

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE DISTRICT LEVEL TASK FORCE IN
RESPECT OF BURDWAN DISTRICT HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2011 AT
'DURGAPUR HOUSE', DURGAPUR.**

[List of participants enclosed]

Initiating discussion the District Magistrate, Burdwan welcomed all the participants. He then briefed the house about the function of the C&I Deptt. in relation to the mineral sector of the state, specially coal and other major minerals and role and jurisdiction of the Chief Mining Officer and District Authorities. He also explained in brief the statutes relevant to provisions of the MMDR Act, 1973 and the Govt. Notification empowering different officials in implementing the penal provisions.

District Magistrate, Burdwan then pointed out that there was a huge 'demand-supply' imbalance in the sector of small scale and medium scale coal based industries of this State. Present requirement of SSI units of Asansol and Durgapur Sub-Divisions alone was estimated to be 7.8 lakh tonnes and that of medium scale units like spong iron factories constituted another 25 lakh tonnes per annum, whereas according to New Coal Distribution Policy, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. was able to cater only 2 lakh tonne per annum. He requested the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Eastern Coalfields Ltd. to augment the quota of coal under the said distribution policy to the extent sufficient to meet the demand. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Eastern Coalfields Ltd. agreed to look into the matter.

As regards the disposal of seized coal, the following decisions were taken unanimously:-

(i) In case of unclaimed coal, the Officer-In-Charges of the respective police stations would inform the General Manager of the concerned area of ECL about seizure of unclaimed coal and the concerned General Manager of ECL would claim the same as ECL's property and take it to its custody after weighing. ECL authorities would pay all levies on such coal, as payable to the Govt., after selling the same;

(ii) For case-linked seized coal it was decided that, on intimation, the General Manager of the concerned area of ECL would take "Zimma" (custody) of the seized coal after weighing and due sampling.

It was also decided that actions against vehicles carrying illegal minerals may be taken in terms of Section 23A of the M.M.D.R. Act, 1957 and under the provisions of West Bengal Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2002.

Decision was also taken as regards disposal of huge quantity of seized Jhama Coal stacked at different places within Baraboni Police Station. E.C.L. authority expressed their inability to take custody of such coal, because of being of inferior quality. It was decided that police authority would inform Chief Mining Officer the tentative quantity of seized Jhama Coal stacked at different places and the Chief Mining Officer, in turn, would write to the C&I Deptt. seeking administrative approval for disposal of such coal through suitable agency, authorized for sale and transportation of such coal.

As regards the setting up of check post for fruitful implementation of the West Bengal Minerals (Prevention Of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2002, the following decisions were taken:-

(i) a joint team comprising officials of police, Land & Land Reforms Deptt., CISF, E.C.L.'s Security Wing would survey to find out suitable sites for check posts.

(ii) The check posts would be manned by revenue officials assisted by CISF and ECL. ECL's commercial wing would provide technical support to verify transit pass, etc.,

(iii) The Chief Mining Officer would send proposal to the C&I Deptt. for notification of the check posts, so identified by the joint team, in official gazette as required under the said rules.


Then Commissioner of Police, Asansol & Durgapur, Police Commissionerate referred to some incidences they faced while intercepting transportation of coal obtained by e-auction scheme of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. After discussions, it was viewed that the amendments of The West Bengal Minerals (Prevention Of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2002, as proposed by the Directorate of Mines & Minerals and sent to the C&I Deptt., if implemented, most of the problems of illegal mining and trade of coal would be sorted out. The District Magistrate agreed to take up the matter with the C&I Deptt. for acceptance of the said proposal and its implementation.

District Magistrate, Burdwan suggested the Sub-Divisional Magistrates to take steps to reactivate the 'Block Level Monitoring Committees'. He also suggested that the members of BLMC consisting of Block Development Officer, General Manager of the concerned area of ECL, Officer-In-Charge of the Police Station and Area Security Officer of CISF would assess and report on the storage / stock of unclaimed coal in their respective blocks and take suitable actions as per existing statutes.

District Magistrate, Burdwan then requested the Chief Executive Officer, Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority to speak on rehabilitation issue in view of the recent mishap of subsidence in Sanctoia Village. The CEO, ADDA stated that about 25 families have been affected and they demanded for immediate compensation. In the perspective of the incidence she stated, drawing attention of CMD, ECL and DM, Burdwan, that out of the three options of compensation, only the monetary package could be provided under the provisions of the Master Plan since the process of acquisition of land for rehabilitation sites had not yet been completed. CMD, ECL suggested her to send a proposal seeking requisite fund for implementation of monetary package for the said affected families of Sanctoria village. However, the District Magistrate stressed that there should not be any deviation from the Master Plan as approved by the Government of India. He also suggested her to refer this issue to the C&I Deptt. referring the discussion of this meeting.

Authorities of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. then pointed out that they often faced problem in renewing their temporary licence for stowing sand, which are granted by the C&I Deptt. They expressed that had the mining leases been granted, the problem would settle permanently. Chief Mining Officer stated that there were some statutory formalities to be complied with before grant of leases for stowing sand. Eastern Coalfields Ltd. had also to comply those formalities. District Magistrate, Burdwan requested to see whether there were scope to relax such formalities.

As regards specific Land Acquisition Cases and rehabilitation of project affected people in the areas where ECL is contemplating the mining operations, DM collected the details from CMD, ECL and assured to hold a meeting involving all the concerned officials shortly.


24.11.2011
District Magistrate
&

Chairman
District Level Task Force,
Burdwan