

**Sub: Diversion of 29.41 ha of forest land (20.89 ha fresh forest land and 8.52 ha of forest land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha for Kulda OCP of Mahanandi Coalfields Ltd.) in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY) by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.**

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. 10F (Cons) 91/2016/16137/F&E dated 29.08.2016 submitted above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The facts contained in the State Government's letter dated 29.08.2016 are given below in the form of fact sheet:

**FACT SHEET**

<b>1.</b>	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 29.41 ha of forest land (20.89 ha fresh forest land and 8.52 ha of forest land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha for Kulda OCP of Mahanandi Coalfields Ltd.) in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY) by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
<b>2.</b>	Location <b>(i)</b> State <b>(ii)</b> District	Odisha Sundargarh
<b>3.</b>	Particulars of Forests: <b>(i)</b> Name of Forest Division and Forest area involved.  <b>(ii)</b> Legal status/Sy.No.	Sundargarh Forest Division Revenue Forest (Gramya jungle) 28.04 ha Reserved Forest 1.37 ha 29.41 ha  Gramya Jungle and Reserved Forest
<b>4.</b>	Vulnerability to erosion	The terrain of the proposed area is slightly undulating and slightly susceptible to erosion.
<b>5.</b>	<b>(i)</b> Species  <b>(ii)</b> Density  <b>(iii)</b> No. of trees enumerated/to be actually felled	Tropical dry deciduous Forest in degraded condition. The comprises of (Sal) Shorea robusta (Asan) Terminalia tomentosa (Kendu) Diospyros melanoxylon (Char) Buchanania lanzan (Mahul) Madhuca indica (Bheru) Chloroxylon swietenia (Palas) Butea monosperma (Kurei) Holarrhena antidysenterica (Dhatki) Woodfordia fruticose (Khakada) Casearia elliptica/tomentosa (Sidha) Lagerstroemia parviflora (Amla) Emblica officinalis (Kochila) Strychnos nux-vomica (Dharua) Anogeissus Latifolia. <b>(Pg-131/c)</b>  0.2 for both Reserve Forest & revenue Forest  958 nos of trees are involved to be felled for the project. This has some impact over the eco system which will compensated through compensatory afforestation and plantation in and around the project site (15 plots) <b>(pg-132/c)</b>

6.	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	The applied area does not fall within ambit of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
7.	Whether any RET species of flora and fauna are found in the area. If so details thereof	There is no such rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna noticed in the project area. <b>Occasionally one or two elephants pass through the area during paddy harvesting season.</b>
8.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	The project site for Basundhara Coal Washery is passing through the Gramya Jungle of 03 Villages covering 28.04 ha of Revenue Forests & 1.37 ha of Reserve Forest.
9.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.	No
10.	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
11.	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.	The requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the Mining purpose.
12.	Whether clearance under the Environment (protection) Act, 1986 is required?	Yes Not given
13.	Compensatory Afforestation	
	(i) Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for CA, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patches.	58.82 ha of <b>degraded forest land</b> has been identified in Regedakhhol RF of Sundargarh Forest Division in Gopalpur Range.
	(ii) Detailed CA scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	CA scheme has been submitted by the State Government. CA has been proposed over 58.82 ha in degraded forest land <b>(Pg-139-158/c)</b>
	(iii) Total financial outlay for CA	Rs. 67,92,000.00 <b>(pg-149/-)</b>
	(iv) Certificate from the competent authority regarding suitability of the area identified for CA and from management point of view.	DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has certified that degraded forest land identified at Regedakhhol RF of Gopalpur Range, Sundargarh Forest Division is suitable for Compensatory afforestation. <b>(pg-148/c)</b>
14.	Catchment Area Treatment	NA

