

Proceedings of the General Assembly of mines, minerals & PEOPLE

Introduction

Registration of the participants began at 9.00 am. The convention began at 2.00 pm after lunch in the meeting hall. Folklores from the state of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Orissa got the meeting started.

The welcome speech was given by Mrs. Bidulata Huika from Orissa, member of the working committee and the interim steering committee of mm&P. Bidulata also speak about the situation in the Kashipur and Lanjigarh areas briefly.

An Introduction to First General Assembly of mm&P

B.T.Venkatesh, Working Committee member introduced the thoughts on the First General Assembly of mines, minerals & PEOPLE: He said “5 years after inception, the first general assembly will take place for the next four days. In this coming four days sharing of experience and the ground realities of the various struggle groups which came from different states will be presented here” He said “after inception mm&P has come a long way as an alliance. In these four days of discussions we will focus on the pre-mining, mining and post-mining scenarios. At the end we will finalise our Constitution and we will elect the Executive Council which in turn will elect the body and Chairperson.”

The Agenda was read in the meeting hall.

First Day

Ravi Rebbapragda - Introduction of the activities of mm&P over the last 5 years
Key Note address by R Shreedhar
Introduction of the participants

Second Day

Regional feed back from different regions representatives
Sharing of the experiences of mine workers green field areas and abandoned mining
Health and mining issues
Rehabilitation

Third Day

Constitution presentation by Rana Sengupta (MLPC, Rajasthan)
Adoption of constitution discussion by panel
Panel presentation and facilitation by T.S.S. Mani

Executive Body formation according to the Constitution
Election of the chairperson to the Assembly
Presentation of Women and Mining by K Bhanumati
Evolving of the Action plan

Fourth Day

Evolving of the action plan by each region
Finalization of action plan.

First Day

Presentation - mm&P over the last 5 years

Ravi Rebbapragada, National Convener

Ravi welcomed the members to first general body assembly of mm&P. He presented information about the process, which has taken many years and, a lot of effort and hard work from various people leading up to the First General assembly. He told about how from the discussions between him, Shreedhar and Xavier and a few other people at one stage, slowly led to ideas about focussing on mining as an issue.

The community of the other part of the world is facing the same problems of mining, which are being faced by our community. He also referred about the journey from national consultation of 30 people to First National convention. He said we have moved ahead with three National Conventions and Seven Regional Conventions so far. He also briefed on mm&P's presence in international forums like, World Social Forum and Asian Social Forum. He said we got total 21 hours slot on issues of mining. He congratulated the organizing team and various members of mm&P in helping and organizing successfully the International Women and Mining Conference. He said, It took a year's time to conduct this conference in which 21 countries participated. And first time mm&P could contact the people from Burma and erstwhile Soviet Union. Mining Area Field Visits were arranged for the participants. One was of Nalco's Damanjodi Bauxite mining area in Orissa and (Samata field area) of Calcite mining area of Borra and Nimalapadu. Another field visit was arranged in Khammam (Andhra Pradesh) Singareni's Coal Mining and other Surampalem irrigation projects displacement site. After arranging conference successfully International Women and Mining Network requested mm&P to host its International Secretariat but mm&P was in the process to hold its assembly and could put forward the idea to it. After the election of New Executive Council only decision can be made on this subject was clearly replied to them, he stated. He reported on regional conventions, and on interventions made by mm&P in the mining areas of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Goa. He mentioned about several request for help was asked from mm&P in which one request was from Baiga tribe of Kawardha (Chhattisgarh). But mm&P was unable to co-operate on this case as mm&P was facing basic problem of lack of network in the area. He said mm&P has tried to do something in Goa and other places where mm&P was called for help. He said that the Mm&P is facing problem in going and visiting personally and initiate the campaign. It was not possible for mm&P to visit each and every place. In spite of this mm&P has reached Kataldi (Uttaranchal), Jaduguda (Bandurang) and various mine site areas of Jharkhand. He also mention about present situation in Kashipur struggle area of Orissa. How Bidulata one of

our Executive Council member is helping local tribals who are lodged in jail. Ravi also reported situation of Andhra Pradesh mentioning more displacements due to expansion of mining areas and setting up of the irrigation projects. He narrated the Journey of mm&P from three National Conventions and Seven Regional conventions to the First National General Assembly where mm&P has come up to here with framing up of its constitution and bringing up the organization structure of it. He urged participants to give more feedback and support to take forward this process.

Key note Address by R. Shreedhar

Shreedhar spoke on the mining scenario in India and changed socio economic status of last five years in mining sector. There was an economic policy reforms in 1990 in India. As per our constitution India is a socialist Democratic country but we are now following the policy based on reforms. He said, "We are here pushing forward a capitalist based reforms. Now mine and minerals are going to be exploited in which tribals and dalits will be affected. The reason is forests are livelihood sources of tribals and dalits. Minerals are mostly found in the forest areas. He said, "In coming 20 Years mining sector will have a huge growth, it is estimated that in the year 2020 the amount of electricity we are going to produce will be requiring more & more coal and lignite. That means we will have to mine more in these years as compared to what we have mined from last 1800 year. He said the destruction we will be watching in the coming twenty years, may be worse than what we might have done in last 100 to 150 years. Now in the newspapers we see there is a competition between the states for investment. They are calling every companies and offering free taxes, water and infrastructure. Similarly this is happening with the other countries too. The example is that the Korean Company POSCO, which wants to do iron Ore mining, is coming. Their negotiations failed with Orissa government on importing iron ores so the Company decided to go to Brazil. Brazil, China, Soviet Russia most of the countries are promoting mining as the most profitable income source of the growth in the economic sector. Already Governments have started privatization of mining sector, to give ways to the private sector, by divesting the public sector. This lead to the giving more powers to the Capitalist forum. That's what we can see in India First Sterlite Company was only in the Fibre Cable business. Sterlite has now acquired stakes in Bharat Aluminium Company, Madras aluminium company, Hindustan Zinc limited. On another hand, companies are allowed to create monopoly situation in market by acquiring more amount of Bauxite mining. Government wants to create special economic zone to facilitate the needs of all the business houses. The privatization process has been going on and the market is forcing the Govt to change the environmental laws. He said, another issue is that they're no proper policy for the displaced people. Whatever the policy for the displaced people has come it is against their rights. Like that policy of rehabilitation and resettlement will not be implemented if there were less than 250 families from the hilly area and 500 families from plain areas being displaced. That means government doesn't want to give compensation to the less number of people displaced. The issue of the displacement from the last fifty years has remained the same. The way mineral market trend is going on it has less possibility that the government will work to create alternative of mining. In the coming period we can see that in the country eighty percent are poor so how we can say that the Development is on. In the coarse, situation has

changed government is not willing to spend their budget on social development sector like education, health, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

He said, we are gathered here to speak and discuss about the universal thought on issues of mining struggle groups. We have to deal with the issues of displacement, health and environmental degradation by mining. We have tried to develop relations with the trade unions to see the future challenges in labour sector in mining. We have come up with the programme on women and mining issues. Mr. Shreedhar urged all the participants to come together to help the mining affected communities who are facing challenges of globalization in the mining sector.

