

MINING AND INDUSTRIALISATION UPDATE, ORISSA

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION ON INDUSTRIES AND MINING IN ORISSA

July, 2009

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EDITORIAL

Enough is enough. “No more sponge iron plants”. It is the slogan put forth by the victims of these plants in the state. The galloping increase in dangerous and polluting sponge iron plants in the state is stimulating a great resistance. Last year local people living around the Surya Sponge Iron Ltd., located in Budhakendua of Badachana block in Jajpur district complained that their crop yielding is declining and all the vegetables and cereals grown in their field is unfit for consumption. The soil and grain sample collected from this area was tested in OUAT, Bhubaneswar. The result shows that carcinogenic heavy metal like chromium was found in the samples at a rate of 100 times more than the permissible limit. It was brought to the notice of Hon’ble Governor of Orissa and Hon’ble minister of Agriculture, Orissa and the issue was highlighted in leading newspapers of the state. How ever no action was taken against the plant by the regulatory authority.

Due to easy availability to raw materials like iron, limestone & coal, Orissa has become one of the hotspots for sponge iron plant. Unrestricted growth of this industry in state has led to severe

pollution at various pockets. A study conducted by an environmentalist in 2001, indicated presence of carcinogenic heavy metal contents in the dust emitted by sponge iron plant. It was established that sponge iron plants release hazardous pollutants like cadmium, nickel, hexavalent chromium, arsenic, manganese and copper. These pollutants not only put damage to fruit bearing trees & agricultural harvest but also to human body especially the lungs.

In Orissa the most affected district is Sundergarh where almost 50 of these plants are concentrated in clusters. The situation is very pathetic in nearby villages. A black sticky coat is found almost everywhere due to the emissions from these units. Even the drinking and other water sources are badly affected. Besides, skin disease which was not known earlier is becoming rampant these days. Last year the Sundergarh district administration has taken action against nine sponge iron units who allegedly violated pollution control norms and ordered closure of operation of these units. How ever it is being found out that all the plants resume operation after few days. In the year 2003-04 almost 4 plants had to withdraw or stop construction after strong opposition from the local people. The main reason cited by the people for opposition was the large scale air and water pollution which had started affecting their health and livelihood. A study made by a group called Orissa Jana Sangathan indicates that almost 2 lakh people are affected adversely by these plants in 6 districts of Orissa which seems to have no impact on Govt. Hence, in this context, it’s the urgent need of the hour that Govt. should look at the issue of sponge iron with utmost seriousness or get ready to face the future devastation.

Editor

CARTOON SPACE



News

State fears coal shortage

[The Hindu, 2 July, 2009](#)

BHUBANESWAR: Orissa fears a shortfall of 100 million tonne per annum of coal while fulfilling its commitments to various investors for setting up power projects and sponge iron-based steel projects for which memoranda of understanding have been signed. Making a presentation on State's requirement of coal to sustain industries at a CII-sponsored conference 'CoalNex' on Tuesday, Steel and Mines Secretary Ashok Dalwai said the State needed 210 mtpa of coal (140 mtpa for power projects and 70 mtpa for sponge iron-based steel projects). Riding on the boom for mineral-based industries, Orissa had signed MoU for 49 steel projects that envisaged production of 81.32 mtpa steel, 21 thermal power projects with an estimated generation capacity of 25,970 mega watt and three cement projects with combined capacity of 4.90 mtpa. "Considering 50 per cent additional requirement of coal to be met partly by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and partly from the captive coal-blocks, the shortfall is still estimated to be more than 100 mtpa. Unless the required quantity of coal is assured or supplied, the dream of making Orissa an industrially developed State can't be fulfilled," Mr. Dalwai said. This additional 100 mtpa of coal could be made available by mining through State Public Sector units, he added. "Keeping the MCL's coal production in future years and availability of coal from captive coal blocks in view, additional 100 mtpa of coal needed to be produced within the State to meet the industry requirement in Orissa," Mr. Dalwai said. He pointed out that the State government had its own PSU, like Orissa

Mining Corporation (OMC), which had the requisite expertise and core competency in mining. Mooting to branch out OMC to coal production field, Mr. Dalwai said, "State government can entrust OMC for setting up world class coal projects with an aim of augmenting production and supply of coal to the tune of 100 mtpa to the power projects and sponge iron-based steel projects being set up in the State." He said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had already drawn attention of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for allocation of coal blocks with a reserve of 5000 million tonne, preferably in contiguous locations in favour of Orissa's PSU. The mine secretary insisted that Union government should take immediate steps for allotment of 5000 MT of coal reserve to Orissa government's dispensation route to fulfill the requirement of additional 100 mtpa of coal for the industrial growth in the State.

Groundwater depleting fast in State

[The Hindu, 03 July, 2009](#)

BHUBANESWAR: At a time when the State is feeling the pinch of shortage of surface water for which hydropower generation came to a halt now, gradual depletion of groundwater resources could make the matter worse for people to source their drinking water. "The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has clearly indicated that the groundwater level of 24 out of 30 districts in the State is depleting. The groundwater aquifers in many regions of our State have already gone dry," says Bikash Kumar Pati, a researcher working with city-based Regional Centre for Development

