rs 5,000. But the Government has now sold the same land to the companies at around Rs 3.5 lakh to Rs 4 lakh per acre. This has led to a face off between the companies and the Government on who will bear how much of the rehabilitation package.

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JHARSUGUDA

JHARSUGUDA POWER PLANT COULD CAUSE ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE, SAY EXPERTS

Pioneer News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 28: The recent announcement by the Reliance Energy regarding their plans to install a 12,000 MW power plant at Jharsuguda would add to the environmental woes in Orissa. The State Government, while going ahead with its industrialisation programme, should strike a balance between the development needs and the ecology, argue environmentalists.

At present, as pointed out by Wildlife Society of Orissa secretary Biswajit Mohanty, the State has an installed capacity of about 5,500 MW of thermal power stations. Three MoUs each for a 3,000 MW power station in the Meramundali -Angul area have been signed. The total power capacity would thus increase to about 15,000 MW, the raw material being coal. This additional power is expected to be sold to other States as Orissa is now self-sufficient in power.

Mohanty says that climate change is caused by emissions of a variety of gases collectively known as greenhouse gas. The most significant of these gases is carbon dioxide, which is responsible for 60 per cent of global warming and remains in the atmosphere for up to 200 years. Coal contains carbon and produces more carbon dioxide as a result. Coal stations also emit other pollutants including acid-rain forming sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), mercury and health damaging dust which contribute to significant environmental hazards and public health problems. In addition, mercury is a neurotoxin that can collect in tissues of fish and is especially dangerous to expecting mothers. Orissa's industries and power stations

were estimated to emit about 164 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2005, which is equal to total quantity emitted by India in 1996. This was about 3 per cent of the global emission of GHGs. After the new metal and power units are commissioned, GHG emission from Orissa is estimated to jump to 7-10 per cent of global levels by 2010. The Reliance plant is expected to produce 96 million tonnes of CO₂ alone per annum. Adding to this, the emission from the three units at Meramundali would be 128 million tonnes. Moreover, CO₂ emission from the new aluminum and steel plants is expected to be at least 100 million tonnes per annum. Therefore, Orissa will be generating 392 million tonnes of CO₂, which spells disaster for the ambient air conditions. Mohanty says the State Government has not yet conducted any EIA studies to assess the disastrous impacts of mega power plants and how they could be mitigated. Such gigantic generation of CO₂ and other gases would have serious effects on the farming activity since it would cause acid rain and change in temperatures and rainfall. Gas-based power stations could be set up as an alternative to avoid pollution. Already, the State is suffering from erratic rainfall, which has affected agriculture. Summer temperatures at Talcher and Jharsuguda, where major thermal power units are located, have shot up to 49 to 50 degrees in the last five to six years.

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JHARSUGUDA WANTS WELFARE, BENEFITS

Statesman News Service

Sambalpur, July 30: Since Vedanta and Reliance group of companies are going to establish their industrial units at Jharsuguda, any welfare related activity ought to be initiated at the same place for the benefit of the local people, said Mr Naba Das, local Congress leader, while demanding that the proposed Vedanta University should be established at Jharsuguda. "It is the people of Jharsuguda who would suffer displacement. There would also be massive deforestation due to which ecological balance is sure to get affected. Hence, Jharsuguda deserves the Vedanta University and the health city proposed by Reliance," Mr Das said. There is no reason for the coastal belt to gain from the two projects and decisions of such nature may lead to regional strife between the coastal region and western Orissa, he added. "People here have to suffer lot of harassment for suitable compensation from the industries who have already come over here. Most of the people are losing their livelihoods. They are also losing their socio-cultural relationships due to the unplanned rehabilitation process. When they have to sacrifice so much, they must also enjoy the benefit of peripheral development and all other welfare schemes," said Mr Das.

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KORAPUT

NIYAMGIRI MINING FRAUGHT WITH DANGER

Statesman News Service

Bhubaneswar, July 18: The Wildlife Institute of India study on the impact of bauxite mining in Niyamgiri hills as proposed by the OMC-Vedanta project has observed that it will lead to "irreversible changes in the ecological characteristics of the area", posing a threat to the unique wildlife habitat and water sources. The study carried out during May this year was ordered by the ministry of environment and forests which acted as per instructions of the Supreme Court. According to reliable sources, the WII report has dealt in great detail with the impact of mining on biodiversity including wildlife and its habitat in the area proposed to be mined. Niyamgiri is important both for its biological richness and for its functional role as a link between the forests of Kandhamal district and to those of Rayagada, Kalahandi and Koraput districts. The contiguity is critical for the movement and conservation of elephants. The future of endangered wildlife in the region like tiger, leopard, wolf, pangolin, giant squirrel, mouse deer, barking deer, four horned antelope etc are directly linked to landscape level conservation, the report is said to have observed. The latest study has debunked an earlier assessment of the environmental impact of Lanjigarh bauxite mining which had noted that some areas being unproductive and devoid of trees, were not useful for wildlife. WII maintained that the areas which had been marked as unproductive by the earlier EIA were in reality very productive plateaus with high occurrence of herbivore and carnivore species. Elephants visit the area during monsoon when grass is abundantly found and it also acts as breeding and fawning ground for the four horned antelope, barking deer etc. Niyamgiri hills are the source of Vansadhara and Nagaveli rivers. Nearly 36 streams originate around the hill and apprehensions are rife that removal of the bauxite layer will adversely impact on ground waters in the region and consequently the quality of forested habitats will deteriorate. The mining plan proposes excavation of 78 million ton of ore and 17.9 million ton of overburden and the gap in the material created by the extraction will create a void for backfilling. The plan states that the present topographic level after restoration will be lowered by 10 to 15 meters. WII is said to have observed that this may lead to soil erosion and impact adversely on drainage and forest productivity as well. It is apprehended that blasting and disturbances to the forest habitat over 25 years will adversely affect the movement of elephants and increased human population at the site will cause conflict

with wildlife. The bauxite mining in Niyamgiri plateau will destroy a specialised kind of wildlife habitat, dominated by grasslands and sparse tree species. The preparation of the mine site and access to the top of the hills through roads involve removal of prime vegetation cover which harbours giant squirrels, a highly endangered species. It is said to have taken the cost benefit ratio for the project and observed that compromising long-term economic returns for short-term gains is unwise. The Vedant project, particularly after its mining tie-up with OMC has been under fire. Congress MLA Mr Lalatendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra raised the issue which has since been a major controversy and is pending adjudication of the Supreme Court. A team of the Central empowered committee had carried out a study and the latest in this sequence is the WII report. Congress leaders like Mr Mohapatra, Mr Debasis Patnaik, several social activists and environmental agencies had raised a hue and cry at the alleged destruction of the forest cover. As per the proposed mining the state has proposed diversion of 660.749 hectare of forest land for bauxite ore mining in favour of OMC which in turn has entered into an agreement with Vedanta, a subsidiary of Sterlite Industries for captive mine to supply ore to its refinery. The total mine lease areas involves 721.323 hectares of land which includes 672 hectares of forest land.

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PURI

POLLUTION NOTICES ISSUED TO 24 MAJOR PURI HOTELS

Pioneer News Service, Prasant Mahapatra

Puri, July 19: The Orissa Pollution Control Board, in the first phase, has issued show-cause notices to 24 big hotels situated on the Puri beach, asking them to explain as to why their units should not be closed for polluting seashore. The notices, issued under Section 33-A of the Water Pollution, Prevention and Control Act, pointed out that the hotels are found to be releasing untreated waste-water to the beach, thereby causing serious pollution on the seashore. The Pollution Control Board and Environment Department have swung into action after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took serious note of the allegations levelled by noted environment activist Jagannath Bastia at the final Rath Yatra preparatory meeting that some big hotels were polluting environment. Not only had this but the Chief Minister decried the role of the concerned departments for not taking appropriate actions against the pollutant units. He had directed the officials to take steps to keep the beach pollution-free and devise ways to boost hospitality industry. Following Chief Minister's directive, chairman of the Pollution Control Board Dr Lalit Narayan Patnaik, along

with a team of experts, made an individual assessment of the hotels located along the beach. The team found that most of the hotels were flouting the norms of water pollution prevention law. The samples taken by the scientists confirmed that their untreated waste-water was beyond the prescribed standard. It found that water released to the beach and then into the sea was hazardous. The experts too detected that some of the hotels have installed their septic tanks and soak pits on the public road as well as on the beach. While notices have been issued to some of the major hotels of the town, other such pollutant units are expected to receive similar notices soon, according to sources. The Pollution Control Board has informed the district administration and the local municipal body about the punitive measures it intends to take against the pollutant hotels.