After the Key Note Address, participants raised several questions and doubts. M. Shreedhar responded to the queries.

Day 2

Folklore songs from various states started the second day proceeding of mm&P general assembly.

Detailing the Procedures

T.S.S. Mani

T.S.S. Mani welcomed the participants and started the proceedings of the day. He gave the background of procedure, which was adopted to conduct the national general assembly, the outgoing national steering committee that was resolved and then formed another steering committee to conduct the assembly.

The member's names were announced as:

- Alusia Khajur
- Bidulata Huika
- Shehnaj
- Fatima Babu
- Sudha Lakhera
- Bhagya lakshmi
- Bt Venkatesh
- T.S.S. Mani
- Rana Sengupta
- Sauporna Lahiri
- Bastu Rege

Mr. Mani also announced about second days assembly business in which Regional areas (sharing) reporting presentation up till lunch will take place. From each state one or two representatives from following states will present their views.

Kerala 1
Andhra Pradesh 2
Rajasthan 2
West Bengal 1
Tamilnadu 2
Jharkhand 3
Orissa 3
Karnataka 2
Madhya Pradesh 1
Uttar Pradesh 1
Goa 1
Chattisgarh 1
Maharashtra 1
Delhi 1

The afternoon session addressed experience from the field areas. Topics were identified as Mining and mineworkers, Green field areas, Mining and Rehabilitation and Health and Mining.

Prof. Fatima Babu moderated this session.

ICML trade union in Asansol West Bengal

Swaraj Das

An open cast coal mine has started in the Asansol sub-division of Burdwan District in West Bengal. The mine is the first major private sector mining initiative in India, and as such represents an opportunity for the private sector to take a lead in the quality of social provision (asset compensation, social impact mitigation and community development). The International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank is assisting the project sponsor - ICML (a subsidiary of the Calcutta-based electricity generating and distribution company CESC) in meeting this objective. The IFC has agreed in principle to part-finance the project through equity and loans.

Approximately 1400 households (10,600 individuals) live within 5km of the concession, dispersed across 8 nuclear settlements. Around 25% of these populations are Scheduled Caste and another quarter OBCs. One settlement – Diguli (57 households) – is to be resettled 3km to the southeast. Rain-fed agriculture and wage labour are the main occupations. Land holdings average 1 ha; half the population are landless. Illegal mining and coal trading may be significant sources of cash income, though the scale of this activity is not known. Low income levels (an average of 65% of income being spent on food) contribute to seasonal malnutrition. 50-65% of households fall below the poverty line. Infrastructure in the area is poor with no hard surfaced access to markets, no electricity, low quality health care and no irrigation. Literacy is around 70% (there are two primary schools).

Company has promised but done nothing till the date. We have not properly rehabilitated, area is full of dust pollution, and health related problems have been increasing.

Projected affected persons are getting organized now where we don't want to give our land. We are fighting under the leadership of Captain Haradhan Roy who has left the party and fighting for our struggle with us. We are forming the new union under the banner of Sara Bharat Khani anchal bachao trade union.

MR. Rajiv from West Bengal (Sahastratali project affected peoples action Network SPAPA)

We had lost 1200 Acres of ryat land, 198 Acres forestland, 36 acres of government land to the Sahastratali ICML coal-mining project. More than 60% of the villagers are from the below poverty class. Most of the population is agriculture based. 2 villages are to be affected again now; coal mining has affected our all livelihood.

Nicholas Barla (Orissa)

Nicholas gave a small description of Sudergarh and Keonjhar district area. He says there are 18 mines of different minerals, in which majority is of coal, iron and dolomite. Almost all the area is tribal area. Tribals are highly exploited from their lands, forests and livelihoods. Most of the parts of districts are highly air-polluted health problems are increasing day by day. Government is not giving ears to our petitions and humble requests. Women's health status is worse as they are getting effect on their reproductive systems due to severe pollution level increase. Recently New Dolomite mining has been proposed which will continue up to year 2030, in which 210 jobs will be generated. He also requested support and get united for the struggle in the coming years. He also told that their 210 villages would destruct in coming 30 years due to the heavy mining.

Biddulata Huika: Orissa Adivasi Manch (Rayagada Orissa)

Bidulata spoke on the situation of tribals in the area of Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir (KBK). More than 56% of tribals from this area are affected due to mining projects. Many of the companies like Sterlite, Balco and Utkal a multinationals are landing to tribals land. They are displacing poor tribals uprooting from their land without proper compensation and rehabilitation. Government is not taking any responsibility. The tribal who ever opposed the projects and continue to non-cooperation with the procedure of land acquisition, police are keeling people or put them in behind bars. Atrocities of police and local administration are increasing day by day. Utkal Company and Orissa Government are trying again to take tribals land for mining projects in Kashipur. Earlier in Kashipur 3-4 years back two tribal were killed in police firing. Now recently police has arrested tribals in connection with opposing mining projects. Most of them are women in jail. After assistance of mm&P few they have applied for bail. Similarly in Kalahandi Sterlite is forcibly displacing Tribals from their lands. People are fighting against the project. Finally Bidulata requested mm&P members to support the campaign struggle of Kashipur and in Kalahandi.

Shankar Patnaik (Orissa)

Shankar briefed the situation of mining in Keonjhar. Manganese, iron ore and quartz is found in abundant in three blocks of Keonjhar District. He told about the survey they have done in three blocks in the year 2003 and year 2004. After the survey investigation they

found 110 mines spread over in 33,500 acres of land. There are 105 industries, in which 25 are major and other 80 are small industries including crushers and mine washing plants. Before 5 years back area was peace and cool. Now situation has changed noise of transporting trucks have increased, dust pollution is severe. Main objective of the survey was to see how much lease has been give, how much local people have employed, how much local people have benefited, how much company is benefited, how much local area they have developed. Local people are getting employment but after two years they are suffering from tuberculosis disease. But now a day's companies and mine owners are giving jobs to the other area laborers. Up till now 137 villages in 22 panchayats has been affected due to mining. There were two local perennial streams, on one stream a dam has been built by local King in forty years back. People were cultivating their crops by using the water from this same steam. Now dam and stream is no more due to mining. People cannot cultivate their lands. Another stream has blocked local people cannot access the water, water is being used by the local mine owners for their workers colony. People have given several petitions to Collector and local administration.

