

Karanpura Valley TurnOver

Visual Documentation

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Existing Piparwar OCP (CCL with Australian aid) in the Karanpura Valley



One of the few projects where refilling of the pit could be observed: what is blasted dug away at the mine face (see next page, top photo) is carried all around the pit in huge dumper trucks (lower photos) and refilled at the rear end. However, there is no conservation of top soil which could be used in re-cultivation of the refilled land. And there are no plans to give back that land later to its original inhabitants.



Existing Piparwar OCP (CCL with Australian aid) in the Karanpura Valley



Cutting of the coal seams is fully mechanised and the coal will be transported towards dumps and washeries on miles long conveyor belts.



Much land is consumed for the mining infrastructure like these wide tracks around the mine pits (lower photos on this and the next page).

Existing Piparwar OCP (CCL with Australian aid) in the Karanpura Valley



Transporting coal from the washeries inside the mining complex. The washeries themselves are tapping on the water resources of the area, and waste water discharges contaminate the land and the rivers (see photos on the next page).



Endless queues of trucks waiting for their load of coal. This is happening in villages not registered as “project affected”. This is going to have a disastrous impact on the traditional village life and culture.

Existing Piparwar OCP (CCL with Australian aid), in the Karanpura Valley



Immediately outside the mining complex: blackened water spilling over from the coal washeries destroys natural streams and fields. Humans and their cattle depend on this water.



The upper Damodar river is made to carry all the effluents from the washeries as well as the dust in the air.

Existing Ashoka OCP (CCL), contiguous with Piparwar OCP, in the Karanpura Valley



Villages are literally on the precipice and can see the pit moving towards themselves (below).



Existing East Parej OCP (CCL with World Bank assistance) in the West Bokaro Coalfield



An Adivasi inhabitant of Turi Tola, dazed after the demolition of his house and all of his existence (ca. 1997).



Resettlement site Pindra for East Parej OCP. There wasn't even a provision of "land for land" rehabilitation, only house plots were given ... if at all. In the new place, the host population did not accept the displaced Adivasis, nor did the Adivasis like the place as it was known to them as a burial ground of the ancient days.

Existing East Parej OCP (CCL with World Bank assistance) in the West Bokaro Coalfield



Jagua Tola of East Parej OCP (2001). East Parej OCP is considered as a show piece project... but people perceive mining and the land acquisition process mostly as destruction and forced displacement, that hardly even would leave them sufficient time to harvest their traditional seasonal mohua fruits (below).



Existing East Parej OCP (CCL with World Bank assistance) in the West Bokaro Coalfield

For Adivasis, the indigenous peoples of India, a spring is not alone a source of water, but holds a spiritual and cultural meaning as well (photo taken in 2001). This place was on the land acquired for East Parej OCP, and in 2004 destroyed by dumping of overburden (background of the lower photo): a symbol and simile for the destruction of Adivasi life and culture.

Below is a view from Agaria Tola: only a narrow land bridge is left between West Bokaro Colliery of TISCO on the left and East Parej OCP of CCL on the right. The project plans do not reflect this precarious situation.



Proposed thermal power plant (NTPC) near Tandwa in the Karanpura Valley



Right in the heart of the Karanpura Valley, a super thermal power plant with all its components and township shall be constructed.

