

# THE SINGARENI COLLIERIES WORKERS' UNION

(Regd No. 7) Affiliated to A.I.T.U.C.

H.O. Seshagiri Bhavan, **KOTHAGUDEM** - 507 101., Bhadradri Kothagudem Dist, T.S.

Ref.No.SCWU/KUG/MNG/C/2022/50

Dt. 05.05.2022

To  
The Chairman & Managing Director,  
Singareni Collieries Co.Ltd.,  
Hyderabad.

Sir,

Sub: Abrupt closure of UG mines on the plea of not economical though vast reserves are available for extraction – Reg.

In the recent past, the management has closed down some of UG mines on the plea that they are not economical/viable and thus leading to losses. Thereafter, such closed mines were converted into OC mines to extract leftover coal by board and pillar method resulting in reduced man power and consequently the management is facing serious problems for their gainful employment.

In this connection, we place it on record that Kondapuram UG mine (Punch Entry) was started in the month of November, 2009 and closed in October, 2010 and again restarted during July, 2015. The selection of technology was recommended for deploying Continuous miner for extraction of thick seam top and thick seam bottom and overall grade is G-6, which is precious and salable on demand.

The extraction of high grade coal with Continuous Miner technology was offloaded to M/s. SMS, Nagpur. Subsequently, LHDs/SDLs were withdrawn from the mine to facilitate coal extraction by Continuous Miner. However, the above company could hardly made a tardy progress of 150 Mtrs. so far and expressed its inability to continue the above technology due to imposition of penalty in accordance with the agreement entered at between SCCL and M/s. SMS, Nagpur. The above agreement will last for 10 years for coal extraction of 71.41 LT including drivage of tunnels. The above company could not make fast progress by saying that there are geological disturbances encountered during the operation, which are said to be common in UG mines.

Keeping in view of above, the above company likely terminate its agreement presumably the equipment said to be shifted somewhere in other areas wherever profitable to the company. Consequently, SCCL management has withdrawn about 500 employees from Kondapuram UG mine and distributed them on deputation to work in OC mines in Manuguru Area. Hardly there are 150 employees presently working who may be withdrawn soon or later after total closure of the above mine on flimsy grounds, which is not acceptable.

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In our considered opinion, the above UG mine could be advanced by deploying intermediate technology like LHDs/SDLs, which are feasible for coal extraction after abrupt withdrawal of Continuous Miner technology by the above company. Now, we understand that SCCL management is seriously contemplating to close down the above mine forever and instead, the property could be extracted by Shovel and Dumper combination, which is defeating the very purpose of opening the mine with continuous miner technology. In this connection, we may please be allowed to ask as to why the company is not utilizing the services of our mining engineers who have gained skills and expertise over a period of years to tackle any problem being encountered in the course of coal extraction in UG mines. The capital amount so invested for the present Punch Entry will become a great loss and also the present man power could be taken away after final decision to close the present UG mine in Manuguru Area.

It is evident that management is found to be rather not interested to continue the present UG mines and instead, to go for OC mines at the cost of man power for fulfilling the set yearly targets. If this is the stand of the management, opening of new UG mines appear to be far remote rather than relying on OC mines on short term gains and ultimately the existence of UG mines will vanish forever in SCCL. As such, it is requested to arrange to desist from abrupt closure of existing UG mines on the plea of not viable/economical though there is a scope to attain breakeven point if no profits are earned. Also, it is urged that management should prefer for opening more UG mines, which would not only help extract good coal in greater depths, but also provide employment to the jobless youth.

Keeping in view of above, it is not the lasting solution to close down the present UG mine under progress and also presently 150 permanent employees working in above mine could be continued by adding redeployed employees so that the mine could be made viable earn more profits. Under the circumstances, we urge upon the management to re-consider its decision afresh and arrange to continue the present Kondapuram UG mine and also other existing mines by taking all care to run the mines with safety and production/productivity. The above mine could be made profitable by putting in all concerted efforts for extracting high grade coal beneath the ground.

Yours faithfully,

  
(V. SEETHARAMAIAH)  
General Secretary.

CC. All Directors  
The G.M., MNG Area.