

**Sub: Diversion of 93.58 ha of Revenue forest land in Amgaon OC Mine in favour of SECL in District Surajpur, Chhattisgarh.**

1. The State Government of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F-5-21/2018/10-2 dated 16.10.2018 (**Pg.1-540/c**) submitted the above mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The facts related to the proposal as contained in the State Government's letter dated 16.10.2018 are given below in the form of fact sheet.

**FACT SHEET**

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 93.58 ha of Revenue forest land in Amgaon OC Mine in favour of SECL in District Surajpur, Chhattisgarh.
2.	Location (i) State (ii) District	Chhattisgarh Surajpur
3.	Particulars of Forests: (i) Name of Forest Division and Forest area involved. (ii) Legal status/Sy.No. (iii) Map	Surajpur Forest Division 93.58 ha  93.58 ha Revenue forest land  ---
4.	Topography of the area	
5.	(i) Geology	
	(ii) Vulnerability to erosion	Not vulnerable to erosion
6.	Density of Vegetation	Less than 0.4
7.	Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class-wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed).	The details of Flora and Fauna are given and placed in file at <b>pg.156-162/c</b> . A total No. of 2221 trees are enumerated(Pg.1/c).The species-wise details may kindly be seen at <b>pg.338-349/c</b> .
8.	Whether forms part of National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. (if so, details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed).	-No-
9.	Whether any RET species of flora and fauna are found in the area. If so details thereof	-No-
10.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	0.5 km. (Approx.)
11.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.	-No-
12.	Whether any work of in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	-No-

13.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project, if no recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	-Yes-
14.	Whether clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is required?	Yes, A copy of Environment Clearance granted by MoEF& CC in 2009 is given.
15.	<b>Compensatory Afforestation</b>	
	(i) Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for CA, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patches.	188.00 ha of double degraded land has been identified Surajpur range and Ramanujnagar range
	(ii) Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for CA and adjoining forest boundaries.	Given(Pg.55-56/c)
	(iii) Detailed CA scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	Compensatory afforestation scheme mentioning all details enclosed with the diversion proposal (Pg.359-383/c),
	(iv) Total financial outlay for CA Scheme	Rs. 84779728/-
	(v) Certificate from the competent authority regarding suitability of the area identified for CA and from management point of view.	Duly signed certificates regarding suitability for compensatory afforestation are given and may kindly be seen at pg.353-354/c .
16.	Catchment Area Treatment	Not Applicable
17.	Rehabilitation of Oustees a) No of families involved b) Category of families c) Details of rehabilitation plan	254
18.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for 93.58 ha has been submitted (Pg.464-496/c).
19.	Total Cost of the Project	Rs. 332800000.00
20.	Total period for which the forest land proposed for diversion is required by the user agency	26 years
21.	Employment Potential	Permanent/Regular Employment: 200. Temporary Employment : 200
22.	Cost benefit Analysis	1:11.99(Pg.351-352/c)
23.	<b>Recommendations:</b> i. DFO ii. CF/CCF iii. Nodal Officer/PCCF iv SG	Recommended (Pg.434-437/c) Recommended (Pg.426-427/c)&(Pg.438/c) <b>Recommended with conditions(Pg.439/c)</b> Recommended (Pg.440/c)
24.	District Profile (i) Total Geographical area of the district (ii) Total Forest area/Divisional Forest area (iii) Total area diverted since 1980 (iv) Total CA stipulated since 1980 a. Forest land including penal CA b. Non Forest Land	5181.588 Sq.Km. 1761.930 Sq.Km. 2141.715 Ha. / 20 Nos. 3517.587 Ha 3450.702 Ha. 66.885 ha

3. The PCCF recommended the proposal subject to following conditions:

- (i) The protection plan as given for gas/fuel supply to the labourers and the staff working at the site to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas shall be implemented;
- (ii) It may ensure that Residential building to the staff working at the site shall be constructed on non-forest land, to avoid temp. Construction on forest land.
- (iii) A monitoring committee comprising a member DFO concerned in accordance with Govt. policies may be constituted for implementation of Reclamation Plan.
- (v) The safety zone shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost by erecting six feet high barbed wire fencing.

4. The proposal was considered in FAC meeting held on 19.12.2018, and decided that the Regional Office, Nagpur of this Ministry inspect the forest land proposed for diversion for further action.

5. Ministry vide its letter dated 20.12.2018 (Pg 541/c) requested the Regional Office, Nagpur to carry out site inspection the forest land proposed for diversion.

6. Now, Regional Office, Nagpur vide their letter no. FC-SG-25/RON/2018-NGP/4772 dated 11.01.2019 (Pg-542-567/c) submitted Site Inspection Report (SIR) along with annexure. The SIR is reproduced below:

(i) **Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

Sl. No.	Village	number of forest patches	District	Forest Division	Range	Legal status	Total (Ha)
1.	Salhi	39	Surajpur	Surajpur	Ramanujam Nagar	Revenue Forest	46.78
2.	Patna	60					46.65
3.	Kot	1					0.15
<b>Total</b>							<b>93.58</b>

(ii) **Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

The project proponent has already been carried out mining in their existing lease area with infrastructure setup, Hence, PP has submitted that additional area is not required for infrastructure facilities; the entire Revenue Forest land shall be used for mining activities only.

(iii) **Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:**

No construction activities will be involved in the proposed revenue forest land.