Cooperation (RCDC). Falling of groundwater table in Bhubaneswar is an indicator to the grave situation for city in the coming days. At a monitoring station of Khandagiri in the capital city, groundwater level has gone down by almost a metre per year since 2002. While water could be found at 8.53 metre below ground level (mbgl) at Khandagiri, it dropped to 14.54 mbgl in 2008. Between 2007 and 2008, the water level fell by 2.77 mbgl. The situation is turning worse due to 'lackadaisical' approach of the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to ensure that every household puts up rainwater harvesting structure in place. In Bhubaneswar, more than 90 per cent residential houses don't have the structure while the major government buildings which should have played role model for others have not thought to put up rainwater harvesting structure. Similarly, use of groundwater continues to remain unrestricted and uncontrolled throughout the State. Mr. Pati says the matter needed urgent attention of policymakers as industries are guzzling more water ostensibly by sourcing groundwater. The annual replenishable groundwater of the State is 23.09 billion cubic metre (BCM) and net groundwater availability has been estimated to be 21.01 BCM. Although scientists and bureaucracy still argue that the State has a healthy groundwater reserve, the situation is undergoing change due to change in weather conditions. In five coastal districts such as Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Ganjam farmers are excessively depending upon dug-wells. According to a study by a city-based research organisation, four districts utilise more than 20,000 million hectare water while four districts use groundwater in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 mha and groundwater irrigation in rest 21 districts is less than 10000 mha. Experts and researchers demand that policymakers design the focused policy for the districts where pressure on groundwater is high. According to department of water resources, projected demand for domestic and industrial use by 2025 will shoot up to

1,22,126 mha or 1.22 bcm against the present use of 83,866 mha or 0.84 bcm.

Coal crunch hits Nalco unit

The Times of India, 08 Jul 2009

ANGUL: A crunch in coal resources has forced authorities of National Aluminium Company (Nalco) to shut down one of its 120 MW units. The Navaratna status holder company is also thinking of importing coal from abroad to tide over the crisis, Nalco sources said on Tuesday. Nalco Employees' Sangha general secretary Nirmala Chandra Samal said the coal stock has gone down to 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes. "The plant needs 17,000 tonnes for its captive power plant daily, while it is getting only 12,000 to 13,000 metric tonnes from the MCL," he said. At present, seven out of eight units are functioning normally. However, if the present condition prevails any longer, they would be forced to cut down on its power generation from other units of the captive power plant as well, besides closing down pot lines in its smelter plant," a Nalco senior officer said. The power plant has a total capacity of 960 MW, while at present, it is producing only around 650 - 700 MW. The smelter plant needs 800 MW to run its pot line, sources said. Nalco sources said that the daily production of aluminium has also come down from 1,000 tonnes to 900 tonnes. To put in its order, the executive director of Nalco, S&P complex, K S Sreedhar said the company has decided to import 2.5 lakh tonne-coals from Indonesia this year. They will also have to import another 2 lakh tonnes in the coming days, sources said. "Due to less calorific value, the boiler of the Captive Power Plants are consuming more coal. So we have placed an order for washed coal for the plant," The executive director said. Coal comes to the plant either directly by railways or through conveyor belts. The MCL authorities have allegedly been supplying "G" grade coal instead of the required "F" grade coal to Nalco. While the required gross calorific value of coal needed is 39,000 to 42,000

GCV, "G" grade coal has a capacity to produce less than 32,000 GCV, sources added. A senior MCL official, however, maintained that due to problem in conveyor belts, Nalco is not able to get its required quota of coal. "Regular supply will soon resume," he added. A high level meeting, held between the Nalco and MCL officials at Talcher on Tuesday, arrived at a decision to supply 10,000 tonnes of coal from Bharatapur mines, while another 7,000 tonnes of coal will be brought from other mines by railways. Working president of Nalco Employees' Union Dillip Kumar Mishra said the company is facing serious coal crisis for the past few days. He demanded a separate captive coal mine be allotted for Nalco as the company is facing difficulties in meeting its daily requirement. The executive director said that the management is planning on an open cast coal mine near here in Chhendipada block.

'Acid rain' in Rengali

Express News Service, 09 July, 2009

RENGALI: Palpable fear gripped Rengali block after reports of acid rain on Sunday spread in the region. However, no samples have been collected by any of the villagers which could have otherwise been sent for laboratory tests, said State Pollution Control Board Regional Officer Shitikantha Sahu. On June 19 last year people experienced acid rain in Bargarh, Balangir, Nuapada and Kalahandi districts. The leaves changed colour and vehicles kept in open also reacted in a similar manner. Acid rain occurs when polluted gases get trapped in clouds that drift for hundreds or even thousands of miles and are finally released as acidic precipitation. Sahu confirmed that sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted by thermal power units, industries and automobiles are the primary cause of acid rain.

AP nod for NALCO refinery project

The Hindu, 11 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: National Aluminium Company (NALCO) here on Friday said Andhra Pradesh government had given its green signal for securing two bauxite ore deposits for its proposed alumina refinery project in the State. The Navaratna company had long been pursuing with Andhra Pradesh government for allocation of bauxite deposit for its captive use. Speaking to reporters on the sideline of 13th International Conference on Non-ferrous Minerals and Metals-2009 here, B. L Bagra, director (finance) of NALCO, said Andhra Pradesh had given no objection certificate for two bauxite blocks in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts last week. The combined capacity of two reserves would be around 80 million tonne, Mr. Bagra said. It was up to Centre to grant mining lease in favour of public sector company to support raw material requirement for its proposed 1.14 million tonne per annum capacity refinery project, which was likely to come up in Visakhapatnam district, the NALCO director said. He said public sector MECON was entrusted to do the pre-feasibility study and it was expected to submit the report by August this year. Mr. Bagra further said NALCO intended to start construction of refinery by 2011 and make it operational by 2013. NALCO official said the company was also contemplating to invest Rs. 16000 crore for 0.5 mtpa aluminium smelter and 1250 mw captive power project in Jharsuguda.