K.V.Pratap (Telangana Boogu Karmika Sangam, Mancherial, Andhra Pradesh)

K.V. Pratap reported the assembly from the Telanaga region of Andhra Pradesh. Singareni Coal collieries is state owned coal mining company operates in the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh. It has spread up in 4 Districts on the banks of the Godavari River, giving employment to one lakh twenty three thousand people directly and one lakhs people indirectly. Now the issue for the management of the Singareni collieries has they have switched over to underground mines to open cast mining. Company has stated that underground mining as uneconomic operation, which is the reason they showing to go for open cast mining. They have come up with open cast mining projects from the last five-six years. The concentration of exploration by open cast mining has stressed on all the natural resources of the surrounding vicinity. This has leded them to mobilizing the movement to resist against the policy of the company. This company has taken mining operations especially the open cast in inhabitant area as well as in forest area. Government owned company wants to get more profits. He highlighted several problems of opencast coal mining operations like cutting down jobs, more number of land acquired. Rehabilitation and resettlement plan has not been implemented. They are mobilizing people and community to lead agitation against open cast mining. Due to open cast mining groundwater resources has been depleted. People always writes petition to Pollution Control Board about severer dust pollution, blasting and vibration, which has affected Housing. But Pollution Control Board never hears the voices. He also said that Environmental Public Hearings are conducted to see whether environmental norm, rules regulation will be taken care as per requirement, but now a days the Environmental Public Hearing has became farce and it looks like the opinion poll for the projects from public. Here he urged mm&P to work on this sector.

T.S.S Mani (Tamilnadu),

Mr. Mani gave brief presentation on Tamilnadu situation. He told that there is not such big mining operation as compare to North India. But they have Neyveli Lignite mining in the state to produce electricity. In the present situation sand mining is taking all over the riverbeds and coastal beds of the Tamilnadu, Stone quarrying, mineral sand mining in the

coastal areas, and another proposed magnesium mining in mettur of Salem district and the granite mining in the area. Sterlite Company owns a Madras aluminium company, which has a copper smelter plant, which has very bad record in terms of environmental pollution. Mr. Mani highlighted Kalpakam Nuclear power reactor's environmental effect and he also showed sympathy and solidarity to the mining area people from where the uranium mineral is used. He also reported the issues of Neyveli lignite mining, which has displaced 1500 people of Neyveli. Displaced was not paid proper compensation. Majority of the women was displaced but involved in coal mining as a contract labour.

Kildas (Kanyakumari Tamilnadu)

Mr Kildas reported on the present situation in the Kanyakumari. He told that there is heavy seashore mining is going on near habitants of Fisherman. Fisherman settlement is nearer to the Sea and their dolling places too. Due to heavy seashore mining water has started intruding into the all the places and devastated all the fisherman dolling. They have reported to the President of India to stop exploitation of minerals, which are affecting to poor fisher folks. The President of India in reply told that it is the policy of the Government to exploit minerals for the sake of economy of the country. In 1995 BJP led government liberalized the policy given the lease to the private companies. Fishermen did not know what the content of in mineral sand. After the mineral sand mining started they cam to know that it contents carnate zircon and illuminate monoxide. This monoxide contains thorium, which can use as fuel for nuclear reactors. Fr Kildas and his group started agitation against the mineral sand mining. Police has issued arrest warrant against them. The local fisherman had supported them. He requested to mm&P to come up with impact study on the environmental and social problems due to mineral sand mining.

Raghvendra (Karnataka)

Raghvendra represents as member from Karnataka Mining Labour and Community Group Forum. He briefed on situation of the geographical Western Ghats. Western Ghats area is highly rich in biodiversity and water resources. In the area eighty percent of the land is hold by upper class and the poor people have only twenty percent of the land. The livelihood of the poor people is based on the traditional and commercial crops on their land like coffee and paddy and the agricultural labour collect forest products. All these livelihoods of the poor are facing threat by natural park scheme resort culture and iron and coal mining. They are fighting against the natural park resort. He told that they have stop mining in the local area Ambarguda that was affecting their local water resources. He also told there other small miners who are polluting our lands and water resources. The persons who are digging the land are not concern to the local people's problem. We had complaint to the local authority they are listening us. There fore we are planning another agitation against these mining activities.

Somesh (Sandur Karantaka)

Somes give the brief account of mining scenario in sandur. There are 62 iron ore and manganese mining companies. Two of them are government companies. Due to heavy mining exploitation done in the area, dust pollution has increased. Daily wage labors are hired in the private companies. These labors are also used for transporting iron ore from

Lorries to train wagons. The whole labour families work, which are hired by the private contractors, they pay minimum amount to the labourer. Child labour is also involved, as they are the cheapest labour.

Bastu Rege (Santulan Maharashtra)

He briefed on the mining situation in Maharashtra. He told that there are near about lakhs of workers migrating from the borders of Karnataka, UP and Andhra Pradesh to work in stone mining sector in Maharashtra. This migrated workers comes lower caste and they don't have any proof of citizenship of any town or the village. There is massive stone mining are going on in 23 districts especially in the Bombay, Kolhapur and Solapur. Santulan his organization works the quarry workers livelihood issues. They realise that they can't work alone and they need support from other organization and individuals, as issue is wider.

State Presentations was done after lunch

Kerala

E. B Venugopal

Venu gave the brief account on the illegal sand mining happening in Kerala, which has affected the entire ecosystems of the river. We have certain mining problems, which are more or less same as compare to the other state. The sand mining, which is going on in, the state is near about 10 metric tonne/ year. Nearly 46 rivers course had been affected. Now the people of Kerala will face environmental threats due to the up coming off shore deep-sea mining. Venugopal requested mm&P to look deep and get impact study on the offshore deep-sea mining in Kerala

Santosh Kumar Das

Santosh mainly spoke on the issues of Health. In which in their villages AIDs disease is increasing. Near about 30 people are suffering from AIDs. Majority of Women health issue is the concern as they are most affected due to mining in their area. A water resource has been dried up due to mining operations. There are six rivers flowing through the area out of that three rivers had dried. People from the nearby villages are unable to irrigate their lands. Most of the people don't have title deeds for their land. As mining projects comes in more number local people will loose their livelihoods.

Goa

Sunita Fatarpekar (Krushi Vikas Ekta Sangh)

Sunita gave brief description on their struggle going on in Rivona village of Sanguem taluka in Goa. Timblo Pvt. Ltd on the banks of the Kushawati River is doing iron ore mining. Mining company has constructed Beneficiation plant, in which they wash iron ore and pumps dirty water in river. Kushavati River is the water source in the area, where all the people use this water for drinking purpose and irrigating agricultural lands. Agriculture is the only source of livelihoods in the area, but now mining has affected the water resources, agriculture. People had complaint about misbehaviour of company to local administration. But administration is not taking care of the people, they always in the interest of company.

She told that women are fighting against the mining company. Collector and other officials are coming to village after the agitation. We have asked them to clean our river, which has been polluted by the mining ore. They have got the assurance from the local administration that they will have discussion with the mining company.

Delhi

S. Azad (PRASAR, New Delhi)

Azad spoke on the mining and health issues surrounding of Delhi. He gave the Historical background of Delhi where there were the several mountains and hills where there. Britishers came and started building the palaces and demolished the hills for the construction of work. Several Quarries and mining of stones are still going in surrounding of New Delhi. But suddenly Supreme Court gave the ruling and halted the environmental polluting activities. In which mining and quarrying of stones was included. Mines were closed. Nobody thought of the poor daily wages labour. These labourers are now suffering from silicosis disease. Government is saying that it is Tuberculosis. They are not getting any compensation, no work and no medical facilities. Numbers of the death are increasing among the laborers. He requested mm&P to look after the issue of the occupational health of the laborers and abandoned mines.

