

**Inspection Report on Legal and Illegal Mines and stone crushing units in Sahibganj districts of Jharkhand**

As per the direction of Hon'ble NGT, order of OA No 23/2017 dated 22.01.2019 in the case of Sayed Arshad Naskar Vs Union of India and Others, a committee had to be constituted from the below mentioned organizations, i.e:

- Central Pollution Control Board
- Ministry of Environment, forest and Climate Change
- Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board.
- Member from SEIAA

And accordingly a four member committee was constituted with following members:

1. Central Pollution Control Board: **Dr (Mrs) Rita Saha, Scientist 'D'**
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional office, Ranchi: **Shri Rajeev Ranjan, Scientist 'D'**
3. Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board representative: **Shri Nirala Baskey**
4. Member from SEIAA: **Shri S C Narayan**

The committee members inspected various mines and crushing units in the Sahibganj district. Committee members had consultation with District Mining Officer, Sahibganj, JSPCB official, Shri R D Sahini, and few mining and crushing unit owners who were present at the site. Major observations and recommendation of the committee is as given below:

**Major Observations**

1. In one of the stone quarry/mines at Gadwa Mauza pahar the height of the excavation mass/material was more than the boom height of the excavator as can be seen from photo 17 & 18 resulting in unsafe situation for mine workers & machine. The statutory persons mate/foreman/mine manager who look after safety of the Mines & implement the safety guidelines of DGMS were in very less number / negligible.No person to look after environment management/protection was employed.
2. Approach road/haulage roads of mines were not black topped or asphalted and they were dust laden. Lot of dust was generated once the vehicles plied on the roads as can be seen from photo21 & 22.
3. The waste of the stone crushers /fine stone materials at Baskola, Gadwa Mauza pahar was kept in a dump. The waste dump was unsystematic and unsafe. Angle of slope of dump was very high & could lead of disaster as can be seen from photo1 & 12.No retaining wall was made for such dumps leading to unsafe & unsystematic situation. It was told to concerned people on the site itself to situation. It was told to concerned

- people on the site itself to lessen the slope of the waste dumps and to make benches & retaining wall in the dump
4. The crusher at Baskola, Gadwa Mauza pahar was located on the hill top in such a way that dust generated there would propagate to far places as can be seen from photos.12,13 &14. The crusher owners have kept only their convenience /preferentially mind while such site selection of such crusher installation environment / dust pollution was not at all kept in mind.
  5. Mining had been carried out in the hills adjacent to the visited place (near Baskola, Gadwa Mauza pahar) as can be seen from photo.15 & 16.All the mines were not legal there. In any case there was no closer plan for such mines on the hillocks just plunder of stones and abandoning the mines was the norm it seemed.
  6. It was observed that there were many crusher units just beside the Railway siding at sakrigali as can be seen from photo 9 & 10. There were habitations & state roads just besides these crusher units as can be seen from photo 9. No water sprinklers/sprayers dust control equipments, wall, etc was installed in those crusher units
  7. Even in the legal mines the owners/managers/supervisors would not be found(almost in all except two) so it could not be ascertained whether they have statutory manpower for safety, manpower to look after environment, etc.
  8. Some Stone Queries were found to be of greater depth involving blasting and hence provisions of Mine Acts, 1952 & rules and regulations made there under must be followed. Safety of the mine workers was not taken care off.
  9. Some Mines were found to be dangerously abandoned. Closure plan needs to be implemented by the District Mining Officer.
  10. During visit in the Sahibgunj district, bunch of open crushers are found lying non operational and also some of the mines seemed to be within the forest areas.
  11. Detail of the Legal Mining and the Legal Crushing Unit is submitted by the District Mining Officer which is annexed with the Report as ready reference.
  12. Mining is running in an unsafe, unsystematic and unscientific manner in Sahibganj district in almost all places ( see photo 1 & 3).
  13. No water sprinklers or water tankers observed in the legal crushing areas or in the legal mining areas except in one mining location (as can be seen from photo 20). Only one crushing unit had the water tanker provision( as can be seen from photo 30).
  14. Catch drains & siltation ponds were not made around ore/mineral dump, O/B dump & top soil dump.
  15. In no mines top soil was being preserved that may subsequently used for mine reclamation, green belt development.
  16. Retaining walls at the toe of O/B dumps or mineral dumps were not observed in any of the mineral.
  17. Sump was not being maintained in the mines to store rainwater during rainy season. This water could be used for water sprinkling for dust suppression.
  18. None of the units inspected in Sahibganj district maintained pucca boundary wall and wind breaking wall of ten feet height. Development of Green belt was not observed.