15.	Rehabilitation of Oustees a) No of families involved b) Category of families c) Details of rehabilitation plan	83 families SC- 16, ST- 28, others- 39 <b>(Copy of R&amp;R plan is not provided by the State Government)</b>
16.	Employment likely to be generated a) Whether the project is likely to generate employment b) Permanent/ Regular Employment (Number of person) c) Temporary Employment (Number of person-days)	Yes <b>(pg-63/c)</b>  700  0
17.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 certificate for an area of 29.41 ha alongwith the copy pallisabha meeting resolution has been submitted. <b>(Pg-14-51/c). However, the FRA is not given in original.</b>
18.	Site Inspection Report by DFO	<b>Site inspection Report Pg-131-132/c</b>
19.	Cost Benefit Ratio	1:120 <b>(pg-95-96/c)</b>
20.	Total Cost of the Project	Rs 33472 (Rupees in lacs) (Pg-59/c)
21.	Recommendation	
	DCF	Recommended <b>(Pg-127/c)</b>
	RCCF	May be <b>considered for approval under section -2 for Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on its own merit.</b> (Pg-128/c)
	PCCF	Recommended <b>(Pg-129/c)</b>
	SG	Recommended <b>(Pg-130/c)</b>
22.	District Profile (i) Total Geographical area of the district (ii) (iii) Total Forest area/ Divisional Forest area  (iv) Total area diverted since 1980  (v) Total CA stipulated since 1980 (Forest land) a. Forest land including penal CA b. Non Forest Land  (vi) Progress of Compensatory Afforestation a. Forest land b. Non Forest land	3576.39 Sq. Km   1720.13 Sq. Km  752.049 ha (23 nos cases)   1265.386 ha 301.980 ha   966.896 ha 241.532 ha <b>(pg-134/c)</b>

3. The proposal was considered by the **FAC in its meeting held on 28.02.2017 and the committee observed that:**

- i. The project is located in the Sundargarh Forest Division, Sundargarh District.
- ii. The legal status of the forest land is Gramya Jungle and Reserved Forest.
- iii. It is reported that the terrain of the proposed area is slightly undulating and slightly susceptible to erosion.
- iv. Vegetation density of the area is 0.2. The area is tropical dry deciduous Forest in degraded condition. The comprises of (Sal) Shorea robusta (Asan) Terminalia tomentosa (Kendu) Diospyros melanoxylon (Char) Buchanania lanzan (Mahul) Madhuca indica (Bheru) Chloroxylon swietenia (Palas) Butea monosperma (Kurei) Holarrhena antidysenterica (Dhatki) Woodfordia fruticose (Khakada) Casearia elliptica/tomentosa (Sidha) Lagerstroemia parviflora (Amla) Emblica officinalis (Kochila) Strychnos nux-vomica (Dharua) Anogeissus Latifolia etc.
- v. It is reported that there are 958 nos of trees are involved to be felled for the project. This has some impact over the eco system which will compensated through compensatory afforestation and plantation in and around the project site (15 plots)
- vi. The project site for Basundhara Coal Washery is passing through the Gramya Jungle of 03 Villages covering 28.04 ha of Revenue Forests & 1.37 ha of Reserve Forest.
- vii. The proposed area does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
- viii. There is no such rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna noticed in the project area. **Occasionally one or two elephants pass through the area during paddy harvesting season.**
- ix. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
- x. It is reported that no work of violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out.
- xi. It is reported that the requirement of land is unavoidable and barest minimum for the Mining purpose.
- xii. It is reported that it has been informed by Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha that MCL has applied for public hearing on 29.2.2016. Collector, Sundargarh has been requested by SPCB to fix the schedule/venue for public hearing. Proposal for CTE was placed before the Consent Committee of SPCB on 31.3.2016. The Committee recommended for grant of CTE after submission of certain documents/information. MCL has complied partly so far. They have been reminded to furnish the balance information. Since the project has not obtained CTE and EC yet, they have not applied for CTO of SPCB. **Therefore, operation of the Basundhara coal washery will be subject to availability of environmental clearance of MoEF&CC and CTE/CTO of SPCB, Odisha.**
- xiii. It is reported that as per para 3.2 (vii) of guidelines under Forest Conservation Act, 1980, degraded forest land twice in extent i.e. 58.82 ha has been identified in Regedakhhol Reserved Forest of Gopalpur Range under Sundargarh Forest Division in lieu of 29.41 ha. of forest land proposed for diversion for this project. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh has furnished land suitability certificate pertaining to identified degraded forest land for raising compensatory afforestation. The DFO, Sundargarh has also certified that identified land for CA to be free from encroachment. The DGPS map of land identified for CA verified by ORSAC and authenticated by DFO, Sundargarh. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh has prepared a site specific compensatory afforestation scheme in ANR plantation mode of 200 plant per hectare for identified degraded forest land under his jurisdiction with a financial outlay of Rs. 67,92,000/- including the cost of maintenance of Compensatory afforestation of 10 years as per government of India, MoEF guidelines F. No. 11-168/2009-FC(Pt) dt. 14.2.2002 as per latest wage rate of Rs. 200/- per day. Besides plantation, the scheme has provisions for barbed wire fencing and soil conservation measures. The species selected for plantation under the scheme are Am la, Bahada, Harida, Neem, Simaruba, Teak, Bamboo, Karanja etc. This scheme has got technical approval of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Forest Diversion)& Nodal Officer, FC Act. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.
- xiv. DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has given the suitability certificate for CA land.