Madhya Pradesh

Yousuf Beg

Yousufji gave brief account on the situation of mining in Madhya Pradesh and in Panna from where he comes. In Madhya Pradesh there are total eight main companies like NMDC, RIIDC, HCL, Jindal iron and steel and RINT. Diamond, Granite, Marble, Limestone, Bauxite, Blackstone, copper, etc is minerals found in Madhya Pradesh. The private contractors operate many of the mining sites. Private contractors are involved in the Panna Diamond mining areas. They always scare local people by beating and killing them. They cheat tribals by taking their lands by paying mere amount. Though precious and costliest Diamonds are found in the lands of Panna, People are poor they don't have food to eat and no livelihoods. Diamonds are curse for them. They are mentally and physically harassed. Yousufji and his group working are working on health issues and they are also working on awareness of education program.

Chhattisgarh

Sukhranjan (Adivasi Ekta Manch)

Sukhranjan gave description of situation in Chattisgarh. After the formation of new state Chattisgarh, Chattisgarh Government has also started attracting foreign investors. Lot of Capitalists is approaching to exploit natural resources like forest and mineral wealth. Government is helping Multi National Corporations to facilitate their needs to invest in States. Chattisgarh is rich in iron ore and bauxite minerals unearthed under the tribal Lands. The private contractors who are involving with mining companies operations exploit several Tribals. Tribals displaced from their land with the minimum amount of money. Mining has affected water resources, dust pollution has increased due to this women's and children's are suffering from several diseases. He said that they are the small tribal group working in the

Kanker area, they required support in the issues and campaigns from the all the mm&P members to strengthen their struggle.

Govind Singh Rawat (Uttaranchal)

Govind Rawat gave the brief situation on Adi Gold Mine in Askot area in Uttaranchal. Pebble Creek Resources Pvt Ltd. Australia has identified Askot as gold and other base metal deposits. They have given rights of deposits to Adi Gold Mining its Indian Subsidiary for mining. They have organized the people and have started struggle against the mining company from future impact on local biodiversity. Askot is very rich in Biodiversity resources. He told that Shreedharji helping an advising them. They required legal support in future campaign period.

Jharkhand

Gulab Singh

Gulab Singh gave brief account on the present situation in Jharkhand. Jharkhand has a history of struggle fighting against British. When there was struggle going on in all over India against Britishers at that in the State in 1855-56 there was struggle going on ownership rights over the Forest and land under the leadership of Birsa Munda. Remembering the same incident they are fighting against the plunder of mineral wealth. Jharkhand Newly state was formed in the Year 2000. In all the twenty-two districts mining is going on. Coal mining was initiated in 1874. Coal was supplied to Thermal Power Plants in Damodar Valley Corporation. World Bank has funded many of the open cast coal mining. Earlier the mining company and World Bank officials said that they would provide compensation to displaced and protect the local environment and traditions. But they have not kept their promises. People protested against the mining companies but instead of solving problems Government, Company and local police fired on the local agitators. Two people were killed in the police firing. Government is trying to come up with the plan of creating mining zones between inter states of Chattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand.

P.C. Guhain

P.C.Guhain highlighted the issues of the contract labours working in the Bokaro Steel Plant and mining of coal in the surrounded areas. He told that contract labours don't have right to education, health and electricity. They are living their life very miserably. Most of the workers in this area are Tribals. Once they were the owners of the land now they are the beggars. Last year they ha constituted fact-finding committee with the help of JAMAAC, which is the local network works with support of mm&P. They had come up with very important recommendations. The recommendation raised the important issue of implementation of central labour acts.

Sushil

Sushil gave the brief situation of mining in Chotanagpur area. New projects of mining are coming up in the area. People are afraid of the displacement as they seen the different rehabilitation sites. They don't want to leave their lands. They are protesting against the coming projects. Similarly local struggle groups are fighting against the mining project in the Naomundi area.

Rajasthan

Sanjay Singh Chittora (MLPC)

He gave brief account on the labour issues in Rajasthan. Labours are facing main problem of their dignity and identity. He told that we all the groups who are working for the labours have to take up the campaign of their dignity and identity. Sanjay told that that they are forming trade unions of the local labourers to take up the issues of their rights. They are providing legal awareness for the labours. They had formed cooperative societies of the local labours and for women's too. He highlighted another problem of abandoned mines. Whenever the mines are abandoned mine owners leaves the mine as it is. They don't implement the mine closure policies. Some time mine owner deposits the cost of abandoned mines plan to government. Government deposits this money in the royalty fund. They don't give it to local gram panchayat. After this incident they have started their work on this issue on the Panchayat level.

Uttar Pradesh

Archana

Archana reported on the situation of labours and especially on women labours. Women labours are exploited more, they are sexually harassed and fewer wage paid. People are suffering from dust pollution, they have tuberculosis, and asthma and women's have problems with reproductions system. A private contractor gets the mining leases and snatches the lands of poor tribal. Due to poverty they have to force their whole family to work in the mining. Child labours are also employed, as they are cheapest labour. We are working for the rights of the labour. They are fighting for the minimum wages campaign.

After Lunch Session

After lunch the first session was used to discuss issues related to:

- 1) Mines and Mine labour
- 2) Green field areas
- 3) Abandoned mines and closure mine plan
- 4) Mining and Health
- 5) Mining and affected communities

1. Mines and Mine labour

Rana Sengupta (MLPC Rajasthan)

Rana Sengupta spoke on the mine and mine labor issues. He told that earlier agriculture was the main source of the livelihood. Later scarcity of water has affected the agriculture, few people who were having money depend upon ground water and others started migrating to work in mining. In rainy season workers were used to go back for cultivation. But now there recent survey shows that most of the people are based on

Mining. People are now daily wageworkers in mining. As the mining is increasing, workers exploitation is also increasing. Workers are facing serious problems of their health, livelihoods, and minimum wages. Rajasthan Government earns more royalties from the

mining sector. Rajasthan Government has liberalized mining in the mineral policy. They are promoting more mining to earn more profits. Local group started looking alternative solution for the workers problem in mining. So they had started organizing workers to form their cooperatives societies. In which they can own and have share of the income. Their groups are forming women's cooperatives also to empower women workers. They are fighting for their rights and identity. Now at present workers are empowered.

Rakesh Kumar (Chitrakoot U.P)

Mr. Rakesh told that in their area they don't have water resources and no agriculture land. Everywhere they have stones. They are forced to go for stone mining. But they want know how and what kind of mining can be done.

Samit Carr (Jharkhand)

He raised the issue of if the mining can be done with the help of cooperative model. But that will affect the agriculture. He put his point saying that what kind of parameter should we have for mining?