19. In all the crusher units raw material and the finished product are lying uncovered which may lead to dust pollution.
20. No dust catchers over uncovered spaces of processing and transfers are noticed (Photo no 2).
21. No comprehensive plan observed to cover crusher screen and conveyors with steel sheet.
22. System of Rain Water Harvesting was not observed in any of the sites.
23. Proper management of mine Over-Burden was not being done. Overburden was dispersed in unsystematic and unscientific manner with no future plan for mine reclamation/ closure etc.
24. No minig ativities was observed in the Katghar village area where some local people and children brought /showed stones that looked like rice, dal, grains, etc( see photo 6)
25. Monitoring team as per the detail observation of the legal and illegal mining areas in Sahibganj District and legal and illegal crushing units identified the below mentioned area for Air Pollution monitoring and the carrying capacity of these area in terms of the degraded land use.

**Details of Crushing and Mining unit visited during inspection on 05 April 2019**

SL.NO.	Location	GPS Data	Remarks
01	Sakrigali Bandargah, Sahibganj, Jharkhand	25°14'57.996"N 87°42'5.50404"E	Loading point of stone chips in to the boat at river Ganga for surface water transportation.
02	Sakrigali Stone crusher near Railway line area	25°14'57.996"N 87°42'5.50404"E	Stone crushers & Loading point of stone chips in to Railway wagon.
03	Baskola Gadwamouza Pahar Mining & crushing areas	25°14'27.3600"N 87°24'.3692304"E	Four no of open cast mining unit present in this location i.e. Hill moment-01 no. Digital Mineral India-01 no. and Jai Bajrangbali-02 nos.
04	Mining areas Gadwa mouza areas (Top of the Hill)	25°14'27.3606"N 87°42'.3692304"E	Mining activities going on at the top of the Hill. (From here Aerial distance of river Ganga is approx. 3 KM)
05	Mayer Machinery Maharajpur Sakri	25°14'46.5876"N 87°44'29.60376"E	Abandoned mines no extension given by the mining authorities due to the nearby Forest area.
06	Moti Jharna (Motinath Dham)	25°12'32.334"N 87°43'28.26"E	No mining activities observed in these area. Presently the entire area is under Forest Dept.
07	R Q S Rajmohal	25°7'49.84968"N 87°5349.73496"E	China clay processing unit present in the bank of River Ganga.
08	RQS Rajmohal China clay Mining area	25°4'21.2235"N 87°4655.535"E	China clay mining area of RQS Rajmohal.
09	Katghar Village	25°4'6.1312"N 87°4'935.6436"E	No mining activities observed in this area and the area is transformed in to a village.
10	M/S MD. Alam & Brothers Madhopara		Five nos. of crushing unit observed during visit and all found close for the day.
11	Chetkar Mines Limited Madhopara	24°56'38.445"N 87°4836.3294"E	Opencast mining area.
12	Chandola old mining areas	24°52'40.3104"N	Abandoned mines.

		87°46'22.0699"E	
13	Chandola Pahar mining areas	24°52'40.3104"N 87°46'22.0699"E	Opencast mining area.
14	HCC Limited (closed )	24°51'49.20"N 87°46'36.85"E	Crushing unit present found non operation
15	Paharia Stone work M/S Moti Babu and crushing unit)	24°53'32.32"N 87°59'36.11"E	Crushing unit observed

**Recommendations of the Committee:**

1. All the Stone Crushing and stone Mines units in the area must take adequate Pollution Control Measures to comply with the environmental norms for protection of environment.

