

STONE QUARRYING AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION ISSUES

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INTRODUCTION

The earth's atmosphere is a common heritage. The environmental issues take in to account the human being, and not the State as a unit. It is a global issue. The Stockholm Declaration recognized that man is the part of nature and life depends on it. U.Thant, the Secretary General, United Nations, in Stockholm Conference appealed "Like or not we are travelling together on a common planet and we have no national alternative but to work together, to make an environment in which we and our children can live a full and peaceful life".

The declaration in the United Nations Conference on human environment from 5th to 16th June, 1972 at Stockholm considered the need for a common outlook for common principles to inspire and guide the people of the world in the preservation and enhancement of human environment. The long and tortuous evolution of the human race was not possible without rapid acceleration of science and technology. The man has achieved the ability to transform his environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale. This power if used wisely can bring benefits of development and opportunity to enhance the quality of life. The wrong application on the other hand can do incalculable harm to human beings and human environment.

Mining is a paramount economic pursuit having prospective of furnishing to the growth of areas bestowed with natural resources. Minerals extracted in mining process includes diamonds, bauxite, and coal, iron, metals, rock salt, lead, phosphate, tin, uranium, and molybdenum. Mining in broader sense can also encompass extraction of petroleum, and natural gas. Mining is an intrinsic operation contributing extensively to the economic growth of countries bestowed with mineral resources by facilitating revenue generation, employment creation, and foreign exchange.

The people residing at minerals rich belt are endowed with employment and investment opportunities but on contrary they are bound to live in pollution caused by land degradation and deforestation. Due to lack of basic facilities and needs people there are poverty stricken.

Mines pose a threat to the environment. They can degrade soil and water quality if left untreated. The United States Environmental protection Agency (USEPA)'s Region 9 assessment of state data states that there are approximately 420,000 abandoned mines in the states of California, Arizona, and Nevada with 13,242 of them being considered "abandoned mines with potential environmental hazard" (arizona.edu, 2008).

Mines means any excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on which includes all borings, oil wells, all protective works being carried out in or adjacent to a mine etc. and when it comes to define a person who is employed in mines then according to section 2(h) of The Mines Act 1952 a person is said to be "employed" in a mine who works as the manager or who works under appointment by the owner, agent or manager of the mine or with knowledge of the manager, whether for wages or

Major quarries of India are spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. Almost everywhere in these states migrant and bonded labors are employed to carry out the works because they are a very deprived class of people and easily they get ready to work for low wages. The people of the mining villages receive extremely low wages with no benefits. An adult male worker working in mines receives only Rs.70-120 per day, depending upon his skill, after 8-10 hours of work. Comparatively, the daily wage for a woman is Rs. 45-55, and a child receives Rs. 30-40 a day.[1] These workers don't get any holidays, no weekly days off for these people, and no maternity leave.

Unsafe working conditions in the mines lead to high number of accidents and health care has been always a serious issue among the mineworkers. Lack of safety equipments, hard physical labour and presence of health hazards in mines lead to widespread health problems. The mine worker people are poor so they can't afford expensive medical treatment and their isolated location and poverty deny them access to health care and the diseases often prove fatal.

Unregulated mining activities also have adverse effects on the environment, which may pose threat to human health and well being. A high environmental cost which has been associated with years of unregulated mining and mineral-processing activity made it realised to strike a balance between mineral developments on the one hand and the greening of the environment on the other.

Mining has been and continues to be a major contributor to the economic growth of most of the developed and developing countries. India possesses vast and diverse natural resources, of which the exploration, extraction and utilization of minerals are currently considered to be one of the most significant factors in the economic growth and development of the country, India ranks among top five global players in terms of production of several important minerals.x

It is true Orissa is endowed with vast resources of minerals, particularly Chromite and Bauxite. But the area in which these minerals are located is inhabited by tribals who mainly depend on the forest environment and its products, without disturbing the environment. No doubt by exploitation of these mines the government plans to raise huge foreign exchange besides meeting the domestic needs that provide some money and employment opportunities yet displacing thousands of people depending on these forest and mining areas. This apart mining activities create environmental pollution by way of deforestation dumping of semi-toxic matters and creating large areas of void. The effect of mining over livestock, perennial water system, the habitat and agriculture on which lakhs of people depend for subsistence, is too large to be accounted for.

