

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 162.45 ha of forest land in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining Lease for Srirampur Open Cast-II Expansion Project in Jaipur Mandal, Mancherial District in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Srirampur Area Mancherial District- reg.

1. The State Government of Telangana, Environment, Forest, Science and Technology (For .I) Department, vide their letter No.460/For.I(1)/2019 dated 13.02.2019 submitted the above mentioned proposal to obtain prior approval of Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Details of proposal may be accessed on PARIVESH portal and the online no. of the proposal is **FP/TG/MIN/29918/2017**.
2. Details indicated in the proposal submitted by the Government of Telangana are as below-

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the proposal.	Proposal for diversion of 162.45 ha of forest land in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining Lease for Srirampur Open Cast-II Expansion Project in Jaipur Mandal, Mancherial District in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Srirampur Area Mancherial District.
2.	Location:- (i) State (ii) District (iii) Category	Telangana. Mancherial. Mining.
3.	Details of the user agency	
(i)	Name of the user agency	M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Srirampur Area Mancherial District.
(ii)	Nature of the user agency	Central PSU.
(iii)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (in year).	Not given.
4.	Particulars of Forests:- (i) Name of forest Division (ii) Forest Block (iii) Forest area involved (iv) Compartment Nos. (v) Legal Status / Sy. No. (vi) Maps	Mancherial Forest Division. - 162.45 ha. - Reserve Forest Notified Under Section-15 (i) Indaram RF vide Notification No.234/235 dated 30.01.1349F. (ii) Indaram Ext.II RF vide G.O.No.174 F&RD (For.II), dated 13.04.1981 (Jaipur) (iii) Ramraopet (CA) area Un Notified). Submitted.
5.	(i) Vegetation (ii) Density (iii) Number of trees to be felled.	Eco-Class-3 100.45 ha. Between 0.2 to 0.3 & Balance 62.007 ha. – Moderately dense. 34621 number of trees/poles to be felled. in the area proposed for diversion.
6.	Species-wise local/(Scientific names) and girth-wise enumeration of trees at FRL.	Species wise, diameter class wise enumeration. The abstract tree growth, density class wise is submitted.
7.	Working plan prescription for the forest land proposed for diversion;	Nil.
8.	Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion.	Due to this project no adverse impact takes place.

9.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest	Within RF.
10.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	Area proposed for diversion is a not a part of National park, Wildlife sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. It is not falling in any Eco Sensitive Zone.
11.	Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.	No.
12.	Whether the forest land proposed for diversion is located within eco-sensitive zone(ESZ) of the Protected Area notified under Wildlife(Protection) Act,1972 (Note: In case, ESZ of a Protected Area is not notified,then,10kms distance from boundary of the Protected Area should be treated as ESZ.	No.
13.	Whether any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion.	No.
14.	Whether area is significant from wildlife point of view	-
15.	Whether any rare / endangered unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. If so, details thereof.	No.
16.	Whether any protected archaeological / heritage site / Defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.	No.
17.	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.
18.	Whether any work in violation of the Act 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.	
(i)	Details of violation (s):	
(ii)	Period of work done (Year):	No.

(iii)	Area of forest land involved in violation (in ha.)																	
(iv)	Whether work in violation is still in progress (Yes / No)																	
19.	Compensatory Afforestation	<p>An area measuring 325 ha. identified in double DFL in (2) patches in(7 Compartments) Mancherial Range of RF Indaram i.e.,</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of the Beat & Section</th> <th>Compt. No.</th> <th>Name of the RF</th> <th>Area identified for CA in Ha.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mancherial Beat of Mancherial Section</td> <td>691,693 & 698</td> <td>Indaram</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Venkatapur Beat of Mandmarri Section</td> <td>687,688,689 & 690</td> <td>Indaram</td> <td>225.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>325.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Suitability Certificate has not been submitted by the concerned authority.</p> <p>CA scheme has been submitted.</p>	Name of the Beat & Section	Compt. No.	Name of the RF	Area identified for CA in Ha.	Mancherial Beat of Mancherial Section	691,693 & 698	Indaram	100.00	Venkatapur Beat of Mandmarri Section	687,688,689 & 690	Indaram	225.00	Total			325.00
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Mancherial Beat of Mancherial Section	691,693 & 698	Indaram	100.00															
Venkatapur Beat of Mandmarri Section	687,688,689 & 690	Indaram	225.00															
Total			325.00															
20.	Total financial Out lay for CA (in lakhs)	Rs.1811.12973/-																
21.	CAT Plan	Not applicable.																
22.	Rehabilitation of Oustees	No.																
23.	Employment Potential Permanent / Temporary.	437 permanent 750 Temporary																
24.	Whether clearance under the Environment (protection) Act, 1986 is required?	Yes, EC application yet to be submitted.																
25.	Status of Wildlife Clearance	No																
26.	Cost Benefit analysis.	Rs.1:89.33 Ratio																
27.	Total Cost of the Project (Rupees in lakhs)	Rs.27273 lakhs																
28.	Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer in compliance to the conditions stipulated in the col. 7 (xi, xii) 8 and 9 previous approval.	Site Inspection Report as carried by Divisional Forest Officer, Mancherial is enclosed with the proposal.																
29.	Recommendations:	-																
	(i) DFO	Recommended.																

