Meghalaya
Mining their own business

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Introduction

Meghalaya

- Area of 22,429 sq. km.
- Divided into 7 Districts
- Three Main tribes: Khasi, Pnar and Garo
- Indo-Malayan Biodiversity Hotspot
- Major Minerals: Coal, Limestone & Uranium
- Entire state is a Sixth Schedule area
Mineral Deposits in Meghalaya

- Limestone: 4000 Million Tonnes
- Coal: 576 Million Tonnes
- Clay: 97 Million Tonnes
- Uranium: 9.22 Million Tonnes
Coal Deposits Region Wise

- Total: 576 Million Tonnes
- Jaintia Hills: 29% (168.36 Million Tonnes)
- Khasi Hills: 64% (379.68 Million Tonnes)
- Garo Hills: 7% (40.44 Million Tonnes)
Production of Coal Region Wise 2009-2010

Total: 57,67,017 Metric Tonnes

- Jaintia Hills: 64%
- Khasi Hills: 10%
- Garo Hills: 5%
- Garo Hills: 5%
Brief History of Coal in India

- 1973: Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 (Coal was nationalized)
- 1976: Amendment granting sub-lease to individuals to mine coal
- 1996: Amendment for captive mining for steel and cement plants
Brief History of coal mining in Meghalaya

**When?**
Introduced by the British in late 19th Century in the Khasi Hills.

**Usage**
Used by the British to heat their houses and found no use for the locals.

**Present**
Mined exclusively by indigenous residents of the state. Sold in national and international markets.
Who is eligible to mine coal?

- **Central govt. owned or controlled company**: Coal India Limited (CIL) is the deemed lessee of coal in India. As granted by the nationalization process.

- **Cement Iron & Steel**: In 1996 Coal Mining allowed for captive consumption.

- **Individuals with Sub-lease**: Individuals are allowed to mine provided they have a sub-lease in areas where coal is found in small pockets.
Who owns lease/sub-lease in Meghalaya

There are a total of 16 lease given by the Govt. of Meghalaya:

- Limestone: 100%
- Coal: 0.00%

There are a total of 13 prospecting licenses:

- Limestone: 61.5%
- Sillimanite: 15%
- Shale: 23.5%

Number of lease/sub-lease, prospecting license, reconnaissance permit:

- Coal: 0.00%
Compulsory requirements for any mining operation

**Mining Lease**

MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1957 the act that governs all minerals prohibits mining of any mineral without a lease in Section 4 (1).

**Reconnaissance Permit**

Granted for preliminary prospecting of a mineral through regional, aerial, geophysical or geochemical surveys and geological mapping.

**Prospecting License**

Granted for undertaking operations for purpose of exploring, locating or proving mineral deposit.
The General Misconception

Meghalaya is a Sixth Schedule State hence its autonomy gives freedom to the people to mine as they wish.

The unique land tenure system of the state gives rights over minerals too.

Coal in Meghalaya was never nationalized or have been exempted.

Coal mining is a customary practice of the indigenous people of the state.
The truth about Coal mining in Meghalaya

Para. 9 of the Sixth Schedule Explicitly mentions the need for Lease, Licences or Leases for the purpose of prospecting for, or extraction of, minerals.

The land ownership pattern is only for surface rights and not mineral

Coal in Meghalaya was nationalized and names of the mines bought during the nationalization process is mentioned in the Coal Mines Nationalization Act.

Coal mining is a practice introduced by the British to indigenous people of the state

Clearing the General Misconception
RTI Findings

Ministry of Coal

All Mining Laws are applicable to Meghalaya.

Directorate Of Mineral Resources GoM

All Mining Laws are applicable in Meghalaya

Ministry of Labor & Indian Bureau of Mines

All Mining Labor laws (Mines Act, 1952) regarding safety and health of workers applicable to Meghalaya.
Major violations of the coal mines

The Laws

- Coal Mines Nationalization Act, 1973
- Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957
- Mines Act, 1952
- Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
State Government’s role in coal mining.

1. Collects royalty on coal being transported to different states of the country and international markets.

2. Refuses to take actions on complaints on the various violations of the coal mines.

3. No actions taken to stem the environmental damage to forest, rivers and human rights violations.
The Results

Lukha River,
Jaintia Hills District
The Results

Lukha River,
Jaintia Hills District
The Results

Sohkymphor Mines
Jaintia Hills District
The Results

Surface cracks
Sohkymphor, Jaintia
Hills District
The Results

Surface Cracks
Sohkymphor, Jaintia Hills District
The Results

Forest area being cleared for illegal mining.
The Results

Mine Shaft in Rymbai
Jaintia Hills
The Results

Coal being dumped indiscriminately
The Results

Rat-hole mining
The Results

Rat-hole mining
In Garo Hills
The Results

Illegal Road Construction in middle of community forests of Garo Hills
The Results

Water too acidic for consumption
Thank You!