**Statement from Mr. Ramakant Tiwari, CEO, Mahan Coal Ltd.**

It has been noticed that some persons and institutions having vested interests are publishing misguiding and misleading statements in relation to Mahan Coal Limited, and are thereby provoking villagers and other people under the pretext of environment and tribal rights. In this connection, we would like to bring before the general public the following facts:

1. Mahan Coal block is situated on the periphery of the Mohan Ban Reserves; it forms only 9.8 sq.km of total forest area out of 925.30 sq. meters of Mohan Van reserves, which is only 1.05% of the said forest.
2. There is not a single person or family (and, hence, no scheduled tribes or other traditional forest dwellers) residing in the forest area of Mahan coal block. Thus, in a strict sense, claims being made by vested interests are outside the preview of “The Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006” (FRA 2006).
3. Nevertheless, Mahan Coal Limited has accepted and agreed to the conditions of Ministry of Enviornement and Forest (MoEF) to pay compensation against Non-timber forest products to the villagers living adjacent to the forest land i.e. in the villages of Amiliya, Budher and Suggo. This will compensate the villagers who are residing outside the forest land being diverted for Mahan Coal Block, but collect the forest produce. This is perhaps one of the unique cases in the Country, where inspite of there not being any displacement / re-settlement, benefits amounting to significant sums will accrue to villagers.
4. Payment of annuity, as may be determined by the Government, will start soon after the physical handover of forest land by the Forest Department. Majority of the villagers wish that the project should start immediately so that they start getting the compensation, but few persons and institutions having vested interest are provoking people against the project and depriving them of the economic development that the project will result in.
5. Mahan Coal Limited has obtained all statutory approvals including Stage II forest clearance from MoEF and final forest clearance from the Government of Madhya Pradesh after complying with all stringent conditions and statutory provisions.

We strongly condemn continuous misrepresentation of facts by some persons and institutions having vested interests; and misguiding and misleading the villagers and general public by them. Such actions not only delay the Project but also prevent the villagers from getting their legitimate benefits and compensation. Further, it also stalls the economic development of the country and hampers public purpose.

Mahan Coal Limited remains committed to sustainable development of Mahan coal block, in a safe and socially responsible manner.

Also find below the links on our key initiatives:

 **Ecological Protection**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/operations-eco-protection.aspx>

 **Compensation**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/operations-compensation.aspx>

 **Healthcare**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/csr-healthcare.aspx>

 **Education**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/csr-education.aspx>

 **Mahan Coal promotes child education in the 3 villages**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/media-press-release-4.aspx>

 **Mahan Coal Ltd. celebrates World Environment Day with Tree Plantation**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/media-press-release-5.aspx>

**Women Empowerment**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/csr-women-empowerment.aspx>

 **Sustainable Livelihoods**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/csr-livelihoods.aspx>

**Inclusive Development:**

* <http://www.mahancoal.com/csr-inclusive-development.aspx>