		<p>The proposal is recommended with the following conditions, keeping in view of the overall development of the local people in the Telangana State:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SCCL is having (2) ongoing open cast mining projects, namely SRP-1 and RKP OC, besides 4 underground mines. These 2 mines will produce 829.31 Million tons of over burden dump. The SCCL is also having plan to open new mines namely Indaram OC which will produce about 382.000 Million tons of over burden in its life time. If over burden restoration is not simultaneous and as per scientific standards there is possibilities for damage to flora and fauna in adjoining fields besides moving if soil into adjacent water bodies due to soil erosion from these over burdens. It is essential that magnitude of such restoration shall be understood first then only monitoring of such works can be done by forest officials. Hence, it is essential to expose a team of forest officers at least 10 Officers to World's best practices being followed to restore over burden s etc., in coal mining like places in Hunter valley Australia / New Zealand the cost of which shall be borne by the User Agency. 2. The area equivalent to the diverted area to be developed in adjoining degraded forest land as a part of Forest Rejuvenation, as is being done elsewhere in Telangana state, in between Mancherial to Jaipur, by the User Agency in consultation with forest department.
	(ii) CCF	Recommended
	(iii) PCCF / Nodal Officer	Recommended
	(iv) State Government	Recommended
30.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.	<p>The District Collector, Mancherial, Government of Telangana vide his letter No.D4/1232/2017 dated 10.08.2018 has issued a FRA certificate for diversion of 162.45 ha of forest land in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining Lease for Srirampur Open Cast-II Expansion Project in Jaipur Mandal, Mancherial District in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Srirampur Area Mancherial District.</p> <p>Documentary evidences in support of settlements of rights under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been submitted.</p>
31.	Division/District Profile, Adilabad,	
	(i) Total Geographical area (in Ha.)	123599.8 ha.
	(i) Total forest area (in Ha.)	55005.6 ha.
	(iii) Total forest area diverted since 1980	4421.971 28 cases
	(i) Total area proposed for afforested since 1980 (a) forest land including penal Compensatory Afforestation	1089.141 ha. Nil

	(b) non-forest land.	
	(v) Total area afforested since 1980 30.09.2018 (a) forest land (b) non-forest land	17.772 ha. 224.830
32.	Date of issue of the letter of Intent (LOI) for grant of mining lease.	State Mines and Geology Department Letter No.13016/1/2017-PCA dated 21.08.2017.
(a)	Total area of the mining lease	212.66 ha
(b)	Area of forest land located in the mining lease (in ha.)	162.45 ha.
33.	Details of mining lease:-	
(i)	Date of approval of mining plan	21 st August, 2017
(iii)	Date of execution of mining lease	Not provided.
(iv)	Mine Plan	16 th April, 2014 Not provided.
(v)	Progressive Mine Closure Plan	Not provided.
(vi)	Date of earlier approval obtained under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.	Not provided.