Concern over poor waste management

The Hindu, 12 July, 2009

CUTTACK: Poor disposal of biomedical wastes (BMW) generated from the hospitals and nursing homes has again come up for

hearing in the Orissa High Court and this time the HC after taking strong exceptions to the issue has issued show-cause notices to all government and private teaching hospitals of the State. Adjudicating over a PIL filed by a Cuttack-based voluntary organisation -- Maitree Sansad, and after going through the report of the state pollution control board (SPCB), a bench of the HC comprising Justice Laxmikanta Mohapatra and Justice Indrajit Mohanty on Friday expressed grave concern over the unscientific manner in which the biomedical wastes generated from the hospitals are disposed. "The government is not adhering to the norms and methods of disposal of these wastes as enshrined in the provisions of the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules-1998 thereby posing a threat not only to the patients of the hospitals but to all others too", alleges the petitioner advocate Ajay Mohanty, who is also the secretary of the voluntary organisation. Hearing the petition, the HC had directed the SPCB to conduct an enquiry and submit a report stating what steps have been taken in this regard by the three government medical college hospitals in State including the Capital Hospital and nursing homes of twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. The SPCB in its report has mentioned that the provisions of the statutory rules are violated by the teaching hospitals as well as private hospitals of the twin city. "No effective measure had been taken by the hospitals to prevent pollution and infectious diseases from spreading due to poor disposal of biomedical wastes. Shocked over such a report, the bench issued show-cause notices to all hospitals and has fixed August 21 for next hearing.

MCL assures coal supply

The Hindu, 12 July, 2008

BHUBANESWAR: National Aluminium Company (NALCO) urged Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) to increase supply of coal, which the latter assured, said the

aluminium major in statement here on Saturday. Supply suffered due to heavy rains and wetness of coal and affected power generation at the company's captive power plant, located adjacent to the smelter, it said.

'Vigilance probe into mine scam eye-wash'

Pioneer News Service, 12 July, 2009

The BJP on Sunday demanded a CBI inquiry into the alleged kick-back in allotting manganese mines contract to Ram Bahadur Thakur Ltd, an outside company in Keonjhar. The BJP took the decision to demand a CBI inquiry at extended State Executive meeting of the party at Sahid Bhawan here. Addressing a Press Conference BJP State unit president Suresh Pujari said the State Government has unlawfully given mining leases to unscrupulous people. "There was a kick back worth Rs 4,000 crore," he said. Citing it as the biggest ever scam in the last six decades, Pujari said after the alleged scam came to light the State Government ordered for a Vigilance inquiry to hush up the matter. "Simply ordering a Vigilance enquiry will serve no purpose as the State Government itself is involved in a scam of an enormous proportion," Pujari said. "If it had withdrawn the support from the Government during the Kandhamal issue and Swami Laxmananda's brutal murder, the election results would have been different," he said. He attributed the stupendous victory of the ruling BJD to EVM tampering, massive misuse of the administrative machinery and black money. "Even IIT engineers have opined that EVM tampering could be done and have provided some substantial proofs in this regard," he maintained. The civil administration has failed in many fronts with steep rise in prices of essential commodities like food and vegetable. "This has virtually broken the backbone of the middle class of the State where as the State and Union Government

stood mute spectators," he said. "Failure of civil administration has also been witnessed as the State Government failed to nab the culprits' of Paikamal gang rape, rising Maoist problems and the kingpin behind liquor deaths of Balangir," he said, adding that the Government has also failed in tackling distress sale of rice, black-marketing of fertilisers, seeds and farmers suicide in Sambalpur which has happened due to late arrival of monsoon. He also criticised the Congress led UPA Government for failing to provide funds for better benefit in the State in Railway budget. "The Railways earn about Rs 5,000 crores from here but has earmarked only Rs 715 crore for the State which is Rs 200 crore less than the previous year's Budget," he said. He also made a scathing attack on the Government for its failure fill 36 posts in different departments of VSS Medical College and Hospital, Burla which led to the MCI team recommending the Union Government for withdrawing 43 MBBS seats. BJP State spokesperson Nayan Kishore Mohanty was also present on the occasion. Earlier the State Executive was inaugurated in the presence of Balbir Punj, National Secretary, All India General Secretary Kiriti Soumya, Panchanan Rout, Organising Secretary (State), Rajkishore Das, Suresh Pujari, Biswabhusan Harichandan, Brajakishore Tripathy, Manmohan Samal, Bijay Mohapatra, and other senior leaders of the party.

OMC mulling material supply pact with steel cos.

The Hindu, 14 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: The Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), the flagship State public sector unit, is exploring possibilities of entering into long-term raw material supply pact with steel companies who have entered into memorandum of understanding with the State Government. Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference here on Monday, Steel and Mines Secretary Ashok

Dalwai said under the pact OMC would supply raw materials like iron ore, manganese and chrome ore to various companies. It would be a bipartite agreement in nature without involvement of logistic providers, Mr. Dalwai, who is also chairman of the OMC, said adding that 70 per cent priority would be given to those companies which were preparing to set up different projects for adding value to raw materials. Mr. Dalwai, however, said details such as duration and modes of supply were yet to be worked out. The Steel and Mines Secretary was addressing the press conference along with State Chief Secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy on convention on "Clean, Green and Sustainable Technologies in Iron and Steel Making" to be held here from July 15 to 17. The State Government has signed MoU with 49 companies for setting up steel mills, of which 28 have gone into partial production, Mr. Tripathy said. "Global recession has seen the world crude steel output plummet from 1197.30 million tonnes in April, 2008 to 845.00 million tonnes in April 2009, a decline of 23 per cent. On the contrary India has registered a growth of 8 per cent over this period," the Chief Secretary said. Of the 65 mt of steel being produced by India, Orissa contributed with 10 mt, which was quite significant amount, he said. The top bureaucrat said Orissa was switching from agrarian economy to industrial economy and the transition period was critical for the State. "The recession is expected to make a turnaround from the year 2009-10 and stabilize around 2013. This lag period of three to four years can be used by investors to commission their projects in alignment with the expected firm upswing from the year 2013," Mr. Tripathy said. It is envisaged that Orissa would alone produce an output of 90 mtpa. "Both preventive and ameliorative interventions are essential for sustained mining and industrialization. Clean and green technologies when adopted in manufacturing will reduce consumption of resources and energy and also reduce emission of green house gases," organizers said. Mr. Dalwai said recommendations

emerging from the convention would be the State Government's cornerstone to execute MoU for setting up plants without harming the environment. The delegates represent sectors like iron and steel manufacturers, mining companies, research institutes, universities, equipment manufacturers and policymaking bodies.