2. It was noticed that some Mines are left abandoned. Immediate mine closure plan may be implemented.

3. On regular basic, awareness program on Pollution Control Norms/ Systems shall be arranged near site by JSPCB.

4. Number of technical staff/ engineers in JSPCB, should be increased as number of stone crushing units & mines are in large numbers. JSPCB office at Dumka is approx 130 km away from Sahibgunj.

5. District mining officer should make efforts to develop at least one or two model mines ( Where mining is done as per approved mine plan) and arrange workshops so that other mine owners know systematic and scientific mining Number of technical/ competent staff under District Mining officer should also be increased.

6. In the mines sump be constructed to store rainwater, approach roads should be black topped, water sprinkling must be done to minimize/eliminate dust pollution. At some places fixed water sprinklers can also be provided.

7. Catch drains & siltation ponds should be constructed around ore/mineral dump, O/B dump & top soil dump.

8. Illegal Stone Crushers should be stopped immediately to stop the antisocial crushing activities causing menace to the society and the extant ecosystem and other sensitive Flora and Fauna from the area nearby due to heavy dust pollution from the crushing cluster units.

9. Regular mass awareness programme must be designed on regular basis in the area.

10. Legal mines must adhere to the norms of the Mine-Safety.

11. Illegal Crushers need to be closed/ demolished immediately.

12. State Pollution Control Board should cancel the CTO of illegal crushing & mines if the conditions are not complied.

13. Inspected Crushing Units has no wind breaking walls. The walls of the individual Crushers may be erected immediately.

14. None of the Crushers has paved Roads for the movement of Vehicles leading to dust pollution. Immediate implementation of Paved Roads inside the Crushing clusters.

15. All the Crushers must implement the system of dust catchers in their running system.

16. Plantation in the periphery must be given immediate attention.

17. The Unit which are non complaint with environmental norms need to be closed, till they take pollution control measures.

18. Immediate steps for monitoring of Air Quality in big crusher Units with production capacity of more than 500TPD through online certified PM10 analyzers with onsite display and its connectivity with JSPCB server be implemented.

19. Installation by JSPCB PM10 analyzer at clusters of 10 or more than 10 small Stone Crusher Units in Cluster be implemented.

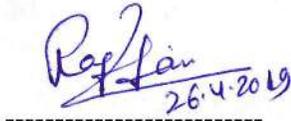
20. It appeared that stone mines & Crushing units are the major source of employment and income generation for local people in the district. However unsystematic & unscientific mining cannot be permitted and also crushing units that don't follow environment protection norms cannot be allowed to operate. Since the Rajmahal hills are a unique place for biodiversity, state Government could give only few mines lease in the hills ( just as iron ore mining permission in Saranda forest of West Singhbhum districts) and district Mining officers should ensure that it is carried out as per approved mine plan with CTO condition implemented assured by JSPCB.

  
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26.4.2019

Signature

Dr (Mrs) Rita Saha,

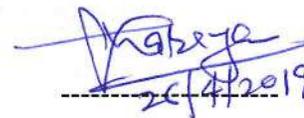
Scient. 'D', CPCB

  
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26.4.2019

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Shri Rajeev Ranjan,

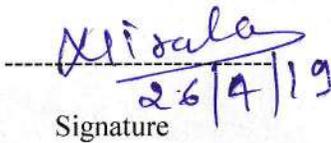
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26/4/2019

Signature

Shri S C Narayan

Member, SEIAA

  
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26/4/19

Signature

Shri Nirala Baskey,

JSPCB



Photo 1: mining in an utmost unsafe and uncared manner



Photo 2: No dust catchers installed



Photo 3: Unsafe mining at the Hill Top



Photo 4: China clay mining areas of RQS Rajmahal



Photo 5: R Q S Rajmahal (China clay processing unit in the bank of River Ganga) Photo 6 : Katghar Village no mining activities observed.