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SAMBALPUR

BHUSAN TO EXPAND ITS STEEL PLANT TO 9 MTPA

Sambad News Internet Edition

Bhubaneswar, July 24: The Bhusan Steel and Strips Limited has evinced keen interest to expand its 3 million tonnes steel plant in Odisha to 9 million tonnes with additional investment of another Rs 15,000 crore. The company had signed a MoU with the state government to set up a 3 million tonne steel plant at Meramunduli in Dhenkanal district with an investment of Rs 6000 crore. Bhusan chairman Brij Bhusan Singal and managing director Neeraj Singal, who met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his secretariat office on Saturday, expressed desire to expand the capacity of the steel plant. B B Singal told media persons that the plant would start commercial production of 0.5 million tonne hot roll plate by the end of this September and then go on adding the capacity to see that the total capacity production commissioned before January 2008. The chairman said the company would go for further expansion of the plant once the 3 million tonne capacity plant is commissioned and start commercial production. He said of the total Rs 6000 crore investment for the 3 MTPA plant, the company had already invested Rs 2000 crore and fulfilled the eligibility criteria for applying for captive mining for the plant. Bhusan Steel and Strips had already acquired 2000 acres of land for its 3 MTPA plant. The company has approached the state government to provide another 3,500 acres of land, so that the capacity could be expanded to 9 million tonnes. Singal said it would be a brown field project and the company was committed to look into the rehabilitation and resettlement aspects as per the latest RR policy of the state government. On the problem of local resistance, the chairman said they have appraised the

problem to the government, adding, the government response was quite positive. He said the company had undertaken several peripheral developments for the local people and so far spent nearly Rs 3 crore in various social responsible projects.

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HIRAKUD DAM FAILS TO DERIVE BENEFIT FROM RAINS

Sambad Internet News Edition

Sambalpur, July 14: Rain caused by depression played havoc in most parts of the state last week triggering flash floods in many rivers but Hirakud reservoir in western part hardly derived any benefit out of the torrential rain. The water level of the reservoir had almost reached a dead level causing much concern for providing water for irrigation purposes in the command areas. But there has been some remarkable improvement in the situation as water in the reservoir that was touching the 'dead-level' of 590 feet in the first week of July, has increased due to rain in the upper catchments areas, dam project control room sources said. Sources said the rainfall in the upper catchments was recorded only 44.5 mm in June against the average of 150 mm. Similarly, in July as against the average rainfall of 366 mm, the rainfall as on July 11 was 95.08 mm. Water level of Hirakud dam was recorded to be 596.64 feet on Wednesday, dam chief engineer B K Mohapatra said, adding, 'we have been successful in storing adequate quantity of water due to rain during the last five days'. He said normally the water level in the dam was maintained in between 590-595 feet in the month of July and thereafter efforts were made to store additional quantity of water to reach 610 feet by mid-August and finally 625 feet by the end of September. Heavy downpour due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal in the beginning of the month has no use for Hirakud reservoir since there was no substantial rain in the upper catchments of the reservoir spread across Chhattisgarh. The feeding from river Ib in Sundargad side was also negligible. But with rain in the upper catchments during the last five days, the crisis is over now, the chief engineer said. Meanwhile, to expedite agricultural activities 550 cusecs water in Sasan canal, 3700 cusecs in Bargad canal and 400 cusecs in Godbhaga canal had been released everyday as per the requisition of the agriculture and irrigation department, dam control room said.

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SUNDERGARH

ADHUNIK GETS IRON ORE MINE

The Hindu Business Line, Our Bureau

Mumbai, July 18: Adhunik Metaliks Ltd, the flagship company of Kolkata-based Rs 1,200 crore Adhunik Group, on Tuesday, announced that it has been allotted an iron ore mine at Kulum in Keonjhar district of Orissa. The iron ore will help the auto grade steel manufacturing company to reduce its raw material costs from Rs 1,800 per tonne to Rs 800 per tonne. "We produce 2.5 lakh tonne of steel a year in our unit at Rourkela. We have embarked on a capacity expansion programme at our Rourkela unit at an investment of Rs 437 crore," said Mr Manoj Agarwal, Director, Adhunik Metaliks Ltd. The ore is said have an estimated reserve to provide for the entire production capacity for next 30 years. With an intention to foray into power transmission and distribution sector, Adhunik Metaliks recently acquired Unistar Galvanisers and Fabricators Ltd (UGFL) for an undisclosed consideration. UGFL is engaged in manufacturing of sub-station structures and transmission towers for power and telecommunication sector. The company has begun receiving overseas orders from countries like Bhutan, Algiers and West Asian Emirates, Mr Agarwal said. The company has also hammered out a Rs 70-crore expansion programme to increase the capacity of UGFL to the range of 7,000 tonne - 8,000 tonne of fabrication per month. The expansion will also increase galvanising from 4,000 tonne to 6,000 tonne per month. For the fiscal year ended March 2006, the company had a total income of Rs 426.55 crore and a net profit of Rs 33.71 crore. It has also declared a maiden 5 per cent dividend for the year 2005-06, said Mr Alok Kumar Shrada, CFO, Adhunik Metaliks Ltd. Shares of Adhunik ended at Rs 31.85, up by Rs 1.15 on BSE.

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RSP TO BE MODERNIZED AT COST OF RS 4,000 CR **Orissa Diary News**

Rourkela, July 27: Steel Authority of India Limited chairman VS Jain said that SAIL would invest an amount of Rs 4,000 crore for the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant. He welcomed the entry of multinationals like Arcelor-Mittal and Posco into the country in the iron and steel sector. He said, with the competition SAIL would try to improve its performance and try to be competitive in every field. He praised the performance of the Rourkela Steel Plant and said it was doing quite well and its performance was improving every year. He said the plant was operating above its capacity. He praised the performance of the workers and employees of the plant.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES

Month- July

Name of the company and place of operation	Capacity of the project	Date of Notice for public hearing	Date of Public Hearing	Place of Public Hearing	Notification number of MOEF
M/S M.C.L, Talcher area, Angul.	0.33MTPY covering an area of 370 Hectare.	03.07.2006	16.08.2006	Jaganath Kalakendra, south Balanda, Talcher.	NO.10574
M/S OCL India limited, Rajagangapur, Dist-Sundergarh	Enhancement of the capacity from 12 lakh tones / A to 29 lakh tonne/ A& cement production capacity from existing 20 Lakh tonne/ A to 40 lakh tonne/A.	12.07.2006	18.08.2006	Premises of block development office, Rajagangpur	NO-16067.
M/S Rungta sons pvt.ltd, Koida, Sundergarh	Exploration of ores from Sanandpur iron & Bauxite mines having capacity of 1.65 MTPA covering an area of 147.10 hectare.	15.07.2006	23.08.2006	Nadikashira, Rungta mines office complex.	NO-16810/
M/s Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd of Sanindupur Iron & Bauxite Mines, Sanindupur, Koira, Sundergarh	Production of 1.65 Million Ton/Annum of Iron Ore over an area of 147.10 Ha at Sanindupur, Koira, Sundergarh	14.07.2006	23.8.2006	Mines Office Premises of M/S Rungta Company at Nadikashira	-
M/S Adhunika mettalics limited, Chadiharihar pur, Sundergarh.	Expansion of the present integrated steel plant	25.07.2006	29.08.2006	Chadharihar pur school	No.17817/IND.II.P.H-126
M/S S.P.S steel & power Ltd, Kukurjanga, Jharsuguda	Installation of steel and power plant having capacity of 0.5 MTA	26.07.2006	30.08.2006	Town hall, Jharsuguda	No.17813/IND.II.P.H-143