- xv. The compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for an area of 29.41 ha alongwith the copy pallisabha meeting resolution has been submitted.
- xvi. It is reported that this project involves displacement of human habitation. 83 nos. of families including 16 nos. of SC category, 28 nos. of ST category and 39 nos. belonging to other category are to be displaced for the project. The User Agency has submitted the copy of the draft Rehabilitation and Resettlement Action Plan. The R&R Plan has been reportedly submitted to Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India for approval. The User Agency has also furnished an undertaking to submit the approval letter of MoTA, GOI. **Therefore, operation of the project shall be subject to propel resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families as per approved R&R Policy.**
- xvii. Cost benefit ratio of the project is 1:120 .
- xviii. Total cost of the project is Rs. 33,472 (Rupees in lacs).
- xix. It is reported that there are 83 families (SC- 16, ST- 28, others- 39) will be displaced due to this project. **Copy of R&R plan is not provided by the State Government.**
- xx. It is reported by the State Government that Coal based Power Plants continue to play a major role in power generation in our country. About 70% of country's power requirement is generated from coal-based Power Plants.
- xxi. The quality of the coal to be used for generation of power is an important aspect in this context. Till recently all non-coking coal produced in the country was consumed as such for power generation.
- xxii. High ash content in the coal supplied to the Power Plants not only causes environmental hazards but also leads to poor performance of Power Plants. It also involves high cost for operation & maintenance of Plants and problems in disposal of ash.
- xxiii. **Based on review made by MoEF, use of beneficiated/blended coal containing ash not more than 34 percent in Power Plants was stipulated vide GSR 560 (E) & GSR 378 (E) dated 19th September 1997 and 30th June 1998.** Coal beneficiation is a process by which the quality of raw coal is improved by either reducing the extraneous matter that gets extracted along with the mined coal or reducing the associated ash or both. Demand for appropriate quality of coking coal is also on the rise in steel making. This has also prompted the coking coal producers in India to go for washing of extracted coal. **Ministry of Coal has also identified coal washing as an important value addition to boost the economy as well as for improving environment.**
- xxiv. Accordingly the comprehensive Action Plan prepared for MCL envisaged augmentation of washed non-coking coal production and suggested to install new non-coking coal washeries.
- xxv. Basundhara Coal Washery is one such coal Washery decided to be set up on Build, Operate and Maintain (BOM) basis with raw coal throughput capacity of 10 MTY at Kulda OCP of Basundhara Area in the Ib-Valley Coalfields of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd in Sundargarh district of Odisha to supply clean coal of consistent quality and size to Thermal Power Plants. The Board of Directors of MCL in their 102<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 14.12.2008 at New Delhi, had approved the Techno Economical Feasibility Report(TEFR) of Basundhara Coal Washery (10MTY) on Build, Operate and Maintain(BOM) basis at a capital investment of Rs. 16579.73 lakhs).
- xxvi. **This proposed Basundhara Coal Washery and clean coal corridor project of MCL requires total area of 43.90 ha, that includes 29.41 ha is forest land 14.49 ha is non-forest land 29.41 ha. of forest land required for the project is comprising of 28.04 ha. of revenue forest land and 1.37ha. of Pandripani Reserved Forests. 28.04 ha. of revenue forest land is spread over three villages of Bankibahal, Balinga and Kushara of Hemgiri Tahasil of Sundargarh district. Similarly, 14.49 ha. of non-forest land required for the project includes 4.33ha of Govt. non forest land and 10.16 ha of tenancy land existing in above mentioned three villages.**
- xxvii. It has been reported that administrative approval has been accorded for acquisition of private land in village Kuisira for Basundhara Coal Washery of MCL by Ministry of Coal, GoI vide their Notification No. 43026/201/2016-RRW dt. 18.1.2016.
- xxviii. As reported by the PCCF, Odisha in his forwarding letter as well as in Part-IV of the application, 29.41 ha. of forest land required for the proposed coal washery project requires diversion of 20.89 ha. of fresh forest land (1.37 ha. RF + 19.52 ha. of Revenue forest land) and re-diversion of 8.52 ha. of already diverted forest land in village Bankibahal located within the diverted forest land of

227.89 ha of forest land of Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd vide Ministry 's letter no. F.No.8-176/1997-FC dated 08.08.2007.

