

Foreword

The Twentieth century has witnessed an unprecedented expansion of human activities in the area of industry, agriculture and dwellings. As a direct consequence of these activities, - carried on and with the earth, large tracts of land has undergone a characteristic change 'from land belonging to natural ecosystems' to 'land in managed (mismanaged!) ecosystems'. For example, as of today, nearly one-third of the countries limited land area requires to be considerably ameliorated to restore their natural capabilities. Notwithstanding the fact that mining areas occupy an insignificantly small share of the country's total land area, land use planning in mining areas assume special importance because an improper or unplanned use of mined land causes environmental stress on a very large area beyond the mine boundaries.

Against this background, OME has, ever since its launching, put significant emphasis on land use planning in mining areas. Dr. (Mrs) Rekha Ghosh has been spear heading this front. This tome is an attempt, albeit in a some what summarized format, to put within the bound of two covers her expertise in the area.

This monograph is an extremely valuable addition to the rather scanty literature available in land use planning of mining areas. The author has presented the principles of the varied and complicated systems of mining area land use planning in a style which is at once lucid and precise. Some of the details have never before been covered by the technical literature.

I am sure readers will find this monograph to be an immensely useful reference for preplanning of land uses for proposed or impending mining projects.

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