PENDING PROJECTS WITH MOEF FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

PENDING INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
Project No: J-11011/7/2006-IA.II(I) Project Name: 6.0 MT Integrated steel Plant District: Jaipur, Kalingnagar Village: Chandia, Company: M/s Tata Steel Ltd.	06/01/2006	The proposal has been examined. Additional information sought on 21.01.2006 & 15.02.2006 and partial information received on 15.02.2006. NOC still awaited. Reminder sent on 01.03.2006. Information has been received. Project was considered in the EC(I) meeting held on 19.04.2006. Additional information sought on 01.05.2006. Reminder sent on 12.05.2006 and 12.06.2006. Information has been received. The project authorities did not attend the meeting therefore the proposal could not be re-considered in EC(I) meeting held on 21.06.2006. Now proposal will be re-considered in the EC(I) meeting to be held on 26.07.2006.
Project No: J-11011/144/2006-IA.II(I) Project Name: 250,000 TPA aluminium Smelter Plant District: Jharsuguda Village: Bhurkamunda Company: M/s Vedanta Aluminium Ltd.	12/04/2006	The proposal has been examined. Additional information sought on 27.04.2006 has been received. The proposal was considered in EC(I) meeting held on 21.06.2006. After detailed deliberations, the Expert Committee (Industry) decided to reconsider the proposal for environmental clearance after submission of additional information and comments of the Wildlife section of the Ministry followed by site visit by the sub-committee of the Expert Committee (Industry).
Project No: J-11011/237/2006-IA.II(I) Project Name: Integrated Steel Plant (0.1 MTPA- 0.4 MTPA) and CPP(75 MW) District: Jharsuguda Village: Hirma Company: M/s SMC Power Generation Ltd..	29/06/2006	The proposal has been examined. Additional information sought on 05.07.2006. Reminder sent on 14.07.2006.

PENDING MINING PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
Project No: No.J-11015/221/2005-IA.II(M) Project Name: Lanjigarh Bauxite Mine of M/s Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd., Districts Kalahandi and Raigarh District: Raigarh Company:	13/06/2005	Additional information sought by Ministry received on 25.11.2005. Legal opinion sought on P.H. and NOC received. Expert Committee (Mining) considered the project on 27-29 March 2006. Clarifications as desired by the Expert Committee sought on 13.04.2006 on impact of mining on bio diversity, written commitment owning the commitments made by M/s Vedanta during public hearing for their implementation, output from the springs / streams, details of conveyor system for transportation of ore, AAQ, commitment from the competent authority regarding availability of water and power and refilled in questionnaire. Response awaited.

Project No: No.J-11015/388/2005-IA.II(M) Project Name: Narayan OC Iron & Mn. Mine, ML Area: 349.254 ha Prod. Capacity: 0.6 MTP (Iron Ore)7800 TPA (Mn.) District: Sundergarh Company: M/s Aryan Mining & Trading Corp.	31/10/2005	Additional information sought by Ministry received on 10.01.2006. Expert Committee (Mining) reconsidered the project on 27-28 April 2006. Clarification sought from the proponent on water table, working depth and valley floor , revised questionnaire and public hearing. Response received on 06.06.2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/412/2005-IA.II(M) Project Name: Muhulsukha Manganese Ore Mine District: Keonjhar Company: M/s Aryan Mining Trading Corporation Pvt. Ltd.	29/11/2005	Project was received incomplete without PHR and NOC. PHR and NOC received on 26.06.2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/419/2005-IA.II(M) Project Name: Ispat Sukinda Chromite Mine District: Jajpur Company: M/s Balasore Alloys Ltd.	19/12/2005	Project was received incomplete without PHR and NOC. PHR and NOC received on 16.06.2006. Additional Information is awaited.
Project No: J-11015/38/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Ostapal Chromite Mines District: Jajpur Company: M/s Fero Alloys Corporation Ltd.	14/02/2006	Expert Committee (Mining) considered the project on 17-19th May 2006. Clarification sought by the Expert Committee received on 22.06.2006. Proposal is likely to be re-considered in the forthcoming meeting of the Expert Committee (Mining) scheduled for 22-23 August 2006.
Project No: J-11015/41/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Patabeda Iron Ore Mine District: Sundergarh Company: M/s M.G. Mohanty	15/02/2006	Additional information sought by Ministry received along with the project. Proposal is yet to be considered by the Expert Committee (Mining).
Project No: J-11015/411/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Maliparbat Bauxite Mining District: Koraput Company: M/s Hindalco Industries Ltd	15/02/2006	Project received incomplete on 28.11.05. NOC and Public Hearing received on 15.02.2006. Expert Committee (Mining) considered the project on 17-19th May 2006. Clarification sought by the Expert Committee received on 13.06.2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/49/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Malangtoli Iron Ore Mine District: Keonjhar Company: Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd	07/03/2006	Additional information sought by the ministry received along with the project.
Project No: No.J-11015/75/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Raikela Iron Mine District: Sundergarh Company: M/s. S.N. Mohanty	10/04/2006	Additional information sought by the ministry received along with the project.

Project No: No.J-11015/103/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Malda Manganese Mine District: Sundergarh Company: M/s Tata Steel Ltd.	05/05/2006	Additional information sought by the Ministry received on 29.06.2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/104/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Bandhal Manganese District: Sundergarh Company: M/s Kanakdhan Mining & Minerals Pvt. Ltd.	05/05/2006	Additional information sought by the Ministry awaited.
Project No: No.J-11015/105/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Roida Iron Ore Mine District: Keonjhar Company: M/s Mideast Integrated Steels Ltd.	05/05/2006	Additional information sought by the Ministry awaited.
Project No: No.J-11015/106/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Roida 'C' Iron & Manganese Ore Mining District: Keonjhar Company: M/s IDCOL Kalinga Iron Works	05/05/2006	Proposal is likely to be considered in the forthcoming meeting of the Expert Committee (Mining) scheduled for 18-20 July 2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/134/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Utkal Coal Mining Project District: Angul Company: M/s Utkal Coal Ltd.	31/05/2006	Proposal is likely to be considered in the forthcoming meeting of the Expert Committee (Thermal) scheduled for 11-12 July 2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/158/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Gonua Iron & Manganese Mine District: Sundergarh Company: M/s S.N. Mohanty	12/06/2006	Additional information sought by Ministry received alongwith the project.
Project No: No.J-11015/184/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Naibaga Katupali Iron and Manganese Mining Project District: Keonjhar Company: M/s T.P. Mohanty	27/06/2006	Additional information sought by the Ministry received on 11.07.2006.
Project No: No.J-11015/203/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Utkal D Coal Mining Project District: Angul Company: M/s Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd.	12/07/2006	Additional information sought by the Ministry awaited.

Project No: No.J-11015/201/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Jagannath UGP District: Angul Company: M/s MCL.	12/07/2006	Additional information sought by Ministry received along with the project.
Project No: No.J-11015/202/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Talchar West UGP District: Sambalpur Company: M/s MCL.	12/07/2006	Additional information sought by the Ministry awaited.