1. Purpose wise breakup of the total land required is given below:

S. No.	Description	Forest land (in Ha.)	Non-forest (in Ha.)	Total (Ha.)
1.	Quarry Area	139.45	36.54	175.96
2.	Safe Barrier & Drain along the Quarry	23.00	13.70	36.70
3.	Total land	162.45	50.21	212.66

2. The user agency has submitted undertakings to bear the cost of CA and NPV.

3. The Suitability Certificate of suitable for plantation has not been given by the Concerned Authority.

4. The forest land proposed to be diverted has been inspected by Shri L. Chandrasekar, DIG (Central), Regional office (SEZ), Chennai. Additional information furnished in the inspection report submitted by the Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai vide their letter No.4-TSA151/2019-CHN/0999 dated 20.06.2019 are as below:

The site inspection report of above subject proposal submitted by Shri. Chandrasekhar, DIGF (C), RO (SEZ), Chennai. This project is an expansion project of an existing Srirampur Open Cast-II in Jaipur Mandal, Srirampur area in Mancherial District of Telangana. As observed by the DIGF(C), the project is recommended subject to following conditions:

i) M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), is a Government company jointly owned by Government of Telangana and Government of India and is largely seen as a responsible company towards compliance to various laws of Forestry and environment. Though, the compliance towards conditions imposed in forestry diversions is more or less satisfactory but off late it is seen that the company is violating the provisions of environment clearances. The violation pertains to increase in production more than the stipulated in environment clearance granted to various projects. The matter was brought to their notice and as well as Ministry from time to time. In fact, during the appraisal of one project of diversion of 285.44 ha of forest land in Lankapalli RF of Khamman Division the Ministry has sought for overall compliance of the SCCL and nominated a committee comprising of ADGF(C), RO (SEZ), Chennai and Shri. Sandeep Sharma, AIG of the Ministry and the report was also submitted to the Ministry at that time.

- ii) As the Hon'ble Supreme Court has viewed the violations very seriously in WP (Civil) No. 114/2014 in the matter of Common Cause Versus Union Indian and others it is seen that the project authorities in its 4 existing projects appears to have submitted one undertaking saying that they will not repeat any such violations in future.

But nevertheless, it is advisable to obtain the views of the State Government of Telangana in the matter along with the commitment from there management for not repeating such violations in future before processing this proposal further.

5. The same was forwarded to the State Government of Telangana for their comments vide this Ministry's letter dated 04.07.2019.
6. Now, the State Government of Telangana, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (For.I) Department, Hyderabad vide their letter No.No.460/For.I (1)/2019 dated 27th December, 2019 forwarded additional information in respect of this Ministry's letter dated 04.07.2019. Further it is reported by the PCCF & HoFF Government of Telangana vide letter dated 23.08.2019 has forwarded a para-wise comments on the remarks of DDG (C) RO, Chennai which are as follows:

- (i) The M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), is a Government company jointly owned by Government of Telangana and Government of India and is largely seen as a responsible company towards compliance to various laws of Forestry and Environment. Though, the compliance towards conditions imposed in forestry diversions is more or less satisfactory but off late it is seen that company is violating the provisions of environment clearances. The violation pertains to increase in production more than the stipulated in environment clearance granted to various projects. The matter was brought to their notice and as well as Ministry from time. In fact, during the appraisal of none project of diversion of 285.44 ha of forest land in Lankapalli RF of Khammam Division of Ministry has sought over for all compliance of the SCCL and nominated a committee comprising of ADGF (C), RO (SEZ), Chennai and Shri. Sandeep Sharma, AIG of the Ministry and the report was also submitted to the Ministry at that time.

Reply: M/s, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has stated that it is presently operating 30 underground mines and 18 opencast mines in Telangana State and the annual production for the year 2019-20 ha been set at 70 MT. The coal produced from SCCL mines is being supplied to mainly Thermal Power plants like NTPC, APGENCO, MAHAGENCO, KPCL etc., in order to meet the power requirement of southern states and thereby reducing burden on forex reserves due to import of coal.

The M/s. SCCL further stated that it is having plans of enhancing annual coal production by opening new mines/ expansion of existing mines to meet the demand for coal and is in the process of obtaining Environmental Clearance for such mines, Earlier the SCCL has exceeded the coal production capacity in (18) mines, however all control measures were taken to ensure pollution loads are not exceeded and as such treated these proposals as violation cases. The SCCL has submitted affidavits for 18 violation mines on 04.03.2019 and 07.03.2019 as required as MoEF & CC issued notification vide. S.O.No. 804 (E), dated 14th March, 2018. The EAC (Violation)of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India considered these proposals and recommended for issue of ToR to all these proposals. Accordingly, till now ToRs have been issued for the following projects (copies enclosed). The ToRs of remaining projects are under progress.

