

Regarding need to expedite auction and operationalization of pending mineral blocks in Bolangir, Odisha-Laid

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): I would like to invite the attention of the Honble Minister of Mines to the persistent delay in auction and operationalisation of mineral blocks in the Bolangir district of Odisha. This district is endowed with valuable mineral resources, including manganese and graphite, yet several identified blocks have remained unauctioned or non-operational for an unduly long period. The delay in mineral block auctions has resulted in substantial loss of revenue to both the State and the Central Governments in the form of royalties, auction premiums, and contributions to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). More importantly, it has severely affected employment generation and ancillary economic activities in a region that continues to face industrial backwardness, limited livelihood opportunities and mass migration of labours. Despite policy reforms and the introduction of transparent e-auction mechanisms under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, procedural bottlenecks, delays in statutory clearances, and lack of coordinated action have hindered timely monetisation of mineral resources in these districts. I urge the Government to take urgent steps to expedite the auction and early operationalisation of pending mineral blocks in Balangir, with fixed timelines, so as to prevent further revenue loss and ensure inclusive regional development through sustainable employment creation.