Photo7:MotiJharna(MotinathDham)  
no mining activity observed  
to the boat)

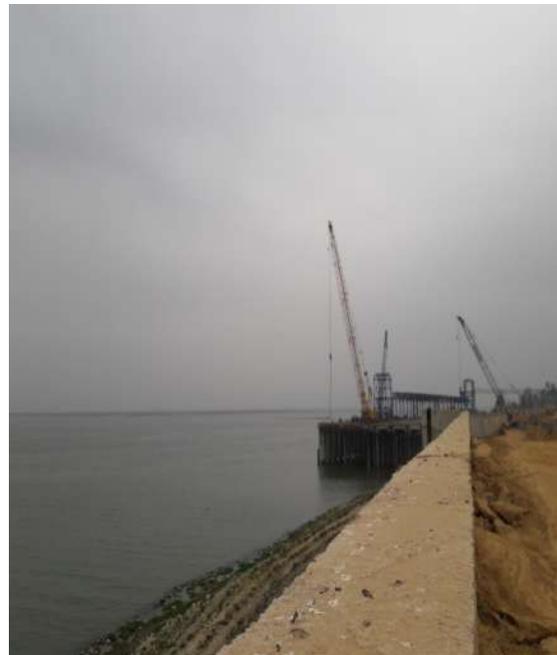


Photo8:Sakrigali Bandargah on Ganga river  
(Loading point of stone chips in



Photo9& 10: Photo of stone crushing units at Sakrigali Railway station near Sahibganj. Houses and dwellings can be seen in the close vicinity of the crushing units.



Photo11&12: Photo of waste dump Huge amount of stone chips sand dumped in Baskola Gadwamouza Pahar crushing unit with dangerously high gradient of slope, dust pollution from the crushing unit can also be seen.



Photo13: Photo of crushing unit almost at the hill top. Photo14: Photo of stone chips stacked and downslope is the river Ganga approx 2.5 km from there.

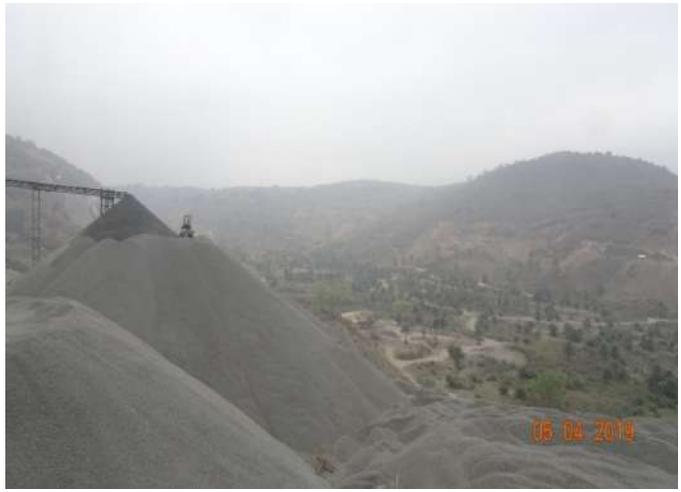


Photo15& 16: Photo of mining being done on the hills besides the inspected crushing units. It appeared that the mines in the hills were left abandoned.



Photo17 & 18: Photo of unsafe mining as the height of excavation mass/ material is greater than the maximum boom height of the loader. Unsystematic and unscientific mining being done with proper height and width of benches.



Photo19: Photo of a small sump made in the mine.



Photo20: Photo of a water tanker sprinkling water in one of the mine after instructions.



Photo21 & 22 : Photo of dust emissions from approach roads to the mine and crushing unit. No black topped or asphalted roads constructed by project authorities.



Photo23: Photo of a crushing unit just besides the road highway. Metal sheet dust barrier has been provided but its height not adequate.



Photo24: Photo of another unscientific and unsystematic mining being done on the hill top with improper height and Width of benches and very poor O/B/ waste disposal mechanism.



Photo25: Photo of crushing unit at the railway siding



Photo26: Photo of mining in the hill. Proper height and width of benches not followed.



Photo27: Photo of an abandoned mines in the hills. Fencing Nobody was found there for any consultation/suggestion.



Photo28: Photo of unsystematic and unscientific mining in the hills.



Photo29: Photo of illegal mining in the hills, seemed to be land.



Photo30: Photo of water sprinkling by tanker in one of the forest crushing unit