If the formal adverse effects of a mining activity are taken into consideration, the possible benefits that result out of the mining activities and the income derived weigh less. Therefore there is need to conserve the mineral wealth exploiting only the minimum needed.'

Environmental degradation in mining areas is caused by methods of mining, ore beneficiation, soil/sub-soil/ slope destabilization, pollution of water resources, ambient air transquility, harm to vegetation covers of the bio-resources, solid waste, tailing etc

A 55- years old man was killed during an illegal blasting at stone quarry in Rankata village under Gaurmal gram panchayat.

Sources said that the stone quarry have been operating illegally in Ranakata of Jharsuguda block for the last many years. On Saturday evening, 16 holes were dug by workers of which four to five were falled with water while the workers were filling the holes with dynamite sticks, a powerful explosion took place in which Kishan died on spot whole Rambolash sustained serious injuries.

A similar kind of explosion had occurred at the quarry two years back in which a person was killed and four persons sustained injuries. However no lessons were learnt from the incident and the district administration did not take any step to stop recurrence such mishap.

WORKING GROUP IN MINING

Women Workers

Women are paid less than men. This is not even half of the official minimum wage for unskilled labor, which is 100 rupees. In quarries they have to do separate task from men like handpicking, loading and crushing the stones. It takes many skills but then also they are regarded as unskilled labors because there is no formal upgrading of skills and there is no recognition of these tasks. Not only they get less wage then men but they are also sexually harassed by mine owners and contractors. Many interview report shows that Dalit and tribal women are the most exploited sects of people in the mining sector.

Child labor in Mining

Children who are born in remote mining areas starts with a big disadvantage as they could not get any child care facilities there, and often no schools exist in the neighborhood, mothers are only left with the choice to take them along to their work in the quarries. In their childhood only when they should learn how to write and speak, they learn to crush the stones or help with loading the stones on trucks. It's not that no Government schools exist in these types of area, schools exist but because of the very poor quality and teacher absenteeism, these government schools can't provide proper education to these children and they remain illiterate. These children also don't get proper food to eat due to which majority of children are chronically malnourished.

Cheap child labour is welcomed by the contractors and due to the poverty and hardship child workers family allow their children to work in mines and quarries and it's no surprise that majority of these children are working in mines. These children also don't get proper food to eat due to which majority of children are chronically malnourished.

Reports show that many children are working in the mining sector, because of the remoteness of quarries and mines and the informal character of the sector but the response from the Indian labour department is complete denial. They argue that child labour in mining and quarrying is illegal and it's the violation of their right to education. They are often displaced migrants, living in huts and tents and as a result they are very vulnerable for other forms of exploitation and abuses, and they often involved in illegal activities by the mafia and trafficking.

Dalits and Adivasi

Large scale mining projects are basically operated in tribal or adivasi areas. What the government, politicians and big businessman or industrialist do is to take away the land from their owners and force them to migrate. In case of displacement owners of the land are compensated with the cash amount or sometimes they are also offered jobs but in case of Dalits they hardly receives any compensation as they do not work on their own land themselves but work as landless laborers on other people's land. Discrimination on the basis of caste with Dalits in workplace is very common and they get excluded from social services such as health care and training. Also they never get the chance to be promoted as they are viewed as unskilled labours.

LAW AND REGULATION FOR MANAGEMENT OF MINING ENVIRONMENT IN INDIA

Laws that protects the rights of mine laborers

A committee was appointed by the government of India 1895 to frame suitable rules and regulations for the protection of workers working in mines in such cases where they have

reasonable claim on state for protection. The committee submitted its report in 1896. This report led to the enactment of first Mine Act in India which came into effect from 22th March 1901.

Some of the provisions of the act is minimum age of employment is 12 years, Penalties were prescribed for various contraventions, Inspector was allowed to enter into the mines and he can inspect and make enquiries.

This was enacted in 1910 and 1914. Then a new Indian Mines Act was enacted in 1923. The act was further amended in 1925, 1927, 1928, 1931, 1935, 1937, 1940 and 1946.