Illegal' mining din hits House **The Times of India, 13 July 2009**

BHUBANESWAR: The Assembly on Monday plunged into an awful din as the Opposition and treasury benches resorted to trading charges and sloganeering against each other, causing repeated adjournments. While the Congress and BJP jointly created pandemonium over the alleged manganese mining scam involving Ram Bahadur Thakur Limited (RBTL) in Keonjhar district, ruling BJD accused the Congress-led Union government of neglecting the state. The BJD MLAs, demonstrating their brute majority, virtually drowned the Opposition's shrill cries, by thumping their desks and raising slogans against finance minister Pranab Mukherjee's recent remark in Parliament refusing central assistance to Orissa for the 2008 floods. Uproarious scenes dominated proceedings soon after the House reassembled for the day with the Congress and BJP demanding a CBI probe into what they claimed was a Rs 4000 crore mining scam in Joda. As soon as Question Hour got underway, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh remonstrated against CM Naveen Patnaik ordering a vigilance inquiry into the scam and accused the latter of setting a "dangerous precedent" by ordering a probe when the Assembly is in session without taking legislators into confidence. The CM had on Saturday ordered vigilance sleuths to probe the case, ignoring the practice to announce important government decisions in the House when it is in session. "I had led a Congress delegation to Joda. We saw with our own eyes how illegal mining is going on there," Singh said. BJP legislature party leader K V Singhdeo further upped the

ante, showing photographs in a bid to prove how "rampant" illegal mining was on in the area proposed to be leased to RBTL. "By turning a blind eye, you are protecting thieves," he fumed, demanding the government to either go for a CBI or a House panel probe. Jayanarayan Mishra (BJP) even slapped a breach of privilege notice against steel and mines minister Raghunath Mohanty on grounds that the latter had "misled" the House on Friday, by claiming no illegal mining was on. BJD's Pravat Biswal, however, questioned CBI's impartiality, stating people had no faith in the investigating agency after it let off Italian businessman Octavio Quattrochi in the Bofors case. Things turned unpleasant when Pratap Sarangi (Ind) and other Opposition members rushed to the well of the House, forcing adjournment of proceedings. On resumption, BJD played the blame game, vociferously protesting against Mukherjee's recent statements refusing additional funds to Orissa for the 2008 floods like the Centre had done for Cyclone Aila-hit West Bengal and the Kosi floods in Bihar. With Naveen present, BJD members tried to outdo each other in creating ruckus and demanding adoption of a censure motion against the UPA government. Kalpataru Das (BJD) said the Centre had asked the state government to refund Rs 80 crore from the Rs 98 crore it had sanctioned towards flood relief work in Orissa last year. "Orissa has been completely ignored in the Railway budget," BJD MLAs alleged, even as Prafulla Majhi (Cong) and Pratap Sarangi climbed atop the Assembly Reporters' table and displayed some photographs, while S S Saluja (Cong) attempted to uproot the Speaker's microphone. Finally, the House was adjourned for lunch. But the post-lunch session was no different. The demand for budgetary grants for school and mass education department was passed through guillotine before the curtains fell for the day.

World meet on iron, steel **from July 15**

PNS

An international convention on “Clean, Green and Sustainable Technologies in Iron and Steel Making” is slated to be held on July 15 to 17, organised by the Multi Disciplinary Centre on Safety, Health and Environment (MDC on SHE) and will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. A number of public and private undertakings have come forward to sponsor this convention. Briefing on the objective of the convention on Monday, Chief Secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy said iron and steel making is intensive in terms of usage of natural resources including minerals of different descriptions, energy and capital. Further, the raw materials used being intrinsically carbon based emissions are high impacting the climate materially. Mining, a pre-requisite activity to iron and steel making is also another area of concern. “We have taken all care to maintain the pollution level at the lowest level,” he said. “Clean and green technologies when adopted in manufacturing will reduce consumption of resources and energy and also reduce emission of green house gases. In this context, the convention aims at identifying appropriate technologies that will promote sustainability and create awareness among various stakeholders including steel promoters, mining companies, scientists, academia, policy makers and people at large,” Tripathy maintained, adding that both preventive and ameliorative interventions are essential for sustained mining and industrialisation. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Steel and Mines Ashok Dalwai said India aims at producing about 250 million tonnes per annum of steel by 2020 up from the current output level of 65 mtpa. “Orissa would be one of the major contributors to this escalation. 49 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) have been signed by the State Government envisaging an output of 90 mtpa,” he said, adding that the global recession has not affected the Orissa industrial growth. “Orissa is the least affected,” Dalwai

maintained. Convener of the organizing committee, GD Rath said the convention, first of its kind in India will come out with a package of recommendations that are of practical value and thereby generate immediate gains for the State in the short run. In addition to its local relevance, it would be a step towards meeting India’s international obligation in consonance with the Kyoto protocol.

