

Regarding dust pollution caused by Mahanadi Coalfields of Talcher in Odisha-laid

SHRI MAHESH SAHOO (DHENKANAL): While digging for coal in open cast manner in mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. of Talcher in Odisha, a lot of soil is removed in the process. The entire soil is dumped in nearby areas. As per the existing procedure, this huge pile of soil is required to be levelled at the earliest. However, the levelling work done so far is merely about 5% of the dumped soil. A time frame for levelling of soil is necessary. The loose soil has become a major source of dust pollution in the area. In turn, the people are suffering from various ailments like, allergies, breathing issues, lungs problem and many other pollution related diseases. Levelling of the soil will not only minimize dust pollution to a large extent but also help in planting trees and developing the forest. Therefore, in this regard, I would urge upon both the Minister of Coal and the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to take urgent steps so that the people of Talcher are saved from dust pollution.