

Need to formulate comprehensive policies for sustainable repurposing of mine voids in the country.-laid

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): I would like to highlight one significant issue regarding open-cast mine voids and their potential for repurposing. Neglected mine voids, left unmanaged by mining companies, pose significant social, environmental, and governance challenges. These voids deprive communities of land that could be utilized for livelihood opportunities or public welfare. A viable solution lies in repurposing these voids for fly ash disposal. Odisha, with approximately 20 GW of operational thermal power plants and an additional 10 GW in the pipeline, faces a steep increase in coal consumption?from 150 MMT to 220 MMT annually?leading to a surge in fly-ash generation from 55 MMT to 85 MMT per year. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change mandates 100% ash utilization, yet limited avenues for sustainable use create compliance challenges, with penalties of ₹1,000 per metric ton potentially increasing power costs. Repurposing open-cast mine voids offers a dual benefit: effective ash utilization and development of renewable energy infrastructure, aiding compliance with Renewable Generation Obligations set by the Ministry of Power. I urge the Hon?ble Minister of Power to formulate policies for the sustainable repurposing of mine voids, enabling States like Odisha to manage fly-ash effectively while fostering renewable energy development for a sustainable energy.