- xxix.** The land schedule of forest land proposed diversion/re-diversion duly authenticated by the Tahasildar, Hemgiri and DFO, Sundargarh. Similarly, land schedule of non-forest/tenanted land required for the project authenticated by the Tahasildar, Hemgiri. Tehsildar, Hemgiri has also certified the status of land required for the project as on 25.10.1980.
- xxx.** It is reported that this project being **non-site specific in nature**, feasibility and viability of three number of alternative sites for construction of Basundhara coal Washery should have been explored as per provisions of para 2.1 (3) of the FC Act guidelines to ensure avoiding/least use of forest land.
- xxxii.** The user agency had justified location of the project at the instant site, has indicated that there is no alternative site for the proposed project. The proposed washery is linked to Kulda OCP and lies adjacent to the mine. Proposal site for washery is due to its locational advantage, availability of railway network, water.
- xxxiii.** PCCF, Odisha in his letter No. 15147 dt. 5.8.2016 has informed that Basundhara Washery is planned for the washing of coal from the mines at pit head to avoid dust pollution during the transportation of coal to washery. Present site is therefore considered as suitable place in the vicinity of Basundhara OCP.
- xxxiiii.** It is requested by the State Government that since it is an infrastructure project being installed to produce washed coal at pit head for feeding the Thermal Power Plants in order to improve the Power crunch situation in the State/country, MoEF&CC, ERO may consider the present site for the project without insisting for alternative sites.
- xxxv.** This proposed Basundhara Coal Washery of MCL requires total area of 43.90 ha, that includes 29.41 ha is forest land 14.49 ha is non-forest land. 29.41ha. of forest land required for the project is comprising of 28.04 ha. Of revenue forest land and 1.37ha. of Pandripani Reserved Forests. 28.04ha. of revenue forest land is spread over three villages of Bankibahal, Balinga and Kushara of Hemgiri Tahsil of Sundargarh district. 29.41 ha. of forest land required for the proposed coal washery project requires diversion of 20.89 ha. of fresh forest land (1.37ha. RF + 19.52 ha. of Revenue forest land) and re-diversion of 8.52 ha. of already diverted forest land in village Bankibahal locaed within the earlier diverted forest land of 227.89 ha. of forest land of Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd for the purpose of infrastructure. **The break -up of forest land required for the project is furnished below:**

<b>1</b>	Reserved Forest	Pandirpani	1.37	-	1.37
<b>2.</b>	Revenue Forest	ankibahal	16.17	8.52	24.69
		Kushara	1.53	-	1.53
		Balinga	1.82	-	1.82
		<b>Total</b>	<b>20.89</b>	<b>8.52</b>	<b>29.41</b>

(i) **Purpose wise break up of land for the project is furnished below:**

<b>Sl.no.</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Forest Land ha</b>	<b>Non-Forest Land in ha</b>	<b>Total land in ha.</b>
<b>1</b>	Coal Washery	18.07	1.25	19.32
<b>2</b>	Clean Coal Conider	10.81	10.21	21.02
<b>3</b>	Reject conveying Road	0.53	0.32	0.85
<b>4</b>	Reject Storage Site	0	2.71	2.71
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29.41</b>	<b>14.49</b>	<b>43.90</b>

- (ii) **The user agency shall prepare the site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan as per guidelines of CWL W, Odisha to be approved by PCCF(WL)&CWL W, Odisha for its execution at project cost. The lessee has furnished undertakings to bear the cost of SSWLCP**
- (iii) The proposal has been recommended for approval under section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by DFO, PCCF and the State Government.
- (iv) RCCF has given comments that proposal may be **considered for approval under section -2 for Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on its own merit.**
- (v) The State Govt. recommended this proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a) The Collector, Sundargarh shall furnish detailed compliance of FRA guidelines of MoEF&CC pertaining to forest land proposed for diversion.
  - b) Operation of the project shall be subject to proper resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families as per approved R&R Policy.
  - c) Operation of the Basundhara coal washery will be subject to availability of valid environmental clearance of MoEF&CC and CTE/CTO of SPCB, Odisha
  - d) User agency shall prepare the site-specific Wildlife Conservation Plan as per guidelines of CWLW, Odisha to be approved PCCF (WL) & CWLW, odisha for its execution at project cost.
  - e) Updated State profile for this project duly signed by Add. PCCF (Forest Diversion) & Nodal officer, FC Act shall be furnished.

