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## Chapter- 8

# PROJECT BENEFITS

### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

The opening of the Lekhapani OCP will enhance the socio-economic activities in the adjoining areas. This will result in following benefits

- Improvements in Physical Infrastructure
- Improvements in Social Infrastructure
- Increase in Employment Potential
- Contribution to the Exchequer
- Prevention of Illegal Mining
- Post-mining Enhancement of Green Cover

### 8.2 IMPROVEMENTS IN PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The opening of the Lekhapani OCP will improve the physical infrastructure of the adjoining areas. This would include the following:

- Improved road communication due to opening of Lekhapani OCP
- Strengthening of existing community facilities through the Community Development Programme of NEC.
- Greater availability of good quality power grade coal will result in enhanced power generation to meet the energy demand of the society.
- Pumping of mine water may augment the water availability after due treatment
- Gainful post-mining land utilization of mine lease area as highlighted in the table below:

### Pre-mining vs post-mining land use

Land Use During Mining		Post –mining Land Use (Conceptual)	
Particulars	Area (ha)	Particulars	Area (ha)
1. Area to be excavated	80.0	Reclaimed (Internal dump) and afforested area	34.0
		Water Body Void	8.0 38.0
2. Mine Pheriphery & safety zone	15.0	Green belt (already exists)	15.0
3. Approach road	10.0	Community use	10.0
4. Coal storage & handling/office/Workshop/Store/power supply arrangements/ETP (including haul/service roads )	10.0	Decommissioning and Afforestation	6.0
		Existing plantation	4.0
5.External dumps	120.0	Reclaimed and afforested area	120.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235.0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235.0</b>

Creation of community assets (infrastructure) like provision for drinking water, construction of school buildings, check dams, village roads / linked roads & culverts, dispensary & health centres, community centres, market place, etc.

- Skill development & capacity building like vocational training, income generation programs, and entrepreneurship development program.
- Literacy program, adult education, assist formation of Village Working Group (VWG), mahila mandal etc.
- Awareness program and community activities, like health camps, medical aides, family welfare camps, AIDS awareness program, immunization camp, sports & cultural activities, plantation etc.
- NEC may adopt one village in every Area to develop as a model village. This village should be provided minimum infrastructure such as a school building, a health centre, pond and adequate tree plantation.

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The above list is illustrative and not exhaustive. The activities will be village specific depending on the need assessed for the people. As far as possible, efforts will be made to co-ordinate with similar developmental programmes that are taken up by the central or state Govt. in the areas of Coal India. All activities under the CD programme should be environment friendly and socially acceptable to the local people.

### **8.3 IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

There would be some obvious changes in various environmental parameters due to mining activity, increased economic activities, creation of new employment opportunities, infra-structural development, better educational and health facilities. Following are the specific impacts.

#### **Socio-economic**

Overall there will be positive impact in socio-economic area due to increased economic activities, creation of new employment opportunities, infra-structural development and better educational and health facilities. The impact in the Core Zone and Buffer Zone is due to the following-

#### **Population dynamics**

Due to direct and indirect employment potential, there is scope of migration of people into project area and in the peripheral regions, from nearby areas Mining activities, acceleration of the economic activities and urbanisation along with creation of new employment opportunities and bussiness may change the population dynamics of the area.

#### **Standard of Living**

The people will come in contact with migrated people. This may encourage higher aspirations among the people of the area. Accelerated economic activities and urbanization may increase quality of life and standard of living.

**Health Care facilities**

NEC will undertake awareness program and community activities, like health camps, medical aides, family welfare camps, AIDS awareness program, immunization camp, etc.

**8.4 EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL**

There is a possibility of creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities due to working of this mine. Overall, this will have positive impact on socio-economic profile of the area

NEC will undertake skill development & capacity building programme like vocational training, income generation and entrepreneurship development.

**8.5 OTHER TANGIBLE BENEFITS**

North Eastern Coalfields is facing increasing demand of power grade coal because of superior grade, long flame and other consumer friendly characteristics. Continuing and augmentation of coal production from the mines of NEC will help to bridge the gap of demand and supply of superior power grade coal in India. To meet the growing demand of coal, especially in power sector, sponge iron sector and brick and other small scale sectors, NEC has planned to increase its production capacity.

The mine will also contribute to the Exchequer of State and Central Government.