

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 1st November, 2021

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment & Forests,
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Lucknow.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 344.688 ha Reserved Forest land (294.082 ha Reserved Forest land under Kajrahat (Dala) Limestone Mine and 50.606 ha Reserved Forest land under Bhalua Limestone mine] for mining on 10 years lease period in favour of M/s Ultratech Cement Ltd., Dalla in Obra Forest Division of Sonbhadra District, State Uttar Pradesh (Online No. FP/UP/MIN/47074/2020) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter No. 421/81-2-2021-911/92 dated 02.06.2021 on the above cited subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and inform that the proposal was examined in the Ministry and it has been observed that:

- i. Total mining lease area calculated through KML file is 1424.976 ha [Kajrahat Mine 782.008 ha + Bhalua Mine 642.968 ha = 1424.976 ha] whereas as per the mining plan, the total mining lease area is 1394.433 ha and as per the component wise breakup furnished in Part-I form on PARIVESH, the total area required in the instant project is 1284.243 ha. This discrepancy in the mining lease area needs to be rechecked.
- ii. Some area in the Kajrahat mining lease is within the ESZ of Kaimur wildlife sanctuary. It has been mentioned that the Forest area within the ESZ is not included in the diversion. However the detail of the non-forest land within the ESZ and its proposed landuse is required to be provided.
- iii. High resolution satellite imagery shows the presence of mined out pits within the forest patches of Kajrahat lease boundary and some built-up areas like settlements within the forest patches of Bhalua lease boundary. The status of violation of FCA,1980 in the proposed area is required to be confirmed.
- iv. The site inspection report of CCF Mirzapur refers that the forest land involved in the instant proposal was declared as Non-forest land by the State Govt. and the same was later re-designated as Reserved Forest after the intervention of Hon'ble Court/NGT. A detailed report in this regard keeping in view the violation of Forest(Conservation) Act 1980 may be submitted.
- v. The instant mining project is at a distance of 573 meters from the Kaimur wildlife sanctuary. Moreover, some of its part is also falling inside the ESZ. The comments from chief wildlife warden shall therefore be submitted.
- vi. Out of 29 patches proposed for CA under Mirzapur district, 13 patches for CA are

found isolated and having area less than 5 ha. The small patches of less than 5 ha can not be accepted for Compensatory Afforestation. The CA areas may therefore be revised accordingly.

- vii. The CA patch namely Sindhora village, Plot No 1007 under Mirzapur District comprising an area of 39.83 ha appears to be under Non-forestry use. The same needs clarification.
- viii. Some settlements are visible inside the proposed CA patch under village Purakashnath plot No 235 located in Mirzapur district comprising an area of 16.01 ha. The same needs clarification.
- ix. State Govt. has informed that out of 344.688 ha Non-forest land for CA, 120.544 ha Non-forest land was found un-suitable for carrying out plantation work. The State Govt. shall provide the list of CA patches in Non-forest land under Mirzapur district which are found un-suitable for carrying out plantation work and the reasons thereof.
- x. It has been mentioned that the mining lease issued in the year 1976 on 380.635 ha forest land in Dala (Kajarhat) Limestone Mines (which expired in the year 1996) has not been renewed after the year 1996. Similarly, the mining lease of Bhalua Lime Stone Mines was issued in the year 1982 (which expired in the year 2002) on 50.606 ha forest land has not been renewed after the year 2002. The status of violation in this area is required to be confirmed..
- xi. The Site suitability certificate for 235.737 ha Non-forest land located in Mirzapur district has not be submitted which is required to be done. The CA schemes/maps/site suitability certificates are also required to be submitted in case of CA areas to be revised.
- xii. The recommendation of the DFO, Obra Forest Division, Mirzapur Circle is not available on Parivesh. Therefore, the same shall be uploaded in Part-II form of Parivesh.
- xiii. There is a gap between the polygon of the forest area proposed for diversion within the mining lease boundary and the forest patch for which Stage-I approval has been issued for setting up of JP Super Cement plant vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-07/2019-FC dated 15.04.2021. The boundary between the forest patches of two different proposals may be re-verified through ground truthing.
- xiv. Copy of approved mining plan along with progressive mine closure plan duly approved by competent authority needs submission.

2. Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- ii. The Dy. DG (C), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Lucknow;
- iii. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- iv. User Agency;
- v. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.