The amended act of 1935 made a new changes in the age of employment. The age of children was raised to 15 years. Mining Boards were required to be set up by the provincial governments.

The amended act of 1940 stipulated that salaries and wages of manager, supervisory staff should be paid by the owner of mine and not by the raising contractor.

Mines Act 1952

The Mines Act, 1952 contains the provision related to health, safety and welfare of the workers working in coal, oil and metalliferous mines. The act define mine as “any excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on and includes all borings, bore holes, oil wells and accessory crude conditioning plants, shafts, opencast workings, conveyors or aerial ropeways, planes, machinery works, railways, tramways, sliding, workshops, power stations, etc. or any premises connected with mining operations and near or in the mining area”.

According to the provision of the Act it is the duty of the owner to manage mines and the mining operations and health and safety in the mines. The act also prescribes number of working hour in the mines, what should be the minimum wage rate and other related matters.

This Act is administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Directorate General of Mines Safety. It's the Government regulatory agency for safety in mines and oil fields. The main work of DGMS is to reduce the risk of occupational diseases and injury to persons employed in mines and to improve safety and health standards. For this they do periodic

inspections of mines to keep vigil over the status of safety and investigate into accidents and complaints.

The Mine act 1952 was amended in 1959 and 1983. Vocation training rules 1966 were framed under the Mines Act 1952. In this the rule provided that refresher should get specialized training.

Constitutional Obligations

The constitution of India has empowered the parliament to frame laws for the safeguard for the person working in the mines and also for the regulation of labour and safety in mines.

Article 246 of Indian Constitution: Article 246 and entry 55 of the seventh schedule of Indian constitution talks about the regulation of labour and safety in mines and oilfields.

Article 24: Article 24 of Indian constitution says that no child below the age of fourteen years be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Article 39: Article 39(e) speaks that the state shall directs its policy towards securing the health and strength of workers, men and women , and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age or strength .

Article 42: Article 42 of Indian Constitution says that the state shall make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

The mines and minerals (Development of Regulation) (MMDR) Act. 1948 was the first legal framework for regulation and development of mines in independent India. Enacted in 1954 by the parliament, two step of rules were made under the Act6. (?) the mineral concession Rules (MCR) and (ii) the mineral conservation and Development Rules (MCDR).

The MMDR Act has been amended four times since 1957,1972, 1986, 1994 . Another amendment to the MMDR came in 1999 after a committees reviewed the Act.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974

The purpose of this Act. is to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution and the maintenance of restoring wholesomeness of water for the establishment. This is the Act that

established the Central and state pollution Control Boards and also the authority and power to constitute as many committees as they feel essential to carry out specific functions for them. The Act specifically prohibits discharge pollutants into water bodies. In general, this Act regulates all types of intake and/or discharge of liquid or water either from a running stream or well to ensure its water quality.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act 1977 This Act provides framework for collection of levy and Cess on water consumed by industries including mining industry. The cess collected is to be used by Central Pollution Control Board and Pollution Control Boards to prevent and control water pollution.

The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981

This Act was passed for the Prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. This law defined an air pollutant as any solid, liquid or gaseous substance present in the atmosphere in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to human beings or other living creatures or plants or property or environment. In this Act, power has been given to the State governments and their respective State Pollution Control Boards for control of air pollution.

The Environment (Protection) Act 1986

The Act was enacted to provide for the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith. This act defined environment which includes water, air, and land and the inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air and land and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms and property.

A number of notifications have been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act. Some of the important notification/amendments, which affect mining projects are as follows:

- i) Restriction on mining in certain identified ecologically sensitive/ fragile areas (i.e. in Wild life Sanctuaries, National Parks, and adjoining National Monuments, areas of cultural heritage, ecologically fragile areas, areas rich in biological diversity, gene pool) etc.
- ii) Environmental Impact Assessment for development projects (1994).

- iii) Amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment notification making Public Hearing mandatory for development (1997).
- iv) National ambient air quality standards for industrial, residential, rural and sensitive areas.