Lakhpat Singh (Panna, Madhya Pradesh)

Lakhpat Singh told the situation of mining in panna area. There are stone quarries and diamond mining. Private contractors operate most of the diamond mining and stone quarries. NMDC a public sector mining company had also lease in panna area. They have developed there on surrounding area. NMDC agreed to develop the near by panchayat villages but they had broken promises. Private contractors are worse they pay less wages. Private contractors take most raw diamond. Blasting is affecting several villages. Villagers had complaint to local administration but they don't listen to the petitions.

Sandhya (Uttar Pradesh)

Sandhya raised the issue contract labour wages and bonded labour practices are still going on and they required campaign support.

2. Greenfield Areas Mining

Shreedhar introduced to subject and told that Mining is going to expand and it is coming in the agricultural area and forests. Agriculture and Forests are our sources of livelihood. Many Communities are fighting against these mining companies for their livelihood sustenance. Tribal communities will be affected due to the expansion of mining activities.

Prabhat Kumar Sinha (Rajasthan)

He raised question to the assembly that the Government had not settled the issue of labours, displacement due to mining, environmental effects due to ongoing mining. Then how we the community should give permission to new leases of mining. We should not allow mining in Greenfield areas. There should be complete moratorium on green-filed mining. Till our other brothers from the mining field get the justice.

Rabindra Bahl (Orissa)

He asked that Government is planning to give mining lease near to the tourism area. Local villagers protested against the mining. He asked mm&P to support on this campaign.

Raghvendra (Karnataka)

Mining is going to come up in Western Ghats that means some mountain parts of the Karnataka. Recently they came to know that one company has come and started iron ore mining. Western Ghats is the mountains on the western part of the country. It is rich for his highly valuable biodiversity. They requested mm&P to help them in how they fight against this company and other companies who are coming in future.

Makireddy Ramana (Andhra Pradesh)

Makireddy requested mm&P to draw larger perspective and program on Greenfield mining. He told that in their area its poor tribal land staying in forests from many decades. From last two decades Government is planning to open Bauxite mines. But Last time because of continuous resistance. One big private company (DUBAL) was unable to take over mining. Now there is a serious threat from the Government to open these hilly areas for Bauxite Mining. It will affect all the surrounding ecosystems as they will cut the forests and displace tribals.

*3. Abandoned mines and closure plan.***Mr Soupama Lahiri (Delhi Forum)**

Mr. Lahiri introduced the topic of abandoned mines and closure plan. He told that many of us don't know the situation of the abandoned mines. After abandoned of mines, there is no proper closure of mines; waste dumps will be there, no rehabilitation of the area, no compensation for the labors. There will be always question of that whether land will be given back to the landholder or not. After abandoned of coal mine no proper sand stowing or closure of mines is done. Coal will be still burning. There will be illegal mining, as mines are not closed properly. Several labours are dying due to accidents in mining.

Bhaskar Lakra (Jharkhand)

He put suggestion that after closure of mine lands should be given to the landholders, after proper rehabilitation of land. Then he can start to earn his livelihood from the cultivating his own land.

Sukanti (Jharkhand)

Sukanti suggested that before getting clearance for mining we should put pressuring on amending the rules. We should tell to add mine closure plan, compensation plan and rehabilitation and hand over lands to the landowners.

*4. Health and Mining***Bhanu introduced the topic of Health and mining.**

What do we mean by health impacts on community and on mine workers? I think we should also identify issues related to drinking water, housing, and food security. Communities displaced by mining loose livelihood are deprived of food security and the local economy is in peril. Where ever mining is going on we should look at livelihood aspects, there income, there economic systems. There should be comparison of the affected community on the life before mining, during mining and post mining and see whether there has been any improvement in their living conditions. We also need to look at accessibility to forest resources, as this is important to the livelihood of the community. Forests are the main resource to the forest dwelling communities and the adivasis, they depend on forest for

medicinal herbs, which might be lost due to mining. We also need to look at the impact of mining on the social and culture aspect. The communities are forced to evict, their social structure is disturbed, and they disintegrate. Mining increases new communities establishing in that area, there would be cultural and social intrusion, which might create conflicts. On a lighter tone the pressure will be on the natural resources like water, land and if not properly addressed then there might be serious health implications.

We should also look at the working conditions of the mineworkers. The pathetic conditions are leading workers to get exposed to potentially hazardous environment. Many of the workers suffer with respiratory infections.

What about the accountability for chronic long-term diseases like TB, Silicosis and other respiratory diseases? Who is responsible? How do we fight for accountability? And how do we fight for the right for workers health? These are the some of the areas that I feel mm&P should look into and may be if we have more clarity at the struggle group level we'll be at apposition to demand.

Kumar from Tamil Nadu

Illegal sand mining is going on every night, sand mafia are taking away loads of sand in trucks and they are selling it for thousand crore per day. 5000 villages are affected by the sand mining causing ground water depletion. We had stopped 13 trucks from continuing sand mining. Now the revenue officers are interested in stopping the illegal sand mining. A revenue officer was killed by some gundas. We are determined to stop the illegal mining. We ask help and solidarity from all the people who are present here to protect our natural resources from such enemies.

Bansilal (Rajasthan)

Participant reported that workers working in Nagore Marble mining area where workers are suffering from Tuberculosis and silicosis. Mostly women's and children's are suffering more. Last year nearly ten workers died due to tuberculosis disease.

Mohan Rao from Hyderabad

We are struggling for our lives in Telangana AP. We get nuclear minerals, limestone and cement material in South Telangana and in North Telangana we find coal in entire Godavri region. Presently they are extracting 6% of coal and would like to increase the production by 4%. This implies 4% of coal burden is increasing. Godavari River has been receding and is getting dry that is our main problem. If they are going to start another 19 new open cast mines then the water of Godavari will not flow through Bharachalam and other areas. They want to use this water to produce 13 MW of power in the valley and remaining water would be diverted to the Managuru Bharat Jal Project. For a litre of water they are destroying 8 li of water. They are planning to increase the capacity of this project and recently one atomic energy officer visited this project for the same. The cost of milk is decreasing and the cost of water is increasing? This is something to be reflected upon seriously.

T Ramarao from Araku

In our country among all the states ours state is much better because here we are endowed with hills, good water sources. So far in our area we have managed to stop mining. We have

agitated and fought against mining but we have managed not to get beaten. The state was also not violent and the second thing is that whatever the issue if the community feels that it's not good then the community has to be collective and fight for justice. Whether it's mining or tourism, the issue should be tackled in a proper way with out any violence. Some time you may succeed other times you may not succeed in a peaceful struggle but so far we have managed to stop mining in that way.