4. **Recommendation of FAC on 28.02.2017:** The FAC after thorough deliberation recommended that:
- (i) State government shall submit copy of R&R plan duly approved by competent authority.
  - (ii) The layout of proposed washery shall be changed to the extent that the patch of forest coming under proposed land for diversion could be avoided
  - (iii) CA site shall be revised.
5. Ministry vide its letter dated 28.03.2017(**Pg.213/c**) communicated the above recommendation of FAC to the State Government.
6. State Government vide their letter no. 10F (Cons) 91/2016/24458/F&E dated 12.11.2018 (**Pg.214-313/c**) submitted point wise reply on the observation made by Ministry's letter dated 28.03.2017. The details are as under:

S. No.	Observation made by MoEF&CC	Reply from the State Government
i.	State government shall submit copy of R&R plan duly approved by competent authority.	In this regard, it is reported by the State Govt. that the User Agency has submitted the R&R Plan of Basundhara Washery duly approved by the Collector, Sundargarh as communicated by Land Acquisition Officer, Sundergarh vide his letter No.15 dtd.03.01.2018 ( <b>pg. 218-222/c</b> ).
ii.	The layout of proposed washery shall be changed to the extent that the patch of forest coming under proposed land for diversion could be avoided.	In this regard, it is reported by the State Govt. that it has been reported that the proposed Basundhara washery is linked to Kulda OCP and it lies adjacent to the said mine. The selection of the Site for setting up of the Basundhara Coal washery is owing to its proximity to the Kulda OCP, the railway line and the availability of water from Basundhara (E) Quarry. Total extent of forest land sought to be diverted in the instant proposal to establish coal washery is 29.41 ha (20.89 ha fresh land and 8.52 ha of forest land to be re-diverted out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha of Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Cola Fields Ltd). In view of observations

		<p>made by the FAC in the above context, the DFO, Sundargarh Division has reported that a field survey of the patch of forest which was to be avoided as suggested by the FAC, was conducted by the survey team of MCL along with Range Officer, Gopalpur Range. It was found that a patch forest is having an area of 3.02 ha. which is Revenue forest land. In the above context, it is to state that it was earlier reported that 958 no. of trees comprising of 749 no. of trees in forest area and 209 trees in non-forest land has been enumerated in all in the entire project area. As per the latest survey, it has been ascertained that total no. of trees existing in the patch of revenue forest area of 3.02 ha. in question is only 109. The DFO, Sundargarh Division has further reported that as per the plan of action, the total no. of trees to be removed from the above mentioned patch of forest land for the construction of Conveyor Belt line is 06 nos. whereas no. of trees likely to be cut for construction of road comes to 22 nos, which is considered very minimal.</p> <p>Further, it has been reported by DFO, Sundergarh that as per Infrastructure Master Plan of BG area IB Valley coalfields, Basundhara area is lying adjacent to the proposed Basundhara Washery. Also Coal Washeries for Siarmal OCP to the tune of 40 MTY and Garjanbahal OCP to the tune of 10 MTY (both belonging to MCL) are to come up in the near future for which acquisition of land is already in progress. The Master Plan Map of Basundhara Area showing all the mines and rail infrastructure submitted by the General Manager, MCL, Basundhara Area is enclosed herewith as <b>Annexure-II (pg. 265/c) for reference.</b></p> <p>Based on the report of the DFO, Sundargarh Division and RCCF, Rourkela, it has been reported by PCCF, Odisha that if the location of Basundhara Washery is changed towards the left, it would cover more forest area than the forest area being proposed for diversion in the existing location. Besides, it's location can also not be changed towards the west due to the fact that other Coal Washeries, as mentioned above, are planned to be set up in the near future. The report of DFO, Sundargarh addressed to RCCF, Rourkela bearing No. 6699 dt. 27.9.2018 along with field verification report, tree enumeration list is enclosed as <b>Annexure-III (pg. 266-288/c).</b></p> <p>In view of above, observation of F AC for changing the layout of proposed washery involving a patch of revenue forest area of 3.02ha. may not be insisted upon.</p>
iii.	CA site shall be revised.	In this regard, it is reported by the State Govt. that it is to state that the CA scheme furnished along with forest diversion proposal involving an area of 58.82