The Environment (Protection) Act 1986

The purpose of this Act is “to provide for public liability insurance for the purpose of providing immediate relief to the persons affected by accident occurring while working”. For the first time, this Act holds the owner liable for death or injury to any person, damage to any property resulting from an accident. The claimant shall not be required to plead and establish that death, injury or damage in respect of which the claim has been made was due to any wrongful act, neglect or default of any person.

Workmen’s compensation Act. 1923. The owner is required to take out insurance policies so that he can give relief under sub-section (1) of Section 3. Under this Act. Environment Relief Fund has been established. This fund may be used in case of any emergency.

These environment specific laws must be read in conjunction with the Mineral concession Rules 1960 which stipulate that the Mining plan shall incorporate a plan of the area showing the water courses, the limits of reserved and other forest areas, the density of trees, an assessment of impact of mining activity on forest land surface and environment including air and water pollution, details of scheme of restoration of the area by afforestation, land reclamation, the use of pollution control device and such measures as may be directed by the Central or the State Government from time to time.

The Indian Forest Act 1927

The Indian Forest Act, 1927 enacted during the British rule, aimed to consolidate the law relating to forest, the transit of forest produce and the duty leviable on timber and other forest produce.

After independence, a Forest Policy was formulated in 1952, which aimed a forest coverage of one third of the total land area of the country. In spite of the policy, extensive diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes took place over the years.

Forest Conservation Act 1980 and Rules 1981

The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 provides an adequate structure for the preservation of the forest resources of India. The FCA seeks to restrict the powers of State Governments in respect of conservation of forests and use of forest lands for non-forest purposes.

Workmen's Compensation Act. 1923. The Owner is required to take out insurance policies so that he can give relief under sub-section (1) of Section-3 . Under this Act., Environment Relief fund has been established. This fund may be used in case of any emergency.

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Conservation and Development Rules 1999; OMPTS Rules, 2007; GSR 23(E) Forest (Conservation) Rules 2003; GSR 58(E) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules 1975; GSR 712(E) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules 1982; and SO 844(E) The Environment (Protection) Rules 1986.

The Odisha Minerals (Prevention of Theft, Smuggling and Illegal Mining and Regulation of Possession, Storage, Trading and Transportation) Amendment Rules, was adopted in 2013.

Organisation and Management

The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the Steel and Mines Department of the Government of Odisha, and the Orissa State Prevention and Control of Pollution Board all play significant role in the regulation and control of mining activities in Orissa.

The Indian Bureau of Mines

The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) established in 1948, is a multi-disciplinary government organisation under the Department of Mines, Ministry of Mines, engaged in promotion of conservation, scientific development of mineral resources and protection of environment in mines other than coal, petroleum & natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.

Mineral Resources of Orissa

Orissa, is one of the gifted parts of the World, with plenty of mineral resources. The state is endowed with large reserves of bauxite, chinaclay, chromite, coal, dolomite, fireclay, graphite, gemstones, iron ore, limestone, manganese ore, mineral sand, nickel ore, pyrophyllite and quartz. Diamond has also been discovered in the Dharambandha area of Nuapada district by the State Directorate of Geology. Other minerals of the state include copper ore, lead ore, titanium bearing vanadiferous magnetite, talc/ soap stone and high magnesia igneous rocks.

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In *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*¹, consequent upon the direction of the Supreme Court to shift the hazardous industries from Delhi, a company decided to shift to Himachal Pradesh and acquiescing to Supreme Court order directed workers wishing to join at new location to report there. But the company did not make adequate arrangements for accommodation as it had put up only the tents. The husband of the applicant report for duty in January, 1999 but died due to exposure to cold.

¹ (2000) 10 Sec. 664

The court held that the respondent company was liable to pay compensation, which was quantified in this case as rupees two lakhs.

Kinkri Devi² was an Indian activist and environmentalist, best known for waging a war on illegal mining and quarrying in her native state of Himachal Pradesh. While working as a sweeper, Devi noticed the massive quarrying in some parts of Himachal Pradesh's hills, harming the water supply and destroying paddy fields. At this point Devi decided to take steps to stop the mining herself. A local volunteer group, the People's Action for People in Need, backed Devi as she filed a public interest lawsuit in the High Court of Shimla against 48 mine owners. She accused that the quarries were being reckless in their mining of limestone though the group denied all allegations against them, claiming she was simply blackmailing them.