PENDING THERMAL PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
Project No: J-13011/5/2006-IA.II(T) Project Name: 4x125 MW Captive Power Project District: Jajpur Company: M/s Jindal Stainless Ltd.	18/02/2006	Considered by the Expert Committee on 21.3.2006. The Committee sought additional information/ clarifications. Based on the information received, the project was considered in the meeting of the EC(T) on 14th June, 2006. The proponent could not clarify all the issues. Further, clarifications are to be received from the proponent.
Project No: J-13011/10/2006-IA.II(T) Project Name: 675 MW (5x135 MW) Captive Power Plant for proposed Aluminium Smelter of 2,50,000 TPA Plant District: Jharsuguda Village: Bhurkamunda / Brundamal Company: M/s Vedanta Alumina Ltd.	07/04/2006	Considered by the Expert Committee on 9th May, 2006. The Committee has sought additional information. The information has since been received, the project is likely to be considered in the next meeting of EC(T) on 12th July, 2006.

PENDING RIVER VALLEY & HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS

Project Details	Received On	Status
Project No: J-12011/11/2006-IA.I Project Name: Ong Dam Project District: Bargarh Company: Water Resources Department , Govt of Orissa	04/05/2006	Considered by E.C. on 17.5.06 & project authority has been asked to submit revised EIA report as only two season's ecological data have been considered and area of Chattisgarh State also coming under submergence. Comments of Chattisgarh Govt. regarding proposed R & R package also sought letter issued on 31.5.06, reply is still awaited.

PENDING INFRASTRUCTURE & MISCELLANOUS PROJECTS

Project Details	Received On	Status
Project No: 11-28/2006-IA.III Project Name: CRZ clearance for diversion of 0.25 hectare of Forest land in Borhampur Division of Ganjam District for construction of Light House at Parayagi, Orissa District: Ganjam Company: Directorate of Light House & Light Ships	29/05/2006	Under Consideration

PENDING PROJECTS WITH MoEF FOR FOREST CLEARANCE

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PENDING MINING PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8-113/2000-FC VOL-II Area: 133.112 ha Description: Second Renewal of Mining Lease to Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd in Kurmitar Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Dvn.	19 June 2006	SIR awaited on 20.06.2006. Reference File No: 8-113/2000-FC.

PENDING OTHER PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8(27)1/99-FCE Area: 8.67 ha Description: Iron Ore Based Industries of IPICOL	Null	

PENDING RAILWAY LINE PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8-22/1996-FC Area: 48.25 ha Description: Lanjigarh-Junagarh BG Railway Line (56 Km)	1 February 1996	Information of field status awaited from Nodal officer on 9.05.2006

PENDING ENCROACHMENTS PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY, 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8-ORA076/2006-FCD Area: 385.53 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	SIR awaited since 18.07.2006.
File No: 8-ORC075/2006-FCD Area: 26.5985 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Under Process
File No: 8-ORB070/2006-FCD Area: 0.08 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Under Process. Reference File No. 8(29)10/2001-FCE
File No: 8-ORA073/2006-FCD Area: 65.241 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Under Process
File No: 8-ORC071/2006-FCD Area: 5.028 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Under Process. Reference File No. 8(29)5/2000-FCE
File No: 8-ORA074/2006-FCD Area: 504.5639 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Under Process. (492.5985 + 11.9654 = 504.5639 ha forest land)
File No: 8-ORC069/2006-FCD Area: 14.551 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Under Process. Reference File No. 8(29)14/2002-FCE
File No: 8-ORA072/2006-FCD Area: 214.212 ha Description: Regularization of Encroachment	6 July 2006	Site Inspection Report Awaited on 18.07.2006

PENDING PROJECTS WITH STATE₂₇ GOVERNMENT FOR FOREST CLEARANCE

PENDING IRRIGATION PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8(22)5/2002-FCE Area: 3.387 ha. Description: Kankandajore Minor Irrigation Project, Banki	NULL	
File No: 8(22)1/2001-FCE Area: 3.008 ha. Description: Krupasagar Minor Irrigation Project	NULL	

PENDING MINING PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8-31/2003-FC Area: 56.98 ha. Description: Mining Lease of Cat's Eye Mineral In Favour of Navyug Minerals Limited	14 February 2003	EDS 11.09.2003
File No: 8-14/2004-FC Area: 8.13 ha. Description: TWP in F/O Budharaja Iron & Manganese Ore Mines For One Year Over 8.13ha Already Broken Up Forest Area	10 March 2004	Application Pending With State Mining Department
File No: 8-ORA023/2005-FCD Area: 660.749 ha. Description: Lanjigarh Bauxite Mining Project in Niyamgiri RF And Nimagiri Proposed RF of Rayagada District in Favour of Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC)	28 February 2005	Information awaited from State Government Vide Order Dated 9.03.2006
File No: 8-ORA047/2005-FCD Area: 294.5 ha. Description: Temporary Working Permission For Sulapat Iron Mine of Shri Biratchandra Dagara in Rairangpur Forest Division	12 May 2005	EDS on 13/05/2005
File No: 8(21)12/2001-FCE Area: 18.23 ha. Description: Asbestos & Pyroxenite Mining By B. L. Newatia	NULL	
File No: 8(21)4/2001-FCE Area: 0.55 ha. Description: Bangur Chromite Mines of OMC Ltd	NULL	
File No: 8(21)34/2004-FCE Area: 14.739 ha. Description: Diversion of Forest Land in Favour Of M/S Patnaik Minerals Pvt Limited For Manganese Mines	13 April 2004	Information sought from state govt on 14.7.2004, reminded on 14.7.2004 and 19.4.2005, still not received
File No: 8(21)43/2004-FCE Area: 12.14 ha. Description: Graphite Mine in Ganjaudhar By Sh. J.N. Agarwal	NULL	Regional office has requested the state govt to furnish information last reminded on 19.4.2005

File No: 8(21)44/2004-FCE Area: 2.841 ha. Description: Graphite Mine By Sh.Tilak Raj Mediratta	NULL	Regional office requested the state govt to furnish information on 24.8.2004 and reminded on 11.10.2004 and on 19.4.2005
File No: 5-ORC006/2004-BHU Area: 11.565 ha. Description: TWP over already broken up area for Mining of Iron and Manganese ore in Favour of Shri B K Mohanty	6 October 2004	

PENDING ROAD LINE PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8(26)2/02-FCE Area: 1.457 ha. Description: Daitari-Banspani Rly Link Road, Palaspang-Bamebari	NULL	

PENDING OTHER PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8-14/1999-FC Area: 32 ha. Description: Sewerage Treatment System & Utiliatim System	20 January 1999	Case is Subjudised
File No: 8(21)16/2002-FCE Area: 0.188 ha. Description: Exploration/Drilling Programme for Graphite Ore	Null	

PENDING ENCROACHMENTS PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Status
File No: 8(29)13/2000-FCE Area: 4.667 ha. Description: Regularization of Encroachment in Angul	Null	
File No: 8(29)2/2001-FCE Area: 10.666 ha. Description: Regularization Of Encroachment	Null	
File No: 8(29)10/2001-FCE Area: 0.08 ha. Description: Regularization of Encroachment	Null	Reference File No: 8-70/2006-FC

APPROVED PROJECTS WITH MoEF FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

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APPROVED INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Approved On
Project No: J-11011/134/2006-IA.II(I) Project Name: Expansion of 150,000 TPY Sponge Iron, 30,000 TPY Billet, 200,000 TPY Fastnet and 48 MW Captive Power Plant Agency: M/s Orissa Sponge Iron Limited.	23/03/2006	19/07/2006

APPROVED MINING PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY 2006

Project Details	Received On	Approved On
Project No: No.J-11015/108/2003-IA.II(M) Project Name: Utkal B2 OCP Agency: M/s Monnet Ispat	09/01/2006	28/07/2006
Project No: No.J-11015/306/2005-IA.II(M) Project Name: Natraj UG Mine of M/s MCL, ML Area: 483.227 ha Prod. Capacity: 0.64 MTPA Agency:	08/08/2005	14/07/2006
Project No: No.J-11015/55/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Sameleshwari OC Expansion Project Agency: M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	14/03/2006	14/07/2006
Project No: No.J-11015/83/2006-IA.II(M) Project Name: Ananta OC Expansion Agency: M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd.	26/04/2006	14/07/2006