S. No.	Name of the Project	MoEF&CC Lr. No. and date of issue of ToR
1.	GDK-1&3, GDK-2&2A and GDK-5 Inclines.	F.No. 23-78/2018-IA(III), dt. 26.06.2018.
2.	Godavarikhani-7 Life Extension UG Coal Mine	F.No. 23-72/2018-IA(III), dt. 13.05.2018.
3.	IK-IA Incline UG Coal Mine	F.No. 23-79/2018-IA(III), dt. 04.04.2019.
4.	RK-8 Incline UG Coal Mine	F.No. 23-70/2018-IA(III), dt. 13.05.2019.

5.	VK-7 Incline UG Coal Mine	F.No. 23-773/2018-IA(III), dt. 19.06.2018.
6.	Jalagam Vengala Rao Opencast-I Expansion Project.	F.No. 23-77/2018-IA(III), dt. 08.08.2019.

M/s. SCCL further stated that existing Srirampur Opencast-II project located in Srirampur village of Mancherial Mandal and District of Telangana state is not in the above list of 18 mines. The Environmental Clearance for this project was granted by MOEF&CC for a rated capacity of 2.5 Mtpa vide letter No. J-11015/212/2007-IA. II(M), dated 11/7/2008 (copy enclosed). The coal extracted from this project is supplied to Thermal power plants. In view of large demand of coal for power generation in Telangana State, SCCL proposed for expansion of the project by annexing the dip side property to the existing SRP OCP-II, thereby increasing the rated capacity from 2.5 Mtpa to 3.5 Mtpa in 1604.11 ha. Accordingly, SCCL obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) for expansion of the project from 2.5 MTPA to 3.50 vide MOEF&CC reference No. j-11015/212/2007-IA. II(M), dated 02.02.2018 (copy enclosed). Under the name of SRP OC-II Expansion Project and MoEF&CC will be requested for issue of revised EC (3.5 MTPA). For this expansion, diversion of 162.45 ha of forestland in Indaram RF is required. The Environment conditions stipulated in EC conditions of SRP OC-II are being complied without any violation.

- (ii) As the Hon'ble Supreme Court has viewed the violations very seriously in WP (Civil) No. 114/2014 in the matter of Common Cause Versus Union of India and others, it is seen that the project authorities in its 4 existing projects appears to have submitted one undertakings saying that they will not repeat any such violations in future.

S. No.	Observations raised by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter dt.20.02.2020	Reply submitted by the PCCF (HoFF) Telangana vide letter dt. 05.08.2020.
1.	The Suitability Certificate of suitable for plantation has not been given by the Concerned Authority.	<p>In this regard it is informed that the CF& FDPT, Kawal TR, Nirmal has reported (copy enclosed) that the FDO, Mancherial has submitted a Site Suitability certificate along with the revised CA scheme for the identified degraded forest land for CA over 324.90 ha of double degraded RF in lieu of the forest land proposed for diversion. It is submitted that there is no change in CA DFL areas already furnished with the proposal.</p> <p>Further , the FDO, Mancherial reported that comp. No. 691, 693, 698 of Indaram of Mancherial beat are having canopy density of 0.2 to 0.4 ha and the compt. No. 687,688,689,690 and 805 of Indaram RF and Indaram ext. RF of Venkatapur beat are having canopy density of 0.2 to 0.4 ha. Further reported that all the areas except Compt. No. 687 & 690 of Venkatapur beat are in Degraded Forest Improvement Circle and Compt. No. 687 & 690 are included in “ Conservation Working Circle” of Working Plan.</p> <p>Further reported that out of the proposed area of 324.90 ha of degraded forest land, an area of 170 ha is suitable for raising plantation under Semi Mechanical Method and total no. of plants proposed to be planted are 188870 nos. The balance area od 154.90 ha is suitable for treatment under Assisted Natural regeneration (ANR) and planting 30980 No's of plants in large gaps (average 200 plants per ha.) SMC works are proposed to be taken up in the entire area.</p>