Coal shortage affecting power supply

The Statesman

ANGUL, 14 JULY: Power generation at the 3,000 MW NTPC power plant at Kaniha has been hit hard by the coal crisis, despite the fact that the Mahanadi Coalfield Limited claims to have supplied 99 per cent of coal demand of the plant so far this month. The power plant, the second biggest in the nation, provides power to 17 states, including four south Indian states. According to a top NTPC official, the power generation output from five 500 MW units stood at 1700MW today, and it was 1300MW on Monday. Out of its six units, NTPC authorities shut down unit no 2 for annual maintenance, running five units since 1 July. The fall in power generation has been attributed to the low supply of coal over the past few weeks. The daily supply has been 40,000 to 45,000 tonnes, though demand stands at 60,000 tonnes, sources in NTPC told The Statesman. Due to short supplies, the NTPC plant has been running hand to mouth, without any stock improvements. The current stock stands at 28,000 tonnes, sources informed. Two days ago, NTPC authorities had to deal with stoppages in coal movement for two days, following the derailment of coal laden train. They had to exhaust their stock of 50,000 tonnes. NTPC official say that they get six to seven rakes of coal, by railway, from the Talcher and the IB valley coalfield each day. But their draw from the linked Lingaraj

mine has been slashed drastically, creating the shortage situation.

Centre plans changes in mineral policy

The Times of India, 15 July 2009

BHUBANESWAR: The Union mines ministry will encourage value addition and discourage trading and export of iron ore in a bid to resolve iron ore problems faced by steel industries in the country. The centre is working on a list of amendments to the existing Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act to facilitate the mineral policy, Union steel secretary P K Rastogi said here on Wednesday. The amendment will be placed in the next 100 days during the next winter session of Parliament. "Value addition is the new policy in iron ore allotment and companies who have proposed to set up industries will be considered. The act will also stipulate maximum six months time for clearing projects, regulate royalty of iron ore on ad valorem basis and coal allotment problem will also be sorted out," Rastogi said. The steel secretary said this on the sidelines of the international conference on clean, green and sustainable technologies in iron and steel making, which began in the Orissa capital on Wednesday. Rastogi said India has fixed the target of producing 120 million tones per annum steel by 2012 against the present production level of 65 million tones per annum. "The target will be achieved through capacity expansion of Brownfield projects across the country as proposed Greenfield projects have received set backs due to global recession. The amendments in the MMDR Act would help in progress of the projects. But many Greenfield projects in Orissa are moving smoothly," he added. Rastogi said Indian steel industry in general suffers with technologies obsolescence and raw material quality constraints. These two factors cause lower productivity, higher energy consumption and higher environmental emissions and carbon dioxide and solid waste generation. He called upon

the industries to adopt state-of the art technologies and strategies at the minimum level of energy consumption and with minimum CO2 emission. "The steel industry must focus its attention towards sustainable and inclusive growth and also use low grade iron ore and slimes to enhance steel production," Rastogi added. Different stake holders including industries, academia, scientists and policy makers participated in the international conference to discuss critical and prioritized area of concern and suitable technologies that can be adopted, as also, identify gaps in the existing knowledge calling for more research. The package of recommendations after the meeting would be send to the government to adopt them in policy formulation and execution guidelines.

Tata Steel to start construction in Kalinganagar

The Hindu, 17 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: Steel major Tata Steel Limited here on Thursday said it hoped to start construction for its proposed 6 million tonne per annum capacity integrated steel mill at Kalinganagar in Orissa's Jajpur district from the mid-August next. The venture has been hanging fire due to land acquisition complexities, which started following death of 13 tribal in police firing over construction of boundary wall around the project area in 2006. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an international convention "Clean, green and sustainable technologies in iron and steel making," here, Tata Steel's Executive Director for India and South East Asia H. N. Nerurkar said the company hoped to overcome the displacement problem soon and once the rehabilitation process was over the construction was expected to be commenced from mid-August next. Tata Steel had initially envisaged an investment of Rs. 15,400 crore for its 6 mtpa capacity steel project at Kalinganagar. The project could not take off immediately as death of tribals in police firing had spurred anti-

displacement movement in the region making it difficult for the company to go ahead with the desired pace. As per the original plan, the project would have come up on 2,400 acres of land. In past three years Tata Steel has added more components to the plan. Now the steel project would be set up on 3,460 acres of land. The domestic steel major has also upwardly revised its project outlay to Rs. 21,000 crore. Tata Steel has started construction of an off-site steel fabrication yard and onsite incoming material yard for the project. The company had earlier ordered equipment worth Rs. 6,000 crore for the steel mill. The families enumerated by the company to be displaced in order to facilitate the steel project are 1,195 families. Mr. Nerurkar said 80 per cent to 85 per cent of these families had been rehabilitated.

National tag for Polavaram irks CM

The Times of India, 19 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has opposed the Centre's move to give a national tag to the multi-purpose Polavaram project at the "behest" of Andhra Pradesh. A number of legal provisions have been violated while implementing the Polavaram project and a number of cases are pending before the Supreme Court and various tribunals in this regard, the CM wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Considering the litigations, no decision should be taken about the project pending finalization of the cases," an official said, quoting Naveen's appeal to Manmohan Singh. The CM's letter pointed out that owing to the Andhra Pradesh project, a large area would get submerged in Orissa, adversely affecting thousands of tribals. As Malkangiri district would suffer losses, there should have been public hearings regarding the project, Naveen added, while expressing displeasure over the Union ministry of tribal affairs and the Central Water Commission giving the green signal to the project without holding any discussion with Orissa. He also

disapproved of Andhra Pradesh's unilateral decision to modify the design for the project's water holding capacity from 36 lakh cusecs to 50 lakh cusecs and requested the PM to personally intervene in the matter to stall progress till disposal of the cases by the court. Orissa had in October, 2007, moved the apex court against the Union ministry of environment and forests as well as Central Water Commission's technical committee's approvals for the Polavaram project.

