

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

**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003**

Dated: 20th December, 2021

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 631.39 ha. forest land of Survey No. RF-276, 281 & PF -277, 278, 279, Village- Muhair and Padri, Range Baidhan in Singrouli Forest Division for BlockB Expansion Opencast Coal Mining in favour of M/s Northern Coalfield Limited in Singruli District of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/44294/2020) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

This is in reference to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) & Nodal Officer, FCA, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/823/2021/10-11/3462 dated 18.10.2021 on the above mentioned subject.

In this regard, the proposal for diversion of 631.39 ha forest land was considered by the FAC in its meeting dated 26.11.2019, wherein it was observed that the proposal for using disproportionate area for overdump calls for a physical visit and directed that a sub-committee of the FAC or a committee from the Ministry shall visit the area for detailed analysis of the proposal and submit a detailed fact finding report before the FAC (**Copy enclosed**).

In view of the above, a committee consisting of following officers is hereby constituted for a physical visit to the proposed area and detailed analysis of the proposal as directed by the FAC:

1. Sh Santosh Tewari, Regional Officer, IRO Bhopal;
2. Sh Sunil Aggarwal, Nodal Officer, Govt of Madhya Pradesh
3. Sh Suneet Bhardwaj AIGF (FC), MoEFCC, New Delhi;

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: As Above

Pamposh Mohan Kaul
Technical Officer

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Madhya

- Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
 3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
 4. All members of the Committee as constituted above.
 5. User Agency;
 6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

**Recommendation of Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on
26th November, 2021**

Agenda No. 1

File No. 8-08/2021/FC

Subject: Diversion of 631.39 ha (instead of 622.783 ha) forest land of Survey No. RF-276, 281 & PF -277, 278, 279, Village- Muhair and Padri, Range Baidhan in Singrouli Forest Division for Block-B Expansion Opencast Coal Mining in favour of M/s Northern Coalfield Limited in Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/44294/2020) - reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting held on 26.11.2021. The details of the proposal may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the factual details along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented before the FAC which after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, vide their letter no. F-1/823/2021/10-11/912 dated 09.03.2021 submitted the above proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - ii. The area initially proposed to be diverted was 622.783 ha and the same was later revised to 631.39 ha. The area is proposed to be diverted for open cast coal mining in favour of M/s Northern Coalfield Limited in Singrouli District of Madhya Pradesh.
 - iii. As per the Site Inspection Report (SIR) of DFO and the CCF, Singrouli Forest Division it is reported that "the Forest Compartment No. RF 276, 281, PF-277, 278 and 279 which are proposed for diversion under Singrouli Forest Division are falling in the Elephant Corridor as per the Forest Division prevailing working scheme".
 - iv. The state govt. has intimated that in another proposal of 467.809 ha pertaining to Dudhichua mine and 390.264 ha pertaining to Bina Kankri the Chief Wildlife warden has opined that the said corridor has been fragmented and the proposed area is also a part of the same landscape. Further the NCL had earlier deposited an amount of 2134 lakhs for wildlife management in the given landscape. The Project Elephant Division of this Ministry has also submitted the comments stating that, there are no elephant corridors located in the above mentioned compartments as per the document "Right of Passage" in which elephant corridors have been identified and listed across the country.
 - v. The DSS analysis also revealed that the proposed area falls in a landscape wherein a 'W' shaped area is already broken/worked out and eastern side of this landscape is flanked by the Renusagar Dam.
 - vi. The State govt. has clarified that the safety zone on the boundary of adjoining mining leases has not been maintained because when exposed from both sides, the coal deposits are burnt up due to exothermic reaction which eventually damages the vegetation as well.
 - vii. A total number of 210237 trees are getting affected by the diversion, whereas out of 631.39 ha. area proposed, only 73.023 ha. is required for coal mining and the major chunk of the area is proposed for the overburden dump. The large number of trees involved can be saved if the area required for the overburden dump is reduced. The cost should not be the limiting factor in selecting the area for dumping and the

possibility of using the non-forest land or the already broken up/excavated area for dumping is required to be explored.

3. Decision of the FAC:

After detailed discussion with the Regional Officer and IRO Bhopal the FAC decided that the proposal for using the disproportionate area for overburden dump call for a physical visit and directed that a sub-committee of the FAC or a committee from the Ministry shall visit the area for detailed analysis of the proposal and submit a detailed fact finding report before the FAC.

Agenda No. 2

File No. 8-09/2021-FC

Sub: Diversion of 67.00 ha. of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for relocation of Village Jhalai Part-1 from Bori Sanctuary, District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/EVC/51681/2020)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting held on 26.11.2021. The details of the proposal may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the factual details along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented before the FAC which after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, vide letter No. F-5/999/2021/10-11/1050 dated 17.03.2021 submitted the above proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - ii. The process of relocating the families residing in the Jhalai village out of the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary has been completed and after the proposed diversion no more forest land will be required for the purpose.
 - iii. The 29 families included in the Jhalai- Part 1 proposal have already been rehabilitated in 33.5 ha of forest land approved in case of Mana-2 Village. The 67 ha. area proposed now is for providing agricultural land to the said 29 families. It has been mentioned that the village to be relocated is within the Bori Wildlife sanctuary.
 - iv. The Chief Wildlife Warden Madhya Pradesh and the Field Director Satpura Tiger Reserve who attended the meeting online, intimated that the village being relocated is within the core of the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - v. It was further intimated that apart from area required to be given to eligible families, the area is also required for community use such as schools, anganwadi, community buildings, temples, sports grounds, internal roads in the village, land for access roads to the fields etc. which has been proposed keeping in view the ground situation.
 - vi. The State Govt. has not given the detailed breakup of the area being vacated, however it has been submitted that as per record prepared during the survey of forest villages in 1980 and the list of villages attached with the core/critical tiger habitat area notified in 2007, the relocation of village Jhalai has made available an area of 493.330 ha.
 - vii. 22 families of village Jhalai-2 have been rehabilitated over 49.452 ha area diverted for Village Mana-1. An area of 215.00 ha was diverted for forest village Mana Part-1. Out of 69 families of Village Mana Part-1, the 46 families have been rehabilitated and 23