

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL TASK FORCE
TO PREVENT ILLEGAL MINING OF COAL FOR BANKURA DISTRICT HELD ON 30TH
NOVEMBER, 2011 IN BANKURA CIRCUIT HOUSE, BANKURA.

[List of Participants enclosed.]

The District Magistrate, Bankura initiated discussion and requested the Chief Mining Officer to speak about present status of illegal mining in Bankura district. The Chief Mining Officer stated that he had no information of illegal mining by that time. The illegal mining activities remained suspended during rainy season, the same was likely to commence, he added. He requested the General Manager of the Satgram Area of ECL to share information in this regard. The General Manager of ECL spoke in the same line as CMO. He further stated that there were about 50 illegal pits within Bakulia coal block, which had been left un-allocated by the Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India for reasons not known.

The Chief Mining Officer then requested the District Magistrate, Bankura to refer to the last paragraph of the minutes of the last meeting to review the decision taken therein. While reviewing, the District Magistrate first wanted to know whether the said illegal pits, located within the Bakulia coal block, could be filled up by ECL authority. CMO stated that some places are inaccessible for HEMM (Heavy Earth Moving Machinery). Moreover, sparing dozers for the purpose would be difficult for the GM, Satgram Area, he added. It was decided that considering gravity of the matter GM, Satgram Area would take up the issue with higher authority of ECL and seek necessary permission for rendering assistance in filling up the illegal pits within Bakulia coal block as far as practicable.

Regarding imposition of penal provisions upon illegal miners of Bakulia block, it was decided that, the locations of the illegal pits would be identified first; then the officials of the L&LR Department would identify the land owners of the said spots. Subsequently the penal measures would be taken against those rayats / miscreants in case of vested lands in terms of section 4(d) of the Land Reforms Act and 21 of the MMDR Act. To implement the programme with joint efforts of all concerned it was decided that a Block Level Task Force would be formed for Saltora and Mejia Blocks for detection of the sources and to check and eventually stop illegal coal mining.

The Block Level Task Force shall comprise of:

1. The Block Development Officer - Chairman.
2. The Block Land & Land Reforms Officer- Member Secretary cum Convenor
3. Officer-In-Charge, Police Station - Member
4. Chief Mining Officer/Mining Officer - Member
5. Representative of E.C.L. - Member

This committee shall properly survey the concerned area(s) and detect the spots of illegal mining of coal and take further necessary action as per rules of law. The Committee shall also meet at least once a month and send monthly report to the undersigned without fail. The first meeting shall be convened by 20th of December, 2011 and identification of illegal mining spots if any should be completed by the end of December, 2011. The General Manager, Satgram Area pointed out that ECL would provide technical assistance when required. However, it would not be possible to claim the coal lifted from Bakulia coal block as ECL's property.

The Superintendent of Police, Bankura raised the problem being faced by the Police while lodging cases of illegal coal. He said that it became difficult to establish owner/proprietor of seized coal. CMO stated that as per Burdwan Model ECL would be considered the owner of the coal seized since ECL was the only coal operator in Bankura district. General Manager, Satgram Area seconded the view of the CMO. The ECL will discuss with the CMD for necessary instruction in this regard. The CMO further stated that case might be lodged under section 21 of the MMDR Act, 1957 and Coal Mines Nationalization Act. He also said that power to exercise the authority under section 21 and 22 of the MMDR Act had been given to different officials of the administration. The seizure-power (U/S. 21(4)) of the MMDR Act, 1973 had been given interalia to Police too. On request of the District Magistrate and DL&LRO, Bankura CMO agreed to send the copies of the relevant notifications to the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and DL&LRO.

Since there were nothing more to discuss, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.

Sd/- Md. Gulam Ali Ansari, IAS
District Magistrate
&
Chairman,
District Level Task Force,
BANKURA