Centre clears Nalco's eco projects

The Times of India, 20 July 2009

BHUBANESWAR: The Centre has cleared four environment-oriented projects proposed by Nalco, under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The company will make a total investment of Rs 11 crore for these projects, an official said on Monday. Kyoto Protocol is a global cooperative attempt to address threat due to increasing growth of Green House Gas emissions and their effect on the economic prosperity of the state. The protocol encourages industries to earn carbon credits by taking measures to reduce green house gas (GHG) emission and be more environment-friendly. Nalco has taken up four CDM projects in its smelter, CPP and refinery units. These involve better technology to reduce GHG emission. All these projects have been accorded consent by the ministry last week. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), located in Bonn, Germany, is the executive registering body for such projects. Nalco has taken steps for engaging designated operational entity, which will validate the CDM projects for submission to UNFCCC. Nalco can earn carbon credits through these CDM projects by reducing GHG emission, which can be sold in international markets.

Keonjhar admin wakes up to illegal mining menace

TNN, 19 July 2009

KEONJHAR: In view of saving the state exchequer from incurring huge losses and keeping the environment from being adversely affected, Keonjhar district administration has decided to take up firm steps to check mining theft and illegal mining. Rise in illegal mining and mineral theft in Joda area of the district has become a major cause for concern for the administration. Additional district magistrate B K Bilung said, "We are taking steps to control theft and stop illegal mining. Joint raids are frequently being carried out by the police, mining and forest staff." Such activities have not only resulted in heavy revenue loss to the state exchequer, but is also adversely affecting the environment. There have been several reports of minerals being smuggled by trucks, tippers, jeeps and trains to other parts of the state and even outside. Many crusher owners, mining owners, and even mining department officials and political leaders are reported to have got their hands dirty in such activities. From fiscal 2004-05 to 2009-10, a total of 1,209 cases of mineral theft and illegal mining operations, illegal transportation of minerals, illegal deposit of minerals have been registered in the Joda mining sector. Sources said about 22,073.342 hectare land had been leased out to about 99 lessees for mining purpose in Joda mining area. Of them, about 77 are operational, while the rest are not working. They alleged that some lessees were illegally carrying out work on their mines that have officially been shut down. Such activities were being carried out with involvement of some corrupt mining officials. Many people's representatives and wealthy and powerful people were allegedly involved in these activities. Several lessees were even mining outside their lease boundaries and smuggling minerals. Due to lack of proper government monitoring, such illegal activities are continuing unchecked.

Instances when the mining department apprehended trucks carrying illegal mineral, they arrested the driver and helper and not the vehicle owner. To make matters worse, more than 20 escape routes into Jharkhand remain unguarded. "Rampant illegal mining activities are going on in the Joda mining sector. If the government initiates a CBI probe into the matter, mining scam worth thousand crores of rupees of mining scam will come to light," president of the Keonjhar unit of BJP Murali Sharma said.

Centre clears four NALCO projects

The Hindu, 21 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: Four environment oriented projects proposed by the NALCO under clean development mechanism have been cleared by Central Ministry of Environment and Forest. The company will make total investment of Rs. 11 crores in these projects.

Power cut for industries goes

Express News Service, 24 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: With significant improvement in the hydro power generation, the power situation in the State is near-normal. The load restriction to industrial units was lifted from July 18. While the peak demand of the State is about 3100 MW, the hydro power stations are meeting half of the demand. The peak availability of hydro power yesterday was 1530 MW as against a demand of 3126 MW. The evening peak demand today was 3090 MW while the hydro generation was less than 1400 MW, State Load Dispatching Centre (SLDC) sources said. The Indravati hydro power station having 600 MW capacity could not be run to its full capacity due to collapse of a 220 KV double circuit tower line in flash flood two days back. The thermal power generation has improved after operation

began in the second unit of the OPGC's Ib Thermal Power Station which was shut down for nearly a month for scheduled maintenance. The average generation from the unit is about 160 MW. While the sixth unit (110 MW capacity) of the Talcher Thermal Power Station (TTPS) is under maintenance, the power plant authority has sought permission for shutting down the fifth unit for three days so that the sixth unit resumes operation, the sources maintained. The thermal power generation will further improve from August 1 when the second unit of NTPC-Kaniha which is under scheduled maintenance will be back to the grid. With generating capacity of 500 MW, the State's share from this unit is 180 MW. The thermal power supply from the dedicated sources and captive generating plants today was over 560 MW and 200 MW respectively while the Central share was about 700 MW. The demand and supply position in the evening peak was better and there was no need for overdrawal from the eastern grid, the sources said.

Opposition to take to streets on mining issue

The Hindu, 26 July, 2009

BHUBANESWAR: After attacking the Naveen Patnaik government in the State Assembly on the illegal mining issue, the opposition parties have started preparing to take to the streets on the issue. The BJP, which took the lead in raising the issue in the Assembly, on Saturday decided to stage a dharna outside Raj Bhawan here on Tuesday to demand a CBI inquiry into the scam involving illegal mining and transportation of minerals from Keonjhar and other parts of the State. PCC president K.P. Singh Deo has met AICC president Sonia Gandhi and demanded the mining scam should be probed by the CBI.

Vedanta stormed at in London

Indo-Asian News Service

London, 27 July: The Church of England and other shareholders of the mining company Vedanta braced for major protests at their annual meeting here today with a young Kondh tribal joining celebrities to demand an end to mining plans on the bauxite-rich mountains of Niyamgiri in Orissa. As major shareholders, who also include local councils in Britain, gathered for the annual general meeting, the movement against Vedanta operations in Nyamgiri gathered the celebrity support of human rights campaigners Mrs Bianca Jagger and Arundhati Roy. "Owned by Indian-origin billionaire Mr Anil Aggarwal, Vedanta's plans to build an open-pit mine for bauxite threaten the ecologically sensitive mountain, which is a sacred site for the Kondhs," said Mr Sitaram, a representative of the tribe, who travelled all the way from Nyamgiri. "We cannot live without our god mountain and the forest and we will continue our peaceful struggle. It is a life and death battle and Kondh people are united on this," said Mr Sitaram, whose travel was sponsored by ActionAid, a campaigning non-government body. Mrs Jagger and Ms Roy also lent their voices to the mounting protests against Vedanta Resources plc, which is a member of the FTSE 100 group of leading companies in the London Stock Exchange. "I will be appealing to investors, which include the (British) government's own staff pension fund, the Church of England and borough councils such as Middlesbrough to stop Vedanta going ahead with a mine that will damage the cultural and economic rights of the Kondh people as well as the fight against climate change," Mrs Jagger said. Vedanta, the core of whose assets lies in India, was not immediately available for comment but the group has previously argued that the project will bring vital jobs and economic development to the region. Writer and activist Arundhati Roy, in a recent letter to protesters, said bauxite mountains are part of a very delicate ecosystem. "...Today, in the era of climate change, surely it's time to