Ms. Fatima Babu

Moderator of this session highlighted the issues and summarized the session to take forward the discussion into the future program of mm&P. She said that we are here to talk about our issues, my problems, your problems, all our problems together. Nobody can deny that we have been through very meaningful experience this whole day, for some of us the day must be an eye opener and for some of us they have been sessions of reassessment and reassurances but one thing that could not escape from our thinking is similarities in our problems. We may belong to different states but we have specific problems and issues related to us. Basically in one sense all our problems have similarities in them that is why it is at-most important and necessary that we sit together and sort out the solutions that could be available and see what can be done. The attitudes of the Government in every state and the officers and administration had been strikingly similar, but the issues are big and we need to reassert ourselves and we need to strengthen and unite ourselves and come together. In the region wise sharing in the morning and the sharing of experiences that we had in the afternoon we have been experiencing a deep anguish it is the anger and it is sadness, burning rage and furry some times helplessness that has been seen in each one of us here. A friend from Orissa was expressing how all of a sudden when mining activity started the collector allowed the use of a number of trucks in the state. The collector is in a position to allot a particular time limit for the transport vehicles but the power is being used on the contrary. In Tamilnadu the Sedhu Samudram Project where the government has laid down restrictions for the locals to use the sea for the benefit of the tourists. This is a sad situation, so it is not merely the matter of livelihood but it is also the matter of right to live. Many of us are making the observation that government should take care of the welfare of the people and also protect the rights of the people. The government considers the development projects on the basis of profit and not cost – benefit analysis which has not thought for the benefit of people. The government is not bothered about the environmental damage, livelihood loss and various other atrocities due to the project. But even here we have to be vary of certain things they are all saying, the affected community is not benefiting from the financial gains the project is promising. Where then is all the financials gaining going? If it is going to the government locker then its fine but if it is going to somewhere else then why should we bear the loss? We should not go by the cost –benefit analysis which the project officials put forth as it would increase the gap between the rich and the poor. When discussing about the health hazards, majority of the participants from different states have quoted the same diseases. Why it is that somebody sitting somewhere makes the decision in the course depriving us of our basic rights and natural resources. Who is responsible for the various illnesses that are the direct implication of the project? Take the example of Bhopal tragedy, the affect of which still resonates even after 20 yrs of the fateful day when the gas leaked out accidentally. Who is responsible for it?

We have to talk about the **women's issue**, every where women are subjected to different kinds of harassment because of so called development programs all of us in submission made it clear that you do not expect the development theory as projected by the government. What does development mean to the people? And when the politician take the platform it means the development of a handful of people it does not mean the development of the poor people, it does not mean the development of the indigenous community and development of you and me.

Displacement has become a serious issue today. Though the government offers rehabilitation for a project, often it is not implemented. We are starting to realise that the promises made are false even rehabilitation schemes agreed upon are not adhered to. Ms. Bidulata was talking about the Sterlite case at Kalahandi Orissa, were people are getting displaced who are sons and daughters of soil. They were forcibly relocated by some government gundas and confined in small cages as if they are not human beings they are some animals.

The **water, which should be our right**, is being high jacked to operate their industry and we have to drink dirty polluted water. All of you have spoken about the **environment**, projects are detrimental to the environment, someone spoken beautifully that soil is the skin and body of the earth and we are tearing the skin the soil of the body of the earth and everywhere this mining is causing great damage to the environment. About the resort tourism culture the different kind of ethics, a different kind of aesthetics a different kind of morality is being dumped on us in the name of resort culture. We are going to inherit the legacy of AIDS and other diseases. These multi millionaires are trying to hoodwink us through humanity programs. They are pointing out that we are conducting camps to make sure that these men are employable, not with real serious concern and there are many of the places where these MNCs this industrialist are trying to show themselves as humanitarian and trying to build hospitals etc. The only instructions we have to give are for them to quit, we don't need any hospitals and all these hospitals are necessary when you create all this unhealthy things. They are creating rifts on the mid of the people they are creating terror through cops, they are trying to beat you up many of you mention about employment opportunities, that is all false because they don't usually employ local people for higher post, they are employed as unskilled laborers. How much are we aware of the laws? We know some and we question them, there have been instances where some of the groups are doing well where as some of the groups are being harassed by the cops. We need to come together and fight together. This is the only answer to our problem.

Day 3

Mr B.T Venkatesh summarized the proceedings of the next days what was discussed and introduced Third Day's Agenda. It was the main session of finalization of the Constitution for mm&P. Constitution was drafted on the basis of the discussion after the regional conventions. Mr. Rana Sengupta presented constitution.

The questions were raised on many issues for clarification and gave suggestions with regard to membership, registration of the alliances, rules and directions for action, the position of the mm&P, the role of Executive Council and structural aspects of mm&P, Based on these question raised, Conveners of mm&P and other committee members responded and gave

clarification. The Constitution was finalized and accepted by all members with suggestions and clarifications.

Questions that was raised on the Constitution by the groups:

- Whether mm&P will be registered
- What is the action plan?
- What are the rules and activities?
- What is the difference between a struggle group and NGO?
- How the conflicts will be resolved?
- Will it be decentralized, what responsibilities will be there?
- What kind of membership organization or individual?
- Membership fees?

Committee members responded to the queries.

Ashok Chaudhary

He said that it should not be considered from a narrow view of either an individual organization, struggle, campaign, Trade Union, etc. We should come above the purview and look it in a broader perspective. It should not be registered as it destroys the spirit of the constitution.

T.S.S.Mani

He said that we should not register mm&P as it has larger economic and political demands, which are snatching our resources and rights

Ravi Rebbapragada

He responded on the queries and told about the process of mm&P from the beginning what was the gap at the national level and how some groups that mining is going to be a serious threat and we should come together as a national platform took it. We started as an informal group and the efforts were raised about the representatives and identification of decision makers and action takers. So we went through the process of consultation for the drafting of Constitution. We do not want to create rigid structures, we do not want to registered structure and getting busy with maintaining structures and institutions. We have planned for an equal and horizontal structure- a Chairperson is appointed only for convenience or accountability or contact. All the regional conventions gave a mandate that we should get away from the bureaucratic structures and be clear as to where mm&P should intervene at the local level mm&P should not intervene as local struggle group should take it up- at the national level we should campaign and respond. We need to have some secretariat to take up some of the institutional activities, we need a base in Delhi as need to act the national level. We should respond to the situation or request from a member or struggle group depending on the need and also have activities that make well struggle aware of need to set right.

Some Changes we have to do in Constitution

Minor changes- Executive team could be changed to working team.

Section-1 working team will comprise of members and staff

Article 3-section 1A-process 1a- process of membership- the present group that is attending this general assembly becomes the member. Future members can join either on invitation, recommendation (2 members from the region has to recommend)

Everyone has voting right

Voting-75% will be local groups and 25% will be individuals and fraternity groups.

Fees put up in Constitution-is agreeable to all

Trade Unions want to be considered as struggle group

Is it necessary for an individual organization to be registered- not required?

Article 4 sections 4- only one votes for an organization even if more than one participates in the alliance.

Like-minded networks and alliances can also be members for solidarity

Executive Council will announce the date of the general assembly two months before it is conducted.

There should not be political leaders and government employees as members

50% of members of executive council must be women

Include as many states as possible to make the alliance representative- executive council can be expanded as and when new states join in

Shreedar

He added to comments and mentioned that the preamble is the basis on which the constitution has been drafted and it gives the position and perspective of mm&P working together is the basis for the strength and effective functioning of mm&P. We need to respond and react faster. The struggle groups have the fundamental role and rights in mm&P. We should also bring together other individuals and institutions who need not be the members of mm&P like bureaucrats, experts, etc whose contribution; resources and skills can be used.

