‘Mining first gave us TB, and then alcoholism and young widows’

The impact of mining on social health has been disastrous, says the only qualified doctor in the 38 km stretch from Rivona to Neturin.

Jozaimd Fernandes | TIMES CITY

Dr Abdulf Prabhudesai, 44, of Rivona, says mining has ravaged his village.

MCC chief says Raina beach belongs to govt

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ON A MISSION

When I diagnosed the sickness last year as chikungunya, DTH doctors recorded it as "fever with bodyache" in order to keep the record of chikungunya low.

Prabhudesai

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Traditional mining has led to harmful effects on health due to dust, noise, contamination of food and communicable diseases by bringing in carriers in the form of mining workers. There is a great effect on social health. At least 90% of mine workers consume liquor. So there are a large number of young widows in Cawern, Carpen and other mining villages.

Prabhudesai is not far from the mine but he is only against uncontrolled mining.

He says Colamba village has 1,250 ha of land of which 1,510 is under mining lease.

"This is an agricultural village. My education was solely financed on agriculture," says Prabhudesai.

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Sapti Ghurko Patarkuke, 40, lives with his family of five in a farm house on the Dharwuruvad in Mulcawun, in Sampynta town. Says Sapti, "I used to get 40 sacks of "sawmali" paddy from my fields at Shankalin. Now I don’t even get eight sacks today."

Sapti blames the sharp decline in his paddy yield to the mining zone that has encroached his field. He says overloading mining trucks spill or on the edge of the road. The ice eventually washes into his other fields damaging the crop bred by Sapti’s field is not the only casualty of mining. Since a mine began barely 100m from his orchard, he claims the mining dust and silt has ruined his orchard as well.

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