		The revised CA scheme is prepared for an financial outlay of Rs 1789.765 lakhs with 10 years of maintenance for consideration. Site Suitability Certificate submitted.																																
2.	The State Government has not submitted a copy of approved Mining and Progressive Mine Closure Plan.	It was informed that User Agency has submitted a copy of Mine Plan (III revision) and Mine Closure Plan of SRP OC-II project (SRP OC II Expansion Project) Srirampur, approved by Ministry of Coal, GoI vide letter no. 13016/1/2017/-PCA, dt 21.08.2017 and the same is enclosed.																																
3.	The user agency has not been provide a lease period in the part-I.	<p>It was informed that user Agency has submitted that the proposed area of diversion is falling in 3 mining lease which are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">S. No.</th> <th rowspan="2">Name of the Mining Lease</th> <th rowspan="2">Area in (ha)</th> <th rowspan="2">G.O. No & Date</th> <th colspan="2">Validity Period</th> </tr> <tr> <th>From</th> <th>To</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>North Godavari Mining Lease</td> <td>45.22</td> <td>01, Dt. 12.01.2015</td> <td>22.05.2010</td> <td>21.05. 2030</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Sri Rampur Mining Lease</td> <td>11.13</td> <td>42, Dt. 11.02.2008</td> <td>28.06.2008</td> <td>27.06.2038</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Indaram Mining Lease</td> <td>106.10</td> <td>15, Dt. 23.01.2006</td> <td>24.07.2000</td> <td>23.07.2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>162.45</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Further , reported that regarding Indaram Mining lease, M/s SCCL has applied for renewal of Indaram Mining lease on 06.04.2019 through online and submitted to Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Mancherial on 08.04.2019 and it is under consideration with Director(Mines & Geology Dept.,). As per the rule 24A of Mineral Concession Rules-1960(MCR-1960), the lease period will be considered as deemed to be extended till approved by the State Govt. The copies of G.O's issued by the State Govt. for mining lease mentioned in the table, the copy of the application of SCCL to the Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Mancherial and copy of MCR-1960 are enclosed as furnished by M/s SCCL.</p>	S. No.	Name of the Mining Lease	Area in (ha)	G.O. No & Date	Validity Period		From	To	1	North Godavari Mining Lease	45.22	01, Dt. 12.01.2015	22.05.2010	21.05. 2030	2	Sri Rampur Mining Lease	11.13	42, Dt. 11.02.2008	28.06.2008	27.06.2038	3	Indaram Mining Lease	106.10	15, Dt. 23.01.2006	24.07.2000	23.07.2020		Total	162.45			
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3	Indaram Mining Lease	106.10	15, Dt. 23.01.2006	24.07.2000	23.07.2020																													
	Total	162.45																																

Reply: The M/s. SCCL has stated that it has submitted affidavits for all 18 violation mines to MoEF&CC with an undertaking as all the statutory requirements and final judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August 2017 in W.P. No. 114/2014 in the matter of 'Common Cause vs Union of India & Others' shall be complied and with a further commitment of such violation will not be repeated in future on 04.03.2019 and 07.03.2019. As there is no violation neither under E(P)Act, 1986 nor under F(C) Act, 1980 for SRP OC-II expansion project.

7. After examination of the proposal the Ministry has observed the following shortcomings as listed below and the ministry vide its letter dt 20.02.2020.

- i. The Suitability Certificate of suitable for plantation has not been given by the Concerned Authority.
- ii. The State Government has not submitted a copy of approved Mining and Progressive Mine Closure Plan.
- iii. The user agency has not been provide a lease period in the part-I.

10. The PCCF (HoFF), vide letter no. 9917/2017/FCA-1/PS dt 05.08.2020 has furnished the reply for the above queries and the same is given in the below table:-

11. Observations:

- i. The lease period submitted by the State Government for the area proposed to be diverted is in three parts i.e. North Godavari Mining (45.22 ha), Sri Rampur Mining Lease (11.13 ha) and Indaram Mining (106.10 ha). Out of these three Indaram Mining Lease of area 106.10 ha mining lease has been expired on 23.07.2020. It was informed that they have applied for renewal of lease.

In view of the above facts related to the proposal, it is proposed that proposal may be submitted to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), in its meeting scheduled to be held on **18.08.2020**.