Names suggested by National Steering Committee for the Executive Council are from 14 States:

Bidulata, Smita, Nicholas, Ravi, Pratap, Tss Mani, Fatima Babu, Bapi, Ashok Chaudhary, Madhu, B T Venkatesh, Bhagya, Philip, Sunita, Bastu, Rohit, Sreedhar and Sudha.

These names are only suggestions and the general assembly could make changes.

A resolution from each organization to be member of mm&P or if the organization can fill up the membership form to agree for being a member and to abide by the constitution. The membership fee is for a period of two years.

The groups took a break for lunch to finalise the state wise representatives for the executive council.

After the Lunch Session Executive Council was selected and came to the consensus for the final names.

International Women and Mining

Bhanu gave the brief report on the importance of the International women and mining process and how mm&P has conducted the third International Women and mining conference.

She said, “In year 2000 when mm&P was in its formative stages some of us were asked to attend the second international women and mining conference because at a global level there was a process of woman to come together and explore the problems that woman face in mining all over the world. We never looked at the mining problems from woman perspective before as what are the impacts of mining that are directly or indirectly impacting the women who are adivasis and who are mine workers and who are urban migrant labourers so for the first time at the global level there were some kind of need felt to explore what these problems are and if we could come together on a common platform. So in the year 2000 when some of us from the mm&P went to attend this conference which was held in Bolivia. The threat of displacement which is faced by ADIVASI women are also same here so at the second conference most of the countries felt that INDIA is a very big country and we have very diverse mining situations we have small scale mining, large and open and underground mining and we have a very big ADIVASI population and there network wanted to understand how mm&P was carrying these issues as a national alliance and they asked us if we could host the third international conference we took up this big responsibility and this year in the month of OCTOBER we organized the third international women and mining conference in VISHAKHAPATNAM unfortunately we could not have the members of mm&P and all the women who have been struggling for the mining issues as a part of the mm&P because it was an international conference we have to accommodate the people from outside the INDIA also but we had still 20 to 25 mm&P women who are participating and we had the women from about 23 countries other than INDIA the main theme of the conference was demanding our rights and defending our rights as women how do we look at mining from our angle when government and industries are saying that mining is leading to economic development and nation building what are the problems that women are suffering and in other nation suffering and what do we have to say in terms of the cost and in terms of the impacts so when we met we had a very broad two mining sectors we looked at one women from communities who were effected by mining women displaced who are effected either directly or indirectly and on the other side we have many women who are working in the mining sector. Women mine worker either in the cooperatives or in the trade union or in the big private companies or in the unorganised big sector companies so we were looking at the problems at the broader level and linking at after the larger global level process the larger global players who are pushing this sectors and what are the influences that are affecting women what are the larger globalisation privatisation process that are impacting the women in mining what we saw that lot of the questions raised. I would like to say that there are two things which came very clearly one is that women are the worst sufferers of the mining and there are very serious negative impacts on the woman either on their livelihood or on their health and social condition on access to natural resources or their rights and human rights they are all being violated by one sector called mining and the other thing we saw was earlier we were looking at women workers as a separate concern and there was some kind of separation at looking at both things and I felt very happy that this brought these two perspective together we did not look at women worker separately and woman community separately we looked at how each ones concern is influencing the others lives and how it effects and what is the meeting points of these both because many of us felt that this conference is for woman who are saying no to mining and some felt that this is for woman mine worker but here we were trying to see how women mine worker situation is getting worst because of the privatisation how big corporate in mining which are coming into different countries and what it has done to the woman workers and what is this impact and how is this going to help in Greenfield areas countries like INDIA where there are other

options because lot of the women who came from the Latin America felt that there could not be other situation rather than mining because industries and government has exploited there lands and resources to such and extent that they didn't even think about the other option and they cannot think of there traditional livelihoods which was based on land and forest today in INDIA that situation came from Latin America is very pertinent because tomorrow if we do not stop mining we also will not have any options to talk about or the positive livelihood opportunities that women can be provided we will not able to look at that we will still looking at the very narrow frame work so this is one very important lesson I feel that the conference brought and the main purpose of the conference was to bring together these experiences the companies which are coming to INDIA like BHP etc where they exist what are the kind of crime that is taking place what has BHP Billiton done in PAPUA NEW GUINEA and in other countries indigenous women came very strongly on how was there lives and how there total lives were destroyed by this companies and what social responsible corporate have meant to them so this is which is some thing same like states like ORRISSA companies are coming and already have being granted leases this is what same thing is going to be happen in our state also and this what exactly is going to happen with us our woman so this what very important issues that we learnt in the conference the other thing we realized that wherever this privatisation has taken place where ever this public sector have been transformed into private sector companies the first looser will be the women only women have lost jobs wherever the private companies came and now women are only in the unorganised sector yesterday someone raised the question where are the women in mining and government is saying that mining is bringing you economic development there are no woman visible in this sector in the organized sector but we have thousand of women who are working as contract labor in the same coal mines or in the unorganised mines so where there is protective legislative exist and laws are there women have been totally pushed out woman have been eliminated from this sector where there are no laws at all woman have been thrown into that kind of the labor situation where they do not have the safeguard of the law to either fight for minimum wages or accidents or any benefits so this is situation and if mining industry and government is saying that women are not capable of working in the mines then how come women are taken as casual and contract labors as such large numbers so these are again very important issues for us to look at in INDIA this has already happened in countries like ZIMBABVE LATINAMERICA etc of course we also have very serious threat in INDIA and SERRIA LEON there it is more like a conflict because of diamond so there are several impacts what we did in conference was we shared each countries situation and at the end we came up with what our position is on the gender concerns in the mining from mm&P side. We have agreed to the statements declaration that came out and I have circulated them and the third thicker document is resolutions and then we were looking at indigenous women because we cannot draw the position of same kind of perspective with regard to indigenous women and adivasi communities because we have special safeguards and we have a cultural situations so it is the same situation in other countries also the purpose and the opportunity was that it gives greater clarity on gender perspective and leading us towards which includes women in our alliances at national and local level struggle so how do we take forward is something we need to discuss here at the end of the conference all the participant from the different countries felt that India should take the responsibility for the international secretariat which means we not only work on woman issues within our own alliance but also link up with the other organizations of different countries

Members of the Executive Council are:

Ravi, Pratap- A.P

B. T. Venkatesh and Bhagya- Karnataka

TSS Mani, Fatima- Tamil Nadu

Philip, Sunita- Goa

Bapi- Jharkhand

Ashok Chaudhary- Gujarat

Bastu- Maharashtra

Madhu, Prabhat- Rajasthan

Shreedhar, Sudha- Uttaranchal

Lahir, Rohit- New Delhi

Swaraj Das- West Bengal

Sandhya- Uttar Pradesh

Smt. Karuna Shrivastava-M.P

Venu- Kerala

Indu Netam- Shubhranshu- Chhattisgarh

Bidulata, Nicholas Barla- Orissa

Membership will be amended from all the states of India with maximum ceiling of 29 people in the Executive council.