**APPROVED PROJECTS WITH CENTRAL³⁶
GOVERNMENT FOR FOREST CLEARANCE**

**NO PROJECTS HAVE BEEN GRATED WITH
FOREST CLEARANCE DURING
JULY 2006**

IN-PRINCIPAL PROJECTS FOR FOREST CLEARANCE

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IN-PRINCIPLE MINING PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY, 2006

Project Details	Received On	Approved On
File No: 8-ORA081/2005-Fcd Area:232.438 Description: Diversion of Forest Land In Gandhamardan Block 'B' By Orissa Mining Corporation Limited	6 September 2005	24 April 2006
File No: 8-147/1989-Fc (PT) Area:145.82 Description: Mining Lease For Samaleswari OCP By M/S Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL)	13 March 2006	24 May 2006
File No: 8-32/1993-Fc(Vol-II) Area:45.465 Description: Iron and Manganese Ore Mining in Joda East Iron Mine and Mannora Manganese Mine of M/S Tisco Ltd in Keonjhar Forest Division For 2nd Renewal	19 April 2006	2 June 2006
File No: 8-92/1996-FC Area:135.532 Description: Mining Lease to Bhanja Minerals Ltd	9 October 1996	28 July 2006

IN-PRINCIPLE ROAD LINE PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY, 2006

Project Details	Received On	Approved On
File No: 5-ORB026/2006-BHU Area:0.797 Description: Diversion of 0.797 Hactares of Forest Land For Construction of Approach Road to Vishal Metallic Pvt Limited.	27 April 2006	3 May 2006

IN-PRINCIPLE ENCROACHMENTS PROJECTS AS ON 31st JULY, 2006

Project Details	Received On	Approved On
File No: 8-109/2000-FC Area:1263.7379 Description: Regularization of Encroachment	24 October 2000	19 May 2006
File No: 8(29)4/2000-FCE Area:0 Description: Regularization of Human Settlement	NULL	19 May 2006
File No: 8(29)12/2001-FCE Area:0 Description: Regularization of Encroachment	NULL	19 May 2006

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REJECTED PROJECTS

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REJECTED IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Project Details	Rejected On	Reason Of Rejection
File No: 8-173/1984-FC Area: 52.42 ha. Description: BHALUDHAR MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECT	16 July 1984	REJECTED ON MERRIT.
File No: 8-56/1992-FC Area: 26.96 ha. Description: CHIKIMA MIP	19 May 1994	REJECTED ON MERRIT
File No: 8-22/1998-FC Area: 638 ha. Description: SUKTEL IRRIG PROJECT	3 December 1998	REJECTED REF. 8-3/1994-FC
File No: 8-148/FCE Area: 16 ha. Description: AMKHOL NALLA MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECT	31 July 2000	REJECTED ON MERIT

REJECTED MINING PROJECTS

Project Details	Rejected On	Reason Of Rejection
File No: 8B-12/5/92-FCE Area: 0.9 ha. Description: SOFT STONE QUARRY BY BALARAM SAHOO	19 August 1994	REJECTED ON MERIT
File No: 8-280/FCE Area: 2.367 ha. Description: GRAPHITE MINING BY ANTARYAMI MISHRA	8 December 1997	REJECTED ON MERIT
File No: 8-111/1997-FC Area: 129.206 ha. Description: MINING LEASE TO OMC	27 August 1998	REJECTED ON MERRIT
File No: 8-37/1996-FC Area: 181.013 ha. Description: MINING LEASE TO TISCO	23 October 1998	REJECTED ON MERRIT
File No: 8-355/FCE Area: 0.22 ha. Description: PROSPECTING WORK BY K.B. PAHI	22 May 2000	REJECTED ON MERIT
File No: 8-169/FCE Area: 19.96 ha. Description: NISHIKHAL MINING LEASE OF OMC	27 November 2001	REJECTED ON MERIT

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File No: 8(21)2/2001-FCE Area: 3.797 ha. Description: KATASAH & KOLHA RUDKOLA MN. MINES OF SN PAUL	9 December 2002	REJECTED ON MERIT AS PART OF ELEPHANT CORRIDER
File No: 8-13/2002-FC Area: 45.148 ha. Description: MINING LEASE TO BC SAHU	1 October 2003	REJECTED ON MERRIT
File No: 8(21)5/99-FCE Area: 13.86 ha. Description: BLACKSTONE QUARRY BY M/S JS CONSTRUCTION LTD.	20 December 2004	Case rejected, Based on appeal reply furnished to the ministry vide ref even no dated 20.12.2004.

REJECTED OTHER PROJECTS

Project Details	Rejected On	Reason Of Rejection
File No: 8-62/1982-FC Area: 71.55 ha. Description: RESETTLEMENTS OF VILLAGERS	20 May 1982	REJECTED ON MERRIT, FILE NOT IN SECTION
File No: 8-221/1986-FC Area: 100 ha. Description: RELEASE OF FOREST LAND FOR RAISING CAPATIVE PLANTATION	2 October 1987	REJECTED ON MERRIT.
File No: 8-256/1986-FC Area: 31 ha. Description: RELEASE OF FOREST LAND FOR RAISING CAPATIVE PLANTATION	10 December 1987	REJECTED ON MERRIT.
File No: 8-300/1987-FC Area: 98.74 ha. Description: RAISING OF COFFEE PLANTATION BY M/S ASHOK AGRO INDUSTRIES	21 December 1987	REJECTED ON MERRIT.
File No: 8-201/1986-FC Area: 200 ha. Description: RUBBER PLANTATION BY ORISSA FOREST CORPORATION LIMITED	13 October 1988	REJECTED ON MERRIT
File No: 8-248/1986-FC Area: 51 ha. Description: RAISING OF CAPTIVE PLANTATION BY TITAGHUR PAPER MILLS	5 November 1988	REJECTED ON MERRIT.
File No: 8-318/1988-FC Area: 911.09 ha. Description: FOREST LAND FOR RUBBER PLANTATION	1 April 1989	REJECTED ON MERRIT.

File No: 8-205/1991-FC Area: 187.65 ha. Description: BRACKISH WATER FISHERES & PRAWN CULTURE	17 July 1992	REJECTED ON MERRIT
File No: 8-360/FCE Area: 4.7 ha. Description: RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF SAW MILLS AT KULUNGA	18 January 1999	REJECTED ON MERIT
File No: 8(27)1/2000-FCE Area: 1.497 ha. Description: M/S REXON STRIPS LTD. IN VILLAGE KUMKELA	29 February 2000	REJECTED ON MERIT
File No: 8-69/2000-FC Area: 124.38 ha. Description: CONST. OF ALUMINA REFINERY	31 October 2001	REJECTED ON MERRIT

REJECTED TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

Project Details	Rejected On	Reason Of Rejection
File No: 8-76/1985-FC Area: 81.9 ha. Description: 220 KV DC BRAJARAJ NAGAR TO RAIGARH T/L	14 December 1987	DELIBERATE VIDATION OF FC ACT

REJECTED REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Project Details	Rejected On	Reason Of Rejection
File No: 8-304/1985-FC Area: 123.79 ha. Description: REHABILITATION OF PEOPLE DUE TO JONK MIP	18 November 1985	REJECTED ON MERRIT

APPROVAL LETTERS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS ISSUED BY MoEF DURING JULY 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE LETTERS

1. Expansion of Ananta Open Cast Coal Mining Project of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located in Angul
2. Expansion of Kasia Iron Ore and Dolomite Mining Project of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. located in Village Kasia, Tehsil Barbil, District Keonjhar, Orissa
3. Brutang Irrigation Project in District Nayagarh, Orissa

FOREST CLEARANCES LETTERS

1. Diversion of 135.532 ha of forest land in respect of Inganijharan iron and manganese ore mines of M/s Bhanja Minerals Private Limited in Keonjhar District, Orissa.