realise that forests, river systems, mountain ranges and people who know to live in ecologically sustainable ways, are worth more than all the bauxite in the world," Roy said. Vedanta chairman said in the annual report published last week: "I am ...pleased to report that the Indian Supreme Court has cleared the bauxite mining project at Niyamgiri. We expect to commence mining our own bauxite from Niyamgiri in the current year."

Protesters, who include large NGOs such as Survival International, Amnesty International, Action Aid, War on Want and many Indian activists, hope to replicate their campaigning success with the Norwegian government. In 2007, the Norwegian ministry of finance excluded Vedanta from further investments of the Norwegian government's pension fund after its Council on Ethics warned of "an unacceptable risk of contributing to severe environmental damages and serious or systematic violations of human rights by continuing to invest in the company". Survival director Mr Stephen Corry said: "While world leaders talk about stopping climate change, tribal people around the world are literally sitting in front of bulldozers ~ not just for them ~ but for all our sakes." It may be mentioned here that the movement against mining had even prompted Congress leader Mr Rahul Gandhi to visit Lanjigarh last year. He shared the ecological and livelihood concerns of the tribals and opined that Niyamgiri should not be mined.

Anti-Posco activists protest leader's arrest

Statesman News Service

JAGATSINGHPUR, 27 JULY: Rastriya Yuba Sangathan and Naba Nirman Samiti activists staged a demonstration and sat in a dharna in front of the district collectorate protesting the arrest of anti-Posco leader Mr Biswajeet Ray. Describing his arrest as "undemocratic", and alleging that false cases had been slapped against him, the

demonstrators demanded his immediate release and withdrawal of cases. Maintaining that Mr Biswajeet Ray had played a prominent role in intensifying the stir against the Posco steel project in Dhinkia, Nuagaon and Gadkujang panchayat under the banner of RYS, the agitators charged that his arrest was a bid to silence his protest. The activists of RYS and NNS also criticized the state government for selling minerals, water and land to industries at throw-away prices without any concern for the farmers. Police have registered criminal cases like robbery, attempted murder, violence, misbehaviour, bomb hurling, amongst others, against Mr Ray, though the activists claim that the state government and the company are acting in a vindictive manner. Among others, the secretary of RYS, Mr Ramakant Mandal, a member of Kasturaba Trust, the convener of NNS, and state coordinator RYS, Ms Chinamayee Pradhan, Rabi Das from Sarvodaya Relief Committee, social activist Mr Nirakar Beura, advocate Mr Basudev, and the leader of Posco Pratirodha Sangram Samiti, Mr Ms Pratima Das were present.

Mine royalty loss

The Telegraph

Bhubaneswar, July 27 (PTI): Blaming the Centre for the delay in the revision of royalty for minerals despite the global meltdown, Orissa government said the delay caused a loss of Rs 4,000 crore per annum affecting the state's annual budget. Stating that the central allocation was a major component of the state's budget under federal structure, finance minister Prafulla Ghadai said: "Orissa is losing above Rs 4,000 crore per annum due to a delay in the revision of royalty of major minerals." Royalty on coal, iron ore, manganese, chromite and others were not revised in the past three-year interval, the minister said. "The state had already incurred a revenue loss of Rs 100 crore in the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal due to recession," Ghadai

said. Stating that the state's revenue receipt from own tax, non-tax, share from central tax and grant-in-aid from Centre was estimated at Rs 26,550.09 crore, Ghadai said revenue expenditure was estimated at Rs 28,919.19 crore. While the state's revenue deficit was around Rs 2,369.1 crore, state plan was fixed at Rs 9,500 crore for 2009-10. Orissa had to spend an additional Rs 120 crore (per annum), as the amount under revised long-term action plan (RLTAP) for KBK regions (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) was cut down. The Centre that used to allocate Rs 250 crore (per annum) under RLTAP since 1998-99 for the KBK region, reduced it to Rs 130 crore since 2006-07, he said. The Centre, however, argued that the rest of the Rs 120 crore would be given under the BRGF (Backward Region Grant Fund) for the development of the KBK region. As a mark of protest against the Centre's move of cutting down RLTAP grant, the government launched its own Biju KBK Yojana and a sum of Rs 120 crore was being spent every year on welfare schemes in that region, the finance minister said. This apart, the state had to increase allocation for Western Orissa Development Council (WODC) to Rs 100 crore per annum from Rs 3 crore in 1999-2000, he said. Welfare schemes such as Madhu Babu Pension Scheme, Mo Kudia (housing scheme for people left out from the Indira Awas Yojana) and Biju Gramya Jyoti Yojana (providing electricity to villages with a population below 100 people), also incurred losses to the state exchequer, Ghadai said. Terming 2009-10 as a challenge, Ghadai said Orissa had to deal with additional burden due to recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission. "We have to spend an additional Rs 21,00 crore to increase the

salary of employees and Rs 700 crore towards pension," Ghadai said.

