

PRESS RELEASE

On 30.12.2009, the haul road of Ananta OCP went down because of sliding of OB Dump on which the haul road was made. Before 4 days of the actual slide, cracks were developed on the haul road and keeping in view that the use of the road will be unsafe, the road was blocked from 27.12.2009 by putting OB Dump on both the sides. Besides above, Security Personnel were also deployed, so that nobody uses the road either by traveling or by plying of vehicles.

Generally, once mining is completed, backfilling is done on the excavated area and in this case a thickness of coal was left out for retention of the OB dump. Because of the above sliding, the retained coal acting as the retention wall gave way. It is common that whenever coal strata is open to air there is a possibility of fire due to spontaneous heating, which was present in this case also inside the coal. Because of the splutter of coal owing to the slide, the fire which was inside became exposed and spread to the fragmented smaller pieces of coal which is because of natural movements.

Generally, when any sliding occurs, immediate employment of the machines are not done to carry out any work including control of fire as the sliding mass is unstable and unsafe for carrying out any activity. After observing 1/2 days, when the area stabilized, the team for quenching the fire has been deployed and the fire will be quenched out by today to a great extent.

It may be mentioned here that the fire has in no way affected the coal stock and is only limited to spluttered portion of coal due to sliding.

PRO, MCL