No.J-11015/4/94-IA.II (M)
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment and Forests
Paryavaran Bhavan

C.G.O.Complex,
 Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003
 Dated the 2nd May 2005

To,

Chief General Manager (Envvt.)
 Mahanadi Coalfield Limited,
 Jagriti Vihar, P.O.U.C.E., Burla,
 District Sambalpur-768 018
 ORISSA.

Subject: Expansion of Ananta Open Cast Coal Mining Project of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located in Village(s) Hensamul, Dera, Purunia, Chandpur and Nakhtrapur, Tehsil Talcher in Angul District of orissa—environmental clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to the Ministry of Coal, Government of India letter No. 43011/1/94-CPA dated 04.01.1994 and subsequent letter No. 43011/17/2001-CPAM dated 19.12.2002 and your letters dated 11.08.1994, 24.06.1995, 13.12.1999, 29.05.2000, 13.02.2001, 23.01.2002, 03.04.2002, 12.03.2003, 12.11.2003, 30.11.2004 14.12.2004, 12.02.2005 and 28.02.2005 on the subject mentioned above. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has considered the environmental clearance application. It has been noted that the total land required for the project is 808.65 ha out of which 691.091 ha is lease area and 117.559 ha is an area acquired out side the lease for residential colony and settlement. Out of the total lease area of 691.09 ha , 190.74 ha is an agricultural land , 62.67 ha is forestland, 394.911 ha is wasteland, 25.87 ha is surface water body and 16.90 ha is others (settlement). Area proposed for quarrying is 373.892 ha and 23.20 ha area is kept for OB dumps, 90.0 ha for infrastructure, 203.999 ha is for safety zone for blasting. Forestry clearance for diversion of 62.67 ha of forestland obtained on 19.11.2004. No National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve is located within core & buffer zone of the mine lease area. One village namely Hensamul comprising a population of 998 people are in the core zone. Rehabilitation of 370 families has already been made by providing 386 jobs in MCL (as on 20.03.2004). The annual targeted production capacity of the mine is 8.0 million tonnes. Working will be open cast by mechanised method involving blasting. Ultimate working depth will be 115 m bgl. Total peak water requirement for the project is 1765m³/d, out of which 455 m³/d will be met from integrated water supply scheme of Talcher Coalfield and remaining from the mine water sump. The project involves removal of an estimated 38.75 million m³ of OB, which will be concurrently back-filled. NOC from the State Pollution Control Board obtained on 12.05.2004. Public hearing held on 12.01.2004. MCL Board has approved project report on 13.03.2003 for annual targeted capacity of 8.0 million tonnes. Capital cost of the project is Rs.203.48 crores.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords prospective environmental clearance to the above mentioned coal mining project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for 8.0 MTY production by

opencast method involving total land requirement of 808.65 ha under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 as amended on 04.05.1994 and 10.04.1997 subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

A. Specific conditions

- (i) The environmental clearance is subject to approval of the State Landuse Department, Government of Orissa for diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use.
- (ii) Top soil should be stacked with proper slope at earmarked site(s) only with adequate measures and should be used for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas.
- (iii) OB dumps should be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and should not be kept active for long period. Proper terracing of OB dump should be carried out so that the overall slope will come down to 28 degree. The excavated area should be backfilled concurrently with the mining operation from first year onwards. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on yearly basis.
- (iv) Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from soil, OB and mineral dumps. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains should be regularly desilted and maintained properly.

Garland drains of appropriate size should be constructed, to collect surface run-off from the OB and waste dump site(s) and taken to settling pond before discharge.
- (v) Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of dumps and OB benches within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rain fall data.
- (vi) Green belt should be raised in an area of 431.699 ha by planting the native species around the ML area, OB dump sites, backfilled area, safety zone, infrastructure, colony etc. in consultation with the local DFO / Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.
- (vii) The project authority should implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, South Eastern region, Bhubneshwar.
- (viii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operation. The monitoring should be carried out four times in a year i.e January, April-May, August and November and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to Ministry of Environment and Forests, Central Ground Water Authority and South Eastern region, Central Ground Water Board, Bhubneshwar.
- (ix) The project authorities should obtain prior approval of the competent authority for drawal of 455m³/day from the Brahmani river under Integrated Water Supply Scheme for the project.
- (x) The project authorities should meet the water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to de-watering of the mine.

- (xi) Coal handling plant should be provided with adequate number of high efficiency dust extraction system. Loading and unloading areas including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.
- (xii) Consent to operate should be obtained from SPCB before starting mining activities.
- (xiii) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored.
- (xiv) Digital processing of the entire lease area using remote sensing technique should be done regularly once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report submitted to MOEF and its regional office.
- (xv) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.
- (xvi) Land oustees and land losers shall be compensated as per the R&R plan approved by the CIL & State Government.

B. General Conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral coal and waste should be made.
- (iii) Atleast four ambient air quality monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as the buffer zone for RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x, and CO monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board. Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x, and CO) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhubneshwar and to the State Pollution Control Board/Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (iv) Drills should either be wet operated or with dust extractors.
- (v) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly monitored and data recorded properly. Water spraying arrangements on haul roads, wagon loading, dumps, loading & unloading points should be provided and properly maintained.
- (vi) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels within prescribed standards. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operations of HEMM, etc., should be provided with ear plugs/muffs.
- (vii) Industrial wastewater (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422(E) dated 19th May 1993 and 31st December 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of effluents from workshop.
- (viii) Acid mine water, if any has to be treated and disposed of after conforming to the standard prescribed the competent authority.
- (ix) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

Occupational health surveillance programme of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to coal dust and take corrective measures, if needed.

- (x) Environmental laboratory should be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (xi) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set up under the control of a senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the organization.
- (xii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purposes. Year-wise expenditure should be reported to the Regional Office, Bhubneshwar of the MOEF and to the Ministry.
- (xiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhubneshwar shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The Project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing requisite data/information/monitoring reports.
- (xiv) A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to the concerned Panchayat /local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestions/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
- (xv) The project authorities should inform to the Regional Office located at Bhubneshwar regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xvi) State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industry Centre and Collector's/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xvii) The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen at web site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in> .

2. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

3. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The above conditions will be enforced *inter-alia*, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

(Dr.T.Chandini)

Additional Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubneshwar.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (EZ), Ministry of Environment and Forests, A-3 Chandrashekharpur, Bhubaneshwar-751023.
4. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
5. Chairman, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118 Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneshwar-751012.
6. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
7. District Collector, Angul, Orissa.
8. Shri M.K.Shukla, Chief General Manager, Coal India Limited,407/8, Surya Kiran, 19 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
9. EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, EI Division, New Delhi.
10. Monitoring File.
11. Guard File.
12. Record File.

(Dr.T.Chandini)

Additional Director

No. J-11015/195/2005-IA.II(M)
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhavan,
 C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
 New Delhi-110003.
 Telefax. 2436 2434
 Dated the 16th June, 2006

To

M/s Essel Mining & Industries Limited,
 P.O. Barbil-758 035,
 District-Keonjhar
 Orissa