The High Court observed that if industrial growth sought to be achieved by reckless mining resulting in loss of life, loss of property, loss of amenities like water supply and creating of ecological imbalance then there may ultimately be no real economic growth and no real development. We are not oblivious of the fact that natural resources have got to be tapped for the purposes of social development but one cannot forget at the same time that tapping of resources have to be done with requisite attention and care so the ecology and environment may not be affected in any serious way, there may not be may depletion of water resources and long term planning must be undertaken to keep up the national wealth. It has always to be remembered that these are permanent assets of mankind and are not intended to be exhausted in one generation.

The Vedanta Niyamgiri case is a prime example of powerful multinationals and corporate sector have been able to subvert democracy and the rule of law in India in pursuit of profits. Vedanta has not only subverted laws and institutions, it seems to have the potential of even subverting the highest judicial authority in the country. People in Lanjigarh and Kalahandi are awaiting the Judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Vedanta's bauxite project, hoping against hope the Supreme Court will follow the strong recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee and cancel the project and the proposed mining lease on Niyamgiri hill.

² Kinkri Das v. state of HP 213 A.I.R.1988 HP-4

Background

Vedanta Alumina Limited, a subsidiary of M/S Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (SIIL), plans to exploit the Niyamgiri bauxite reserve located on top of Niyamgiri Hill in Kalahandi District of Orissa for commercial exploitation of bauxite. This company is going to mine bauxite deposit from the Niyamgiri hills jointly with Orissa Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) as per the lease agreement signed in between VAL (Vedanta Alumina Ltd.) and Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC) in October 2004. According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by SIIL and Govt. of Orissa on 7th June 2003, SIIL would set up an Alumina Complex, which includes 1.0 MTPA Alumina Refinery Plant, 3.0 MTPA of bauxite mining and 75 MW Captive Power Plant at Lanjigarh in the district of Kalahandi at an aggregate investment of approximately Rs.4000/-crore. SIIL has been now named as Vedanta Alumina Ltd. Vedanta Alumina Ltd. Out of this, 232.75 ha of land was private and was acquired under Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for "public purpose". Most of this land belonged to scheduled tribes. Another 721.323 ha. of land is required for the bauxite mining on top of the Niyamgiri Hill. Most of this land is categorized as forest. The mining lease is to be in the name of the "Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd.", however, for all purposes the mining and the use of bauxite will be done by Vedanta Alumina Ltd. Given the extremely high quality of the bauxite on the Niyamgiri Hills and the low cost at which it is being given to Vedanta, the proposed project would have been one of the most profitable in the world.

In its hurry to start the refinery, Vedanta broke many laws including Environmental and forest conservation laws. In this it was aided by the district and state administration. Following an uproar on these issues, petitions were filed in front of the Central Empowered Committee set up by the Supreme Court to look after cases involving forests. These petitions were filed by Shreedhar of Academy of Mountain Environics, Biswajit Mohanty of Wildlife Society of Orissa and Prafula Samantra of, Vedanta' background:

Key Issues related to the Vedanta Project in Lanjigarh

The main issues related to Vedanta Lanjigarh Project are

- Violation of environmental laws and forest conservation laws by Vedanta.
- Violation of Vth Schedule provision for protection of tribal land.

- Negative environmental impact of the mining and alumina refinery project.
- Impact on water regime, including or river Vamshadhara and Nagavali.
- Destruction of an important cultural and religious landmark.
- Enforcing a project against the desire and interest of local people, including tribal.
- Violation of democratic norms and constitution to benefit a multinational company.

In the Dehradun Lime stone quarrying case the court has made it clear that economic growth cannot be achieved at the cost of environment destruction.

The Dehradun valley Litigation is the first case requiring the Supreme Court to balance environmental and ecological integrity against industrial demands on forest resources.