The EC elected Ravi as the Chairperson for the next two years again. The national secretariat will continue in Hyderabad. The Delhi centre will also continue as the capital centre under Shreedhar.

Ravi addressed the general assembly as the New Chairperson. He said that we would try to do better work in the next two years. The membership forms will be sent to members later by post. In the course of the next two years, we should attempt to work towards developing new leadership in the alliance, as we need to have dynamic leadership. There are many important people who have contributed meaningfully to the alliance and their inputs and advice is important for the future of the alliance. For example, Anil Chaudhary has been such a strong person in the building up of the process in mm&P and we should have people like him as part of our advisory council group of mm&P.

Shreedhar

We lost a lot of valuable time in the last five years in the process of trying to arrive at a structure for the alliance rather than directly addressing the people's issues. My organization and I will continue to provide support to issues in the mining areas and bring more thematic kind of impact. We should have a program and work together to make a difference in mining and complement each other. I identify certain areas for our action plan and it is necessary that many of us will have to find time to share their skills. While we need to be representative of mining areas and communities, it will be really reflected in what work we do and how we do and how we demonstrate our action on mining related issues. Very clear areas have emerged like green field areas, as it is a serious threat. Health aspects are another area. We have to seriously work internally on that. There is a great crisis in terms of institutions at a local level. We need to find ways of linking with strong local institutions and develop a strong alliance.

B. T. Venkatesh Summarized the session and gave instructions to groups to have group discussion on Action plans. He suggested that regional groups should meet and work out what are the priorities and make a presentation.

Day 4

The session started with the folklore songs and solidarity message for the martyrs of the Maikanch (Kashipur) police firing as it took place on 16th December.

Presentation of Regions

Jharkhand

Jharkhand Problems identified:

- Eviction and displacement
- Environment and health concerns
- Exploitation of mine labour
- Sexual exploitation of women-unwed women, desertion, atrocities

- Non implementation of Rehabilitation package
- Non implementation of constitutional laws, samatha judgment and increase in criminal activities
- Lack of social security
- Reclamation of abandoned mines
- Non recognition of forest people
- Police excesses and mafia harassment

Action:

Implementation of Samatha judgment, PESA laws, Fifth Schedule act, and coal-bearing act

- Oppose World Bank and MNC projects
- Attending public hearings, monitoring PCB's
- Advocacy on mining related issues
- Legal Action
- Networking among struggle groups
- False cases against activists-fight for withdrawal of these cases
- Campaign with PCB's, ST/SC commission, NHRC and other human rights bodies

Andhra Pradesh

Problems:

- Rayalseema Area- granite, quarries
- Telangana- coal
- Coastal Area- Bauxite and other large mines

Action:

- Fight for the implementation of PESA laws, samatha judgment, LTR Act
- Study of mining status and mapping of mining areas in the state and Vidarbha
- Stop illegal mining by getting information, monitoring the projects
- Proper wages and working condition of workers
- Educating communities across Godavari Basin against the hazards of mining
- Vigilant of laws and implementation of rules
- Participating in public hearings and getting communities to understand, have information of projects
- Vidarbha- Stop open cast mining
- Local resources should be tapped for local communities

Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Problems:

- Coastal sand mining
- River belt sand mining
- Neyveli Lignite and coal mining

- Sterlite copper smelter
- Setu ship building canal
- Coral mining
- Deep sea mining
- Clay cliff mining

Action Plan:

- Sterlite issue to be taken up- demonstration in Tuticorin
- Allepey sand mining experts study post mining last years
- Coastal mining media exposure
- PM letter
- Fact finding team
- Vehichle yatra
- Regional convention in Kerala
- Kollam district for post mining g issue study

Uttaranchal and U.P

Action:

- Network with other groups fighting on mining issues and come together on a common platform
- Do no want mining
- Proper wages for mine workers
- State wide campaign for alternative economic activities
- Legal action on environmental procedures
- Strengthen local community struggles

U.P:

- Identify areas proposed mining
- Addressing tribal alienation
- Organise workers and take up capacity building
- Continue support and work in Singrauli region
- Campaign against illegal stone mining and explore alternatives
- Reclamation of degraded land and dialogue with mine owners for this

Delhi

Delhi:

- Campaign on occupational health issues
- Come out with publication
- Advocacy policy support at capital level
- Technical support to workers

- Media lobbying

Madhya Pradesh

- Identify mining areas in the state, collection of proper information on social, demographic details of mining areas
- Working with mine labour
- The negative impacts of mining should be discussed with mine labour
- Health camps for women and child mine workers
- Organise the mine labour through workshops

Rajasthan and Gujarat

Some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat have concentration of minerals

- Alternative livelihoods
- Health impacts
- Cooperation with mining industries
- Model people's mining cooperative
- Advocacy, networking, marketing, campaigns,
- Information of laws, mass meetings, workshops, awareness material
- Fifth schedule acts to be strengthened along with samatha judgement

Karnataka and Maharastra, Goa

Maharastra:

- Stone Quarry workers drinking water, ration cards, voting rights, housing rights, education for workers children, electricity,
- Need support to organize stone quarry workers at different levels,
- Formation of National level committee on stone quarry sector ,
- Mm&P to do study on stone mining sector,
- Government policies, Laws, etc information needed
- Mm&P to support for pressure group on policy changes required
- Legal support in filling PIL's,
- State level meetings twice a year
- Sample studies of any models available in mining,
- Fact finding team required for Kolhapur

Goa:

- To demand for closure of illegal mining activity in Goa
- Enhance awareness among goans and non goans on the irreparable wealth of goa

- Mm&P support required in stopping mine tailing dumps into the waters
- Owners are harassing individual activists-mm&Ps help needed
- RF rules of no mining within 10 Kms should be protected
- Stop open cast mining near rivers
- Ground water depletion leading to poor agriculture – stop the mining
- Strengthening the gram sabha to not to give NOC for mining- mm&P to help the panchayats

Karnataka:

Problems

- Bellary, Raichur and Sandur (Iron Mining)
- Serious impacts on Health
- Workers issues
- Women and child labours problem

Actions:

- Fact finding team required
- Study on the status of mining required

Concluding Remarks

Sreedhar

At the end of the session he gave his inputs to the groups. He put together the issues emerged from an action plan for mm&P:

- Legal action with regard to labour, land, rehabilitation, health etc.-interventions is required
- Awareness building-two types-site specific awareness building is one and regional and local level
- Lobbying with officials, government on the peoples concerns in mining especially on policies, implementation of laws
- Taking the issues to larger society, media and public
- Many of these can be intervened at the local level. Local level technical research is required to look after the impacts on health and environment.
- Alternate livelihood options should be strengthened and promoted

Sandhya (U.P)

Sandhya gave the vote of thanks from behalf of the Executive Council. She thanked Dr.Vikas Amte for providing space in lesser period. She thanked the Samata team who worked for organising the National General Assembly. At last She thanked to all the participants who travelled from across all over the India to make successful National General Assembly.