Coal racket busted

The Telegraph, 31 July, 2009

Cuttack, July 30: Orissa police today busted a coal racket in Talcher zone (Angul) and arrested its kingpin. According to the police, loaded trucks coming in from the storage yards of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) would be looted and the coal sold in the black market near Choudhwar (Cuttack). A team raided Handidhua colliery area of Talcher and arrested Debesh Sahu, the suspected kingpin, yesterday. A pistol and 23 rounds of ammunition were seized from his possession. Ten lorries carrying coal from MCL storage yards on Talcher-Balramprasad road were intercepted by the police around midnight on Tuesday. "The magnitude of the racket clearly suggests that the racket thrived on the basis of fake transit passes and with help from private security guards deployed at MCL yards," said Pratik Mohanty, the Angul superintendent of police. "So far 24 persons have been arrested and efforts are on to track the owners of the seized trucks," Mohanty said. Police believe that the racket involving lakhs has been operating right under the nose of MCL authorities. The modus operandi is simple. Trucks enter the coal yards with fake transit passes and drain off coal loads in connivance with the yard's personnel in charge where coal from mines are stored before transportation. The stolen coal is secured in godowns by the mafia before release to the markets. Many a times they are supplied to factories that have mushroomed near Manguli Chakh in Choudwar region.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES

Month-July

	NAME OF COMPANY & PLACE OF OPERATION	CAPACITY OF THE PROJECT	DATE OF NOTICE	DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING	VENUE OF PUBLIC HEARING	NOTIFICATION NUMBER OF MOEF
1	M/S Landmark Dalmia group, Talabasta, Cuttack	Expansion in the production of Talabasta fireclay mines from 9000TPA to 10,000TPA	25.07.09	30.08.09 (10.30a.m)	Talabasta High School, Talabasta	11751/IND-11-PH-347
2	M/S OMC Ltd., Villages- Bangur, Dhanurjaypur and Kasatakiri, Dist- Keonjhar	Expansion of Chromite production upto 0.06 MTPY over an area of 139.94Ha. in Bangur Chromite Mines	25.07.09	31.08.09 (11.00a.m)	Bangur G.P.Office, Keonjhar	11755/IND-11-PH-331
3	M/S Toshali Cement Private Ltd., Ampavalli, Pottangi, Koraput	Expansion of cement plant (Clinker capacity from 0.20 MTPA to 1.0 MTPA)	27.07.09	31.08.09 (11.00a.m)	Ampavalli G.P.Head Quarters	11944/IND-11-PH-313

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT

CAUSE-WISE ANALYSIS OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

Sl. No.	Causation	Year									
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
1	Fall from height	17	5	12	10	9	7	19	23	22	124
2	Fall of object	2	2	3	11	4	2	10	14	12	62
3	Vehicle related accidents	1	2	5	2	2	7	5	12	10	46
4	Electrocution	4	4	5	3	2	6	2	6	6	38
5	Stepping on or striking against object	1	1	4	2	4	1	5	3	10	31
6	Accretion cutting / DSC / Kiln	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	6	6	21
7	Others	10	6	5	21	12	14	30	17	15	128
8	Total	35	20	34	49	39	37	74	81	81	450

State vis-à-vis No. of Fatal Accident

Name of the State	Year – 2004	Year – 2005	Year – 2006	Year - 2007
Andhra Pradesh	90	134	176	156
Chattisgarh	47	73	Not available	Not available
Haryana	64	38	30	60
Karnataka	48	34	64	107
Maharashtra	153	173	175	197
Gujarat	221	200	184	222
Orissa	39	37	74	81
Tamil Nadu	53	57	48	60
Uttar Pradesh	86	77	118	78
West Bengal	63	64	75	68

Factories vis-à-vis Fatal Accident

Year	Total no. of factories	No. of factories newly Registered during the year	No. of sponge iron / steel factories newly registered during the year	Total no. of fatal accidents during the year	Total no. of fatal accidents occurred in sponge iron/steel factories during the year
2000	2612	149	4	35	10
2001	2758	211	7	20	7
2002	2827	154	4	34	16
2003	2859	82	2	49	20
2004	2899	114	10	39	29
2005	2941	155	29	37	18
2006	3035	166	26	74	42
2007	3107	105	11	81	48
2008	3156	89	11	81	55

(Source- "Clean, Green and Development", a journal released at a seminar organized by the Department of Industry, Govt. of Orissa)

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

N.B- No project has obtained Environmental clearance after 30th April, 2009.

REJECTED MINING PROJECTS AS PER 2006 NOTIFICATION

Project Details	Rejected On	Reason of rejection
FileNumber: 8-ORA013/2007-FCD Area: 269.1698 ha Description: MALANGTOLI IRON MINES IN FAVOUR OF M/S ORISSA SPONGE IRON LIMITED (OSIL) District: Keonjhar Category of Project: MINING	16/06/2009	REJECTED ON MERIT.

(Source- Ministry of Environment & Forest's website www.envfor.nic.in)

FOREST CLEARANCE

CLEARED PROJECTS IN FINAL STAGE

No project cleared in last three months in this category

CLEARED PROJECTS IN PRINCIPAL STAGE

Mining

PROJECT DETAILS	RECEIVED ON	APPROVED ON
File Number: 5-ORC074/2008-BHU Area: 33.722 ha Description: DIVERSION OF 33.722 HA OF FOREST LAND IN UTKAL-B COAL BLOCK FOR COAL MINING IN ANGUL DISTRICT BY M/S JINDAL STEEL & POWER LTD. District: Angul	13/06/2008	06/02/2009

PENDING PROJECTS WITH CENTRAL Moef

No record found for the year 2009

PENDING PROJECTS WITH STATE Moef

No record found for the year 2009

(Source- Ministry of Environment & Forest's website www.envfor.nic.in)

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/ Calcutta editions of various newspapers during the period July, 2009.
- ❖ Information on Environmental Clearances, Pending Projects and Rejected Projects etc. have been downloaded from the web site of MoEF, Govt. of India.
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