The case arose when the dangerous limestone quarrying practices in the Mussoorie Hill Range of the Himalaya Miners blasted out the hills with dynamite extracting limestone from thousands of acres. The miner also dug deep into the hill sides illegal practice that resulted in the cave-ins and slumping which was the result of the hill sides were stripped of vegetation the home of villages were destroyed and killed, also there agricultural land and cattle came under such exterminate

The state of Uttar Pradesh filed to regulate the mining under the exiting mining laws, in 1961.

However, quarry operation successfully lobbied with the chief minister of the state to reopen mining operation mining leases were granted for 20 year.

Illegal mining and destructive practice continued and corrupt, ineffective state officials flouted existing mining satiety rules with no enforcement. In 1982, 18 leases came up for renewal. The state rejected all renewal application recognizing the extent of ecological devastation. However. Allahabad High Court issued an injunction allowing the applicant to continue mining.

In 1983, the Supreme Court received a letter from the Rural litigation and Entitlement Kendra complaining against the environment degradation, the court treated the letter is writ petition under -32.

The case developed into a complex litigation the Honorable Supreme Court play an important role by conducting an environmental review and analysis the national need for mining operation located in Dehradun Valley.

The court give emphasis towards the reforestation of the region and prohibited blasting operation the court appointed an expert committees like (The Bhargava Committee & Bandyopadhyaya Committee)

After the committee report the court concluded that mining in the valley should cease the court state that mining activity should only be permitted to the extend it is necessary in the interest of defense of the country and safeguarding of the court exchange position. In 1988, the court concluded that all mines in Dehradun Valley should remain closed. Expect there operation.

The court state that continuing mining in the valley violated the forest consecration Act. & noted that although the state of Uttar Pradesh had a deforestation programme but the record of deforestation was not encouraging.

The court establish a monetary Committee camping central, state and local officer and two public-sprinted cottiers to oversees retire station mining activities and all other aspects necessary to bring about normal position in Doon Vallery. The court also provided the monetary committee with funding by ordering that 25 per cent of the gross profit of the remaining mining be deposited in a fund controlled by the committee.

The Supreme Court concluded that mining in reserved forests in Dehradun valley violated the forest conservation Act. The forest conservation Act. as only prohibit non-forest activities on forest lands that do not have the approval of the central Government.

The Supreme Court concern with the welfare of the mine operator and laborers left unemployed by closure of the Dehradun valley operation.

Today, the conservation, protection and improvement of human environment are major issues all over the world. By environment we mean not only our immediate surrounds but also a variety of issues connected with human activity, productivity, basic living and its impact on natural resources such as land, water, atmosphere, forests, dams, habitat, health energy resources, wild life etc.

Human environment thus consists of both physical environment and biological environment. Physical environment covers land, water and air.

All mining industry follows some basic precaution to avoid loss of material and damaging of human health and protection system.

A proper camp should be organized from time to time for min-worker where they should be informed about right which they have and what are the rule and regulations which are made to protect them last but not the least the laws are made by the legislature should not remain the paper only it has to come to effect practically.

SHORT COMMENT

In India large scale mining excavation and quarrying pose a serious threat to our fragile environment. India has a long way to reach environmental quality similar to those enjoyed in developed economies. Pollution remains a major challenge and opportunity for India. Now the time has come when man should be careful. If he does not correct himself and sobers down, he is bound to find himself in an irreversible predicament which will bring an end to our lovely planet.

There is no dearth of legislations on environmental protection from mining activities in India but their enforcement has been far from satisfactory. Hence, there is need for the effective and efficient enforcement of the constitutional mandate and other environmental legislations.

CONCLUSION

In view of existing environmental problems and their awareness a need for protection assumes significance. The sanction are to be rigid and greater responsibilities are to be imposed on authorities to implement laws. Laws in action have to be legislated expeditiously to check impending harm to the community. Encouragement and incentive for promoting better environment both amongst the rural and urban populace would be a better substitute than the penal

sanctions. It is also imperative that there should be a genuine public participation in environmental decision making. In this direction the citizen can play crucial role in the form of people's movements in order to protect the environment. Many illustrations are found in the history of protection of environment in India. 1. Moreover, collective effort of the people and constructive functioning will assist in meeting the challenges to environment in the future.