Subject: Expansion of Kasia Iron Ore and Dolomite Mining Project of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. located in Village Kasia, Tehsil Barbil, District Keonjhar, Orissa - environmental clearance reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No. JLIM/128/2005-06 dated 08.04.2005 and subsequent letters dated 03.05.2005, 10.06.2005, 15.06.2005, 17.06.2005, 14.10.2005 and 04.04.2006 on the subject mentioned above. It has been noted that the proposal is for enhancement of iron ore production. The total mine lease area of the project is 194.196 ha, out of which 8.29 ha is an agricultural land, 173.039 ha is forestland, 4.714 ha is wasteland and 8.153 ha is others (1.295 ha rasta. 0.967ha gharbari and 5.891 ha anabadi). Area proposed for mining is 70.076 ha, an area of 10.4 ha is kept for OB dumps, 5.94 ha for mineral storage, 7.609 ha is railways, 21.062 ha for greenbelt, 13.271 ha for township, 0.053 ha for magazine, 7.099 ha reclamation and afforestation, 2.622 ha for public purpose, 44.321 ha virgin area for future, 5.764 ha private land and 5.972 ha for safety zone(broken area reclaimed). No ecologically sensitive areas such national park/sanctuary/biosphere reserve etc. located within core and buffer zone of the project. The targeted production capacity of the mine is 3.6 million TPA of iron ore. Production of dolomite is not envisaged. Working is opencast by mechanised method involving blasting. The ultimate working depth of the mine is 440m AMSL. Working will not intersect groundwater table. Displacement of population and R&R is not involved. The peak water requirement of the project is 118 m³/day which will be met from groundwater. It has been observed that the complete exploration of mine lease area has not been done as yet. In the absence of the same, the backfilling and OB dump plan is not comprehensive as the relevant information relating to the quantum of OB to be backfilled has not been assessed. The Consent to Establish issued by the State Pollution Control Board, Orissa on 17.01.2006 for enhancement of production capacity from 8629 to 3.0 lakh tonne per month of iron ore (Calibrated Iron Ore of 2.1 LakhMT/month and Iron Ore Fines of 0.9 lakh MT/month) over existing mining lease area of 194.196 ha. Public hearing of the project held on 16.12.2004. The Indian Bureau of Mines has approved mining plan of the project on 06.05.2005 for lease area of 194.196 ha. Ministry of Environment and Forests granted forestry clearance for diversion of 113.88ha (30.0+83.88 ha) forestland and also for renewal of mining lease on 27.05.2004. Capital cost of the project is Rs.819.45 lakhs.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance for a period of 5 years only to the above mentioned Kasia Iron Ore and Dolomite Mining Project of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. for production capacity of 3.6 million tonnes per annum of iron ore only involving total mining lease area of 194.196 ha under the provisions of the EIA Notification 1994 and subsequent amendments issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 subject to implementation of the following conditions/safeguards.

A. Specific conditions

- (i) The environmental clearance is subject to approval of the State Landuse Department, Government of Orissa for diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use.
- (ii) Necessary forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for an area of 44.321 ha of forestland shall be obtained before starting mining operation in that area. Till such time mining activities shall be restricted to an area of 113.88ha for which forestry clearance has been obtained from the Ministry on 27.05.2004.
- (iii) The project proponent shall complete exploration of the entire mining lease within a period of five years and accordingly inform to the Ministry.
- (iv) Based on the exploration to be carried out, the project proponent shall prepare a comprehensive plan of backfilling and OB dump plan and submit to the Ministry. Based on the information, Ministry will take a decision regarding continuation of mining beyond 5 years or otherwise.
- (v) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna. Wildlife conservation plan for protection of endangered flora and fauna found in the study area shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department. Necessary allocation of funds for implementation of the conservation plan shall be made and the funds so allocated shall be included in the project cost.
- (vi) Mining shall be restricted to 440 AMSL and the mining operations shall not intersect groundwater table. Prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Central Ground Water Authority shall be obtained for mining below water table.
- (vii) Top soil, if any shall be stacked properly with proper slope with adequate measures and should be used for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas.
- (viii) The Over burden generated should be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and should not be kept active for long period. The maximum height of the dump should not exceed 30 m, each stage should preferably be of 6 m and over all slope of the dump shall not exceed 28°. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on six monthly basis.
- (ix) Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from mineral dump. The water so collected should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains should be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.

Garland drain (size, gradient and length) shall be constructed for mine pit and sump capacity should be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above peak sudden rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity should also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material. Sedimentation pits should be constructed at the corners of the garland drains and desilted at regular intervals.

- (x) Plantation shall be raised in an area of 111.708 ha including a green belt of 36.56 ha by planting the native species around ML area, roads etc. in consultation with the local DFO / Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.
- (xi) The project authority should implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board.
- (xii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operation. The monitoring should be carried out four times in a year – pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to MOEF, Central Ground Water Authority and Regional Director Central Ground Water Board.
- (xiii) Permission from the competent authority should be obtained for drawal of groundwater.
- (xiv) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored measures shall be taken for maintenance of vehicles used in mining operations and in transportation of mineral. The vehicles should be covered with a tarpaulin and shall not be overloaded.
- (xv) Blasting operation should be carried out only during the daytime. Controlled blasting should be practiced. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest fly rocks and boulders should be implemented.
- (xvi) Drills shall either be operated with dust extractors or equipped with water injection system.
- (xvii) Consent to operate should be obtained from SPCB prior to start of enhanced production from the mine.
- (xviii) Sewage treatment plant should be installed for the colony. ETP should also be provided for workshop and mine wastewater.
- (xix) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.

B. General conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral iron ore and waste should be made.
- (iii) Conservation measures for protection of flora and fauna in the core & buffer zone should be drawn up in consultation with the local forest department.

- (iv) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (v) Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office located at Bhubneshwar and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (vi) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points should be provided and properly maintained.

Measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc should be provided with ear plugs / muffs.

- (vii) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.
- (viii) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to coal dust and take corrective measures, if needed.
- (ix) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
- (x) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Bhubaneshwar.
- (xi) The project authorities should inform to the Regional Office located at Bhubaneshwar regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhubaneshwar shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (xiii) A copy of clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO, if any, from whom and suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal.
- (xiv) State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xv) The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board

and may also be seen at web site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in> and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional Office of this Ministry located Bhubaneswar.

3. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
5. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

(SATISH C. GARKOTI)

Additional Director (S)

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubneswar.
3. Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubneswar.
4. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office (EZ), Ministry of Environment and Forests, A-3 Chandrashekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
6. Chairman, Orissa State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, A/118 Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751012.
7. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
8. District Collector, Keonjhar District, Government of Orissa.
9. EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, EI Division, New Delhi.
10. Monitoring File.
11. Guard File.
12. Record File.

(SATISH C. GARKOTI)

Additional Director (S)

No. J-12011/87/2005-IA-I
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex,
Lodi Road,

New Delhi-110003

Dated 2nd June, 2006

To

Shri C. V. Prasad,
Chief Engineer,
Project Panning & Formulation,
Secha Sadan,
Bhubaneswar - 751001
Orissa

**Subject: Brutang Irrigation Project in District Nayagarh, Orissa – Environmental Clearance
reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No. 01(WR)/RC, dated 9th December 2005 & subsequent letters No. CE-(P)-W-EA-26/05/6358/WE, dated 07.04.2006 & 05.05.2006 on the subject.

The above referred proposal was considered by the Expert Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects at its meeting held on 18.01.2006 & 19.04.2006.

It has been noted that the proposed irrigation project envisages construction of a 26 m high (from ground level) earthen dam at Manjam village in Dasapalla Tahsil of Nayagarh district and to divert the stored water to existing Kuanria reservoir located 12 km away through a link canal. The water from Kuanria reservoir will be taken to the command area through canal system covering an Area of 23,000 ha located in five drought prone blocks namely Dasapalla, Nayagarh, Khandapara, Nuagaon and Odagaon. Total land requirement for the project is 6580 ha. Out of that 1524.17 ha. is forest land. Forest clearance yet to be obtained. Baishipalli Wildlife Sanctuary is 1.5 km from submergence boundary. 680 families consisting 2002 population are likely to be affected due to this project. Rehabilitation & Resettlement will be done as per provisions of R & R policy, 1994, Govt. of Orissa. Public Hearing was conducted on 21.06.2002 in district Nayagarh. The total cost of the project is 22,725 crores.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance as per the provision of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification-1994, subject to the strict compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below –