(iv) **Total cost of the project at present rates:**

Rs. 3927.30 Lakhs (As submitted by PP)

(v) **Wildlife:**

**Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:**The important of proposed revenue forest could be viewed less from the wildlife point of view. The entire 93.58 ha revenue forest areas are not adjoining together which are scattered into 100 patches in between government and agricultural lands. The flora, fauna and density of revenue forest are very less. Further, no wild life sanctuaries, national parks and protected areas situated within 10 KM radius of this proposed site and no endangered, unique species of flora and fauna are observed during the site inspection. Tree species of Sal, *Shorearobusta*, Imli *Tamarindussp*, Bija Sal, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, Dhawra, *Anogeissuslatifolia*, Amla, *Phyllanthusemplica* and *Terminalia arjunawere* observed. Further, DFO, Surajpur has certified the list of trees in the proposed area. No animals were observed during site inspection.

**a. Details of total number of trees to be felled is given under:**

As submitted by PP, the total number of trees affected in this proposed area is 2221. The species and their girth wise details are given in (Annexure-3:Pg.555/c).

**b. Effect of removal trees on the general ecosystem in the area:**

The removal of trees in the proposed area may have impact on its ecosystem. It may loss its habitat and diversity. The surface of proposed forest area is not a plain and it is undulated terrain. So soil erosion may be possible when sudden rainfall and flooding occur in this area. Therefore, PP needs to take necessary steps to reduce the sudden run off by providing contour bunds, porous barrier, concrete structures etc., if necessary.

**(vi) Background on the proposal:**

Initially, the proposal was submitted to Ministry on 11.11.2005 for forest clearance (Proposal no. FP/CG/MIN/15479/2005 & SSR/SAR/SSR/SSR/2005/014 dated 29.11.2005) by user agency through state government. The user agency did not progress further for obtaining forest clearance due to difficulties in identifying the status of proposed forest land and other administrative reasons. Again, the State Government of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F-5-21/2018/10-2 dated 16.10.2018 submitted the above mentioned proposal to Ministry for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (F.No: FP/CG/MIN/15479/2005) for 93.58 ha.

In this connection, a letter no. 8-74/2018-FC dated 20.12.2018 is received from Ministry for requesting regional office, Nagpur to inspect the forest land proposed for diversion. In this connection a site visit has been carried out by Regional office on 04.01.2019 & 05.01.2019.

Further, the PP has been accorded Environmental clearance approval for production level of 1 MTPA by the MoEF vide letter No. J-11015/403/2008-IA.II(M) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 in their existing mining area (**Annexure-4:Pg.556-561/c**). The production level of the mine so far is 0.90 MTPA. Now the mine is not operational due to some portion of the coal bearing area is falling in the forest areas for which forest clearance is mandatory. Further, PP submitted that currently 19 MT of mineable reserve is available in the Amgaon OCP lease hold area as on 01.01.2019.

Therefore, in order to meet the coal demand of Indian industries, PP has now submitted proposal for forest clearance.

**(vii) Compensatory afforestation:**

**a. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not :**

Yes. The land allocated for compensatory afforestation is suitable for plantation.

**b. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other encumbrances:**

The land allocated for compensatory afforestation is in two patches and encroachment free

**c. Whether land for compensatory a forestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**

The allocated CA land is not important from Religious / Archaeological point of view.

**d. Land identified for raising compensatory a forestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

The CA land has been proposed in two patches which are good for raising plantation. These patches are not adjoining together:

Patch	Forest Division	Compartment No.	Area of the land (Ha. )
Patch-1	Saharpur	PF-1632	86.64
Patch-2		PF-1175	101.36

**e. Map with details:** Differential GPS map of the area identified for CA for all two patches along with its km/shapes files has been submitted along with the proposal.

**f. Total financial outlay:**

Financial provisions for raising and maintaining CA for 10 years to the tune of Rs. 660244.00 per Ha have been provided (As submitted by PP).

**(viii) Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:**

No violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been committed by the User Agency and no encroachment has been found in the forest land proposed for diversion. The forest land is partially surrounded by the mining activities

**(ix) Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest:**

No rehabilitation has been reported by the User Agency. The representative of the User Agency clarified that no rehabilitation is required from the forest area of 93.58 Ha of Revenue Forest land.

**(x) Reclamation Plan: Annexure-5(Pg.562-563/c)**

**(xi) Details on catchment and command area under the project: NA**

**(xii) Cost benefit ratio: 1 : 9.906**

**(xiii) Recommendations of the Principal Conservator of Forests/State Government :Annexure-6 (Pg.564/c)**

**(xiv) Recommendations of Regional Chief Conservator of Forests along with detail reasons: Annexure-7**

**(xv) Addl. Principal Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:**

The area proposed for diversion is spread over 100 small-small patches. The area is highly degraded and on an average there are about 25 trees per ha. Whole of the area is Revenue Forest. The user agency has already taken up open cast mining in the non-forest area in between these patches and now mining operations are left only in forest area. Under the circumstances mentioned above the area is recommended for diversion.

The user agency may be instructed to transplant small regenerations available in the area on the over burden dumps and backfilled areas.

**(xvi) Utility of the project. Numbers of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project: NA**

**(xvii) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion.**

It is informed by the representative of the User Agency that land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

**(xviii) Situation w.r.t. any P.A**

There is no protected area and no national park wild life sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor Wildlife Migration, Corridor etc. located within 10 Km from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion.

**(xix) Any other information relating to the project: The number of trees to be felled in the proposed area is not marked properly. Hence, proper counting of trees is required with marking before issuing of forest land to user agency.**

In view of above, the facts related to the proposal may be placed before FAC in its next meeting scheduled to be held on 21.02.2019 for their examination and appropriate recommendation.

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