

Sub.: Proposal for diversion of 104.095 ha of forest land in Bellampally RF of Bellampally Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining lease for Kalyani Khani No. 6 incline (Underground Mining) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Mandamarri Area, Mancherial District, Telangana State.-regarding.

1. The State Government of Telangana, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (For.I) Department vide their letter No. 1443/For. I (1)/2018 dated 26th May, 2018 (**Pg. 1-260/c**) submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 104.095 ha of forest land in Bellampally RF of Bellampally Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining lease for Kalyani Khani No. 6 incline (Underground Mining) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Mandamarri Area, Mancherial District, Telangana State.
2. Details indicated in the proposal submitted by the State Government of Telangana vide their letter dated 26.05.2018 are as below:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 104.095 ha of forest land in Bellampally RF of Bellampally Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining lease for Kalyani Khani No. 6 incline (Underground Mining) in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Mandamarri Area, Mancherial District, Telangana State.
2.	Location:	
(i)	State	Telangana State.
(ii)	District	Mancherial.
(iii)	Category	Under Ground Mining.
(iv)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (in year).	25
3.	Detail of user agency	
(i)	Name of the user agency.	M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Mandamarri Area, Mancherial District, Telangana State.
(ii)	Nature of user agency.	Central PSU.
4.	Particular of Forests	
(i)	Name of Forest Division.	Bellampally Forest Division.
(ii)	Area of Forest land for Diversion	104.095 ha. The proposed diversion area falls in Compartment No. 350 RF Bellampally Range.
(iii)	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserved Forest Block Bellampally was Notified U/s 19 of HFA of 1355-F; Gt. No. 9 dated 15-3-1357 (F).
(iv)	Density of Vegetation	The Area having different types of Vegetation which is varying from 01. To 0.2 density.
5.	Maps	
	i. Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion.	(Pg. 244/c).
	ii. Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA.	Not applicable.
	iii. Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion.	Not given.

	iv. Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area identified for CA.	Not applicable.
	v. Land use plan	Approved land use plan has not been submitted.
	vi. Forest Cover map	Not submitted.
	vii. Approved Mining Plan	(Pg. 185-242/c).
6.	Vegetation	
	i. Species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Not applicable. (Diversion of forest land is for underground mining).
	ii. Number of trees	Not applicable (Diversion of forest land is for underground mining).
7.	Brief note on Vulnerability of area to soil erosion.	There will be no noticeable erosion.
8.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest	0
9.	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)	No.
10.	Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	No.
11.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	No.
12.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	Yes.
13.	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 under progress.	No.
14.	Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:	
	i. Details of non-forest area/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	
	ii. Map showing non-forest/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	Not applicable as per 3.2(viii) (c) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 handbook/ guideline.
	iii. Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing Agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.	(Diversion of forest land is for underground mining).

	iv. Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme.	
	v. Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory Afforestation and from management point of view. To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservatory of Forests.	
15.	Documentary evidence in support of settlement of rights in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted enclosed.	The District Collector, Mancherial, Government of Telangana has issued FRA Certificate vide his letter No. B2/515/2017 dated 04.10.2017 (Pg. 253/c) for diversion of 104.095 ha of forest land in Bellampally RF of Bellampally Forest Division, and certifying the information in respect of all clauses of the MoEF's advisory dated 03.08.2009 read with letter 05.07.2013 i.e. diversion of forest land the for facilities managed by the Government as required under section 3 (2) and safeguarding the rights of Primitive Tribal Group and Pre-Agricultural Communities as required under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, discussion on the proposal in meeting of concerned Gram Sabha (s) maintaining the prescribed quorum, etc. A copy of records of all consultation and meetings of the forest rights Committee, Gram Sabha, Sub-Division Level Committee and the District Level Committee are given may kindly be seen at (Pg. 248-253/c). Documentary evidences in support of settlements of rights under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 may kindly be seen at (Pg. 249-250/c). However, Gram Sabha resolution has not been submitted in English language.
16.	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.	(Pg. 131/c).
17.	Whether the project requires environment clearance.	Yes, EC application yet to be submitted. As reported by the User Agency in part-A. (Pg. 22/c).
18.	Whether the project requires Wildlife Clearance.	Not applicable. As reported by the User Agency in part-A. (Pg. 22/c).
19.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan.	Not applicable
20.	Rehabilitation of Oustee	
(i)	Number of families	
(ii)	Number of SC Families	
(ii)	Number of ST families	No displacement.
(iii)	Number of Backward Families	
(iv)	Copies of R&R Plan	R & R plan is not required.
21.	Cost Benefit Analysis	1:238.30 (Pg. 50-51/c). The cost benefit analysis report has not given as per Ministry's guidelines dated 01.08.2017.
22.	Total Cost of the project	Rs. 477.65 Crore.
23.	Employment Potential	Permanent =785
24.	Undertaking to bear the cost of NPV	(Pg.168-169/c).

25.	Profile of the District / Department / Adilabad	
(i)	Geographical Area of the Dist.	1612800 ha.
(ii)	Total Forest Area	716244 ha.
(iii)	Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.	7774.933 ha. 14 cases
(iv)	Total Compensatory Afforestation stipulated in the district / division since 1980 or	
(a)	Forest land including penal compensatory afforestation	9.3 ha.
(b)	Non-forest	Nil
(v)	Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date).	20.12.2012
(a)	Forest land	Nil
(b)	Non-forest land	140.946 ha.
26.	Recommendation with Specific conditions, (if any)	
(i)	DFO	Recommended. (Pg. 254-255/c).
(ii)	CF	Recommended. (Pg. 164/c).
(iii)	PCCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA)	Recommended. (Pg. 260/c).
(iv)	State Govt.	Recommended. (Pg. 3-4/c).

3. The State Government of Telangana vide letter dated 07.04.2018 submitted the following additional information pertaining to the proposal:-

- i. The said proposal has been uploaded by the user agency at Ministry's portal and an unique number generated for the project i.e. FP/TG/MIN/25689/2017.
- ii. The User Agency M/s. SCCL has proposed for the grant of Mining lease for Kalyani Khani No. 6 Incline Underground Mining in Bellampally RF to an extent of 104.095 