		<p>ha.(twice of 29.41 ha. of forest land proposed for diversion as per para 3.2(vii) of FC Act guidelines) in Regedakhhol RF of Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Forest Division in ANR mode of plantation of 200 trees/ha. can have only 11764 plants (58.82 ha x 200 seedlings). In view of observations of FAC as well as recent guidelines dt. 8.11.2017 of MoEF&amp;CC in the matter of CA, planting of 1,000 nos. of seedlings per ha pertaining 20.89 ha of fresh forest land being diverted is required to be raised/planted. Therefore 9,126(20,890-11,764) no. of plants are to be raised as against this forest diversion proposal over more extent of degraded forest land to be identified by Forest Department. Accordingly a patch of degraded forest land of 51.194 ha.( effective area of 46 ha. for raising plantation) has been identified in Singaribahal RF of Hemgiri Range of Sundargarh division and subsequently verified through DSS. The DFO, Sundargarh has furnished the suitability certificate pertaining to degraded forest land so identified. As per DSS report, additional requirement of 9126 nos. of plants can be raised in ANR model @200 seedlings per ha. The DGPS survey of the forest patch in Singaribahal RF has also been carried out and duly authenticated by ORSAC. The DGPS map of degraded forest land and treatment plan are attached to the additional CA scheme along with its shape file. The shape file of degraded forest land identified in Regedakhhol RF is also attached to the CA scheme for reference.</p> <p>The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh has prepared a site specific compensatory afforestation scheme in ANR plantation mode of 200 plants per hectare for identified degraded forest land under his jurisdiction which has been technically approved by Addl. PCCF (Forest Diversion) &amp; Nodal officer, FC Act with a financial outlay of Rs.28,43,800/- including the cost of maintenance of Compensatory afforestation of 10 years as per latest wage rate of Rs. 224.30/- per day. Besides plantation, the scheme has provisions for vegetative fencing and soil conservation measures. The species selected for plantation under the scheme <i>Amla, Bahada, Neem, Karanja, Dhaura, Sissoo, Kasi, Asan, Bel, Bija, Arjuna Bamboo</i> etc. The User Agency shall bear the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme. The duly approved CA Scheme is enclosed as <b>Annexure IV (pg.289-313/c)</b>.</p>
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7. The instant proposal has also been analyzed by the DSS Cell of this division and their report may kindly see at **F/X**. The major observations are as under:

(i) **In case of Forest Land applied for Diversion:** Calculated area of proposed forest land applied for diversion is found 29.63 Ha. There is No WLS/ NP/TR/ Tiger corridor is located within 10Km radius of proposed Mining Lease. Settlement and road is visible inside the proposed forest land for diversion. **Some part of proposed diverted land is falling on river.** Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 26 ha. as Open Forest, 3 ha. as scrub and 1 ha. of land as Non Forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2015) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2013-2014.

(ii) **In case of Compensatory Afforestation Land:** Calculated area of land proposed for CA as given earlier was found 59 ha. Out of total forest area proposed for diversion, 2 ha. as Moderately Dense Forest and 57 ha. as Open Forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2015) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2013-2014. Dense Tree Cover depicted in Land proposed for CA as per Google Earth Imagery dated 8/12/2016.

Based on FAC recommendation on 28.02.2017, Government of Odisha vide their letter no. 10F(Cons)91/2016/24458/F&E dated 12.11.18 has sent their reply along with CD containing the KML files and DGPS map of additional CA land. As per the findings of the DSS cell regarding additional CA land, the additional CA land is located in Sundargarh district of Odisha State and Legal status of additional Compensatory Afforestation land can't be ascertained due to the unavailability of RFA boundary on DSS, and the calculated area of additional CA site is found 51.194 ha. Based on High Resolution Google Earth Imagery dated 12.11.2016, it has been observed that additional CA land (Patch-B) partially covered with moderately dense tree cover whereas the CA land (area: 59 Ha.) submitted earlier is covered with dense tree cover as per Google Earth Imagery dated 8/12/2016 (mentioned in DSS report). Out of total area for CA, 38 ha. of land is characterized with Open Forest and 14 ha. of land as Non Forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2015) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2013-2014.

The facts related to the above proposal may be placed before FAC in its next meeting to be held on 15th January, 2018 for their examination and appropriate recommendation.

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