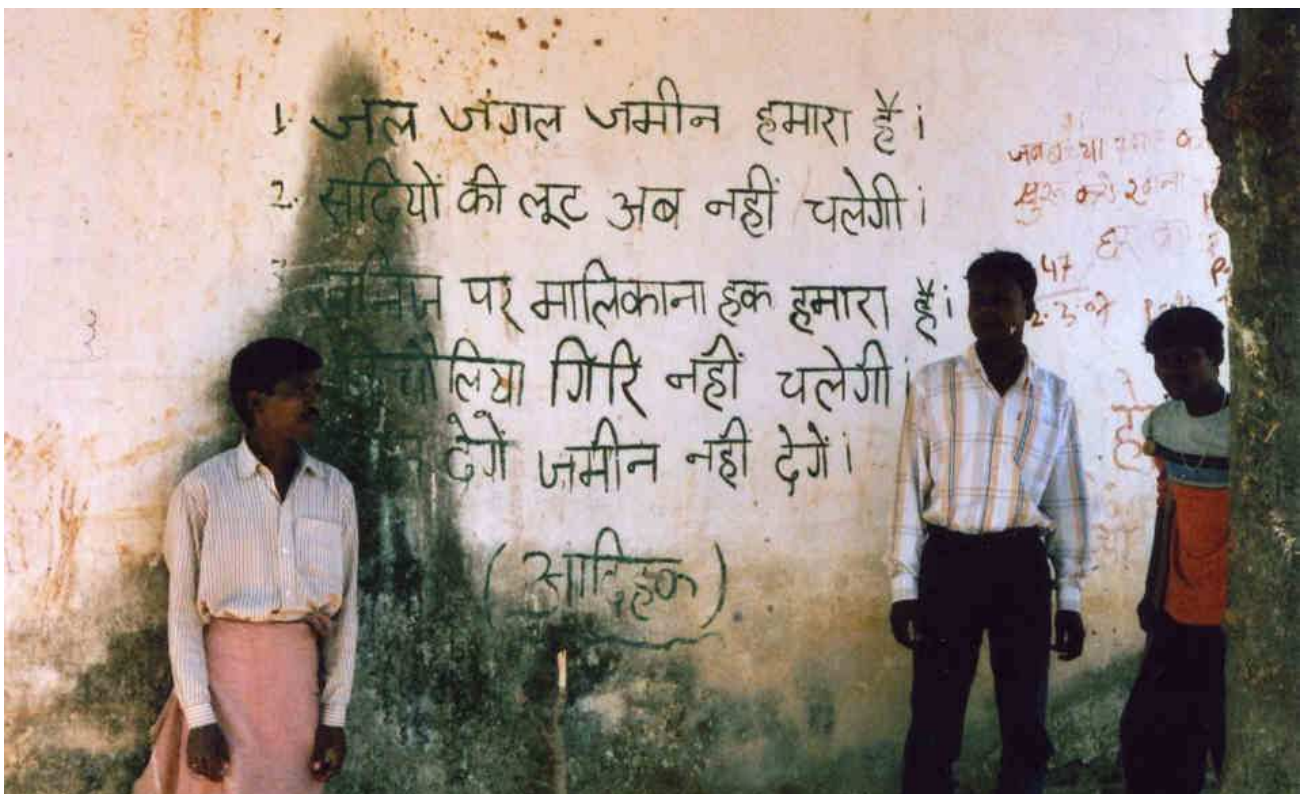


Earth works on the dam required for the thermal power plant has already started in early 2008.

Proposed site for Magadh OCP (CCL) in the Karanpura Valley



Village Devalgada in March 2008, where Magadh OCP is to come up. This is going to be even bigger than the Piparwar/Ashoka OCPs. Resistance of the people growing.



Wall writing in Devalgada:

1. Water, forest and land is ours!
2. This centuries old loot cannot go any further!
3. The ownership of the mineral resources belongs to us!
4. With us, there shall be no more of this gigantic corruption!
5. We are ready to give our life, but not our land!

Endangered cultural heritage in the Karanpura Valley

There are a number of megalithic sites and prehistoric rock paintings in and around the Karanpura Valley, and several of them will be directly affected, i.e. destroyed by the upcoming mining and industrial projects. Among the first to be lost will be the megaliths near Pakri Barwadi in Barkagaon Block (above), where NTPC is going to start its very large open cast mining project.



Traditional house painting is being practised till today by the indigenous or Adivasi communities living in and around the Valley. This living art bears testimony to the cultural continuity and linkage from the prehistoric times. The mining projects will also have serious impact on the social and cultural traditions.