A. Specific conditions

- i) The total 2500 hectare (Non Forest area 1334.02 ha. and Forest area 1166 ha.) area has been proposed for Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan. The treatment should be completed before filling up the reservoir.
- ii) 3.6 Mm³ drinking water is proposed for supplying to Nayagarh town & near by villages. But water analysis shows that it exceeds the permissible limit of even C-grade drinking water in terms of BOB. The drinking water treatment facilities as proposed vide letter 07.04.2006 should be implemented.
- iii) 2002 persons comprising 680 families are likely to be affected by this project. The project affected families shall be rehabilitated as per provisions of R & R policy, 1994, Govt. of Orissa and it should not be less than the package mentioned in the NPRR -2003.
- iv) A monitoring committee should be constituted which must include representatives of project affected persons from SC/ST category and a woman beneficiary.
- v) The Baishipalli Wild Life Sanctuary is 1.5 Km away from dam site. The Wildlife Management Plan proposed for the Sanctuary on page 116 of EMP, should be followed in toto.
- vi) The site specific design earthquake parameters shall be approved by the National Commission on Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP), Central Water Commission, New Delhi.
- vii) Forest Clearance should be obtained for acquiring 1524.17 hectare forest land & submitted.
- viii) Due to construction of the dam a huge reservoir area of 2110 hectare will be created. The Development of Pisciculture Management Plan approved by the Directorate of Fisheries on page 300 of EMP should be implemented.
- ix) Command Area Development as proposed in the EIA / EMP should be implemented. Wherever water logging appear should be treated through suitable drainage measures and conjunctive use of both ground water and surface water, reclamation of saline lands and measures to improve the soil fertility.
- x) Occurrence of stagnant pools/slow moving water channels during construction and operation of the project would provide breeding source for vector mosquitoes and other parasites. The canal should be properly channelised so that no small pools and poodles are allowed to be formed. Even after taking precaution, due to unforeseen situations, breeding of mosquito and resultant malaria or mosquito borne diseases may increase. If such a situation arises, it will be the responsibility of project authorities to take all corrective steps i.e. residual insecticidal spray in all the project impact area and surrounding 3 Km. area, keeping the flight range of mosquitoes in consideration.
- xi) Any other clearance from any other organization if required should be obtained.

B. General conditions

- i) Provision of supplying kerosene or cooking gas / Pressure Cooker to the labourers should be kept instead of supplying fuel wood.
- ii) Fuel depot may be opened at the site to provide the fuel (kerosene/wood /LPG). Medical facilities as well as recreational facilities should also be provided to the labourers.

- iii) All the labourers to be engaged for construction works should be thoroughly examined by health personnel and adequately treated before issuing work permits.
- iv) Restoration of construction area, including dumping site of excavated materials at dam site & power house site, should be ensured by leveling, filling up of borrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly afforested with suitable plantation.
- v) A multidisciplinary environmental monitoring cell inclusive of the experts from Ground Water Management, Hydrogeologist, Agriculture, Socio-economist etc. should be constituted immediately before the field activities of the project are undertaken.
- vi) Financial provision should be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested safeguard measures.
- vii) Six monthly monitoring reports should be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for review.

Officials from Regional Office MOEF, Bhubaneswar would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards and they should be given full cooperation, facilities and documents / data by the project proponents during their inspection.

The responsibility of implementation of environmental safeguards rests fully with the Project Planning & Formulation Department and Government of Orissa.

In case of change in the scope of the project, project would require a fresh appraisal.

The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary, and to take action including revoking of the clearance under the provisions of the environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time- bound and satisfactory manner.

This clearance letter is valid for a period of five years from the date of issue of this letter for commencement of construction work.

A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat, if any, from whom any suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal.

State Pollution Control Board / Committee should display a copy of the clearance letter at the regional office, district industries centre and collector's office / tehsildar's office for 30 days.

The project proponent should advertise within seven days at least in two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board/Committee and also at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at [http:// www.envfor.nic.in/](http://www.envfor.nic.in/).

(R. Chandramohan)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel: 24362551

Copy to: -

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar -751001.
3. Secretary, Department of Water Resoures, Government of Orissa, Secretariat, Bhubaneswar -751001.
4. The Advisor (I & CAD) Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
5. The Chief Engineer (PAD), Central Water Commission, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 100062.
6. Member Secretary, Orissa Pollution Control Board, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar- 751012.
7. CCF, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (EZ), A/3, Chandra Shekar, Bhubaneswar- 751003.
8. IA- Monitoring Cell, MOEF, New Delhi.
9. EI - Division, MOEF, New Delhi.
10. Guard file.

(R. Chandramohan)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

F. No. 8-92/96-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated : 28th July 2006

To

The Secretary (Forests),
Government of Orissa,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Diversion of 135.532 ha of forest land in respect of Inganijharan iron and manganese ore mines of M/s Bhanja Minerals Private Limited in Keonjhar District, Orissa.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 10F(Cons)-103/96/21724/F&E, Bhubaneswar dated 25.09.1996 and subsequent letter No. 10F(Cons)42/99.1717/F&E dated 20.01.2000 whereunder the above mentioned proposal was submitted seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to say that the above proposal was examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under Section-3 of the Act.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, and on the basis of recommendations of the FAC, the Central Government hereby agrees **in-principle** for diversion of 135.532 ha of forest land in respect of Inganijharan iron and manganese ore mines of M/s Bhanja Minerals Private Limited in Keonjhar District, Orissa, subject to fulfilment of following conditions : -

- (i) The Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained over non-forest land equivalent in extent to the fresh forest land being diverted, at the cost of the user agency.
- (ii) The non-forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in the name of State Forest Department and shall be declared as Reserved Forest under Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- (iii) The State Government shall charge Net Present Value from the user agency for the entire diverted forest land, as directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court and as per the guidelines issued vide Ministry of Environment and Forests letters No. 5-1/98-FC (Pt-II) dated 18th September and 22nd September 2003.
- (iv) An undertaking from the user agency may also be obtained stating that in case the rates of NPV are revised upwards, the additional/differential amount shall be paid by the user agency.

- (v) The State Government shall deposit all the above-mentioned funds with Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which has already been constituted and notified by the Central Government on 23.04.2004. Till such time, the CAMPA intimates the Head of Account for deposition of funds, the funds will be maintained in the form of fixed deposits in the name of Nodal Officer or concerned Divisional Forest Officer of the State Government. The funds realized towards the NPV shall not be utilized by the State Government.
- (vi) The permission granted under FC Act shall be co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMRD Act or any other relevant Act or for 20 years, whichever is less.
- (vii) The user agency shall construct 4 feet high RCC pillars with forward and backward bearings to demarcate the area.
- (viii) An Eco-development Plan for the area shall also be prepared in consultation with the State Forest Department to be implemented at the project cost, with the involvement of local community.
- (ix) The 29.428 ha of DLC forest area shall be surrendered to the Forest Department.
- (x) Other standard conditions as applicable to proposals related to mining shall apply in the instant case also.

After receipt of the compliance report from the State Government on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal will be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Asthana)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to :-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneshwar.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneshwar.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneshwar.
4. User Agency.
5. Guard File.
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Section.
7. PS to IGF (FC)

(Pankaj Asthana)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Environmental Protection Group, Orissa

epgorissa@gmail.com

Environment Protection Group, Orissa, is an informal forum, where a number of individuals with rich experience and expertise in different fields have joined together with an aim to safeguard the state's rich biological diversity, its people, its economy and diverse culture of various ethnic groups, especially tribals, from the clutches of existing 'development paradigm based on extractive mining and industrialization'.

During various informal discussions a felt need for and interactions with many groups/forums/individuals it was felt need of proper, authenticate information at right time. Keeping this, EPG, Orissa has decided to bring an update on Mining at a regular interval. This is the first Step towards strengthening of the voices of people/groups/forums

N.B:

- The news items which are reproduced in this e-magazine were published in Bhubaneswar/ Kolkata editions of various newspapers during the period May 2006.
- Information on Environmental Clearances, Forest Clearances, Pending Projects and Rejected Projects etc. have been downloaded from the website of MoEF, Govt. of India. (<http://www.envfor.nic.in>)
- EPG ORISSA has tried its level best to place the information as published in the newspapers and websites.
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