

Title: Regarding backfilling of Handidhua and Deulbera Mines in Mahanadi Coal Fields

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): In Talcher Coal Field Area, two underground mines viz. Handidhua and Deulbera were allotted to Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL which is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited under the Ministry of Coal. Handidhua mine which lies closed since 1998, requires 585000 cums of sand stowing. Till date, 432145 Cums has been completed leaving another 152855 Cums to be done. Deulbera mine which has been closed since 2006 requires 330400 Cums of sand stowing. Till date, 106100 Cums has been completed leaving another 224300 Cums to be done. However, no appreciable progress has been achieved by the MCL with regard to sand stowing/back filling in its closed background mines under the Talcher Coal Field area. Against the total target of 9.15 lakh Cums of sand stowing in such mines, only 5.03 lakh Cums of sand stowing has been done so far. Unless prompt action is taken to complete the back filling, the chances of land subsidence cannot be ruled out in those areas.

I would urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to fill up the balance at the earliest along with the detailed plan formulated to complete the Backfilling in these two underground mines.