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Title: Need for a CBI inquiry into misappropriation of funds in Durgapur open cast mines of Western Coalfields Limited – Laid.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR) : There has been misappropriation to the tune of over Rs. 20 crores in Durgapur open cast mines of the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) due to negligence of officials of WCL. The project of Durgapur open cast mines was cleared by the Union Government directing WCL to spare 125.5 hectares of the allotted forest land as safety zone. But the safety zone of 125.5 hectares was reduced to 7.5 hectares and the WCL officials submitted a revised proposal to the Conservator of Forests and went ahead with the mining activities in the banned areas without waiting for necessary official permission. A survey earlier made for assessing the coal deposits in the area showed that the ratio of over burden coal seam is very high and that excavation of coal is not at all economical. They have not only overstepped their limits but are also responsible for financial irregularities resulting in huge loss. I request the Government that a high level enquiry by CBI should be ordered on the issue of Durgapur open cast mines so that strict action is taken against the erring officials of WCL.