



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES (AIACE)

(Regd. under The Trade Union Act 1926; Regd. No. 546 / 2016)

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Dated 12.6.2020

To

Sri Pralhad Joshi ji
Honourable Minister of Coal & Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of India
New Delhi

Sub: Environment Clearance of NEC Projects

Sir,

With pain, All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE) wishes to highlight the issues prevailing at Tiktok OCP of North Eastern Coalfields under Coal India Ltd and urge your kind intervention for its uninterrupted operation.

In order to ensure uniform growth of our country, various governments have worked hard for development of nation's North-East region. Coal mining in this region is one of such activities. But due to various reasons and involvement of too many players here, the production and morale of workforce of CIL operating in this region is jeopardized.

Literally, production from Tiktok OCP has stopped and there seems no way out to resume the production by mine expansion. Due to this, workforce of NEC are compelled to think their posting here as a punishment as no productive work is assigned to them for coal production.

To begin with the elaborations, it is to state that coal mining operations in Tiktok region of Assam has a history of mining operations from pre-independence era. Earlier private players were engaged in this mine who, after nationalization of coal industry, gave way to present day Coal India Ltd (CIL). CIL had a lease of 30 years, which expired in 2003 and the lease expired in favour of Government of Assam.

However, CIL continued its operations, presumably with the consent of Assam government and apparently in the national interest. To continue mining operations after expiry of lease in 2003, CIL moved for needful clearances in 2003. It again repeated it in 2012 and requested for regularizing the operations up to 2012 and simultaneously sought for prior approval from 2012 onwards up to 2023. The approval process is still continuing and is yet to meet its end. The process has so far involved following 4 agencies:-

- (i) Two ministries of State and Central government under Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- (ii) Two Boards of Wild Life under State and Central government (BWL).

It is to state that in 2019, Central authority under (i) above has granted conditional Stage-I approval subject to clearance by Central authority under (ii) above.

Moreover, a heavy penal charge has also been imposed which is probably beyond the bearing capacity of CIL. Approval for Stage-II to mining operations up to 2023 is a distant dream. Accompanied by the above bottlenecks, the entire workforce here are a dejected lot who find it quite unsustainable to lead a peaceful productive life in this heavily insurgency affected area.

Needless to say that CIL is the sole provider of livelihood to as many as 50000 of population are directly or indirectly dependent on mining operations. But we suspect that a handful of chauvinist and persons with vested interest are engaged in blocking the path of development here.

Under, the circumstances, it is requested that a time bound action for early settlement of above issues may kindly be initiated under your able and dynamic leadership.

If by any means, it is not possible to start the closed mine by awarding approval, the executives and staffs of NEC should be given option for transfer from there to any other production companies of CIL.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely



P.K.SINGH RATHOR
Principal General Secretary

Cc:

Prime Minister, Govt. of India.

Labour Minister, Govt. of India

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Govt. of India

Chief Minister of Assam

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Govt. of Assam

Chairman, CIL

Director(Technical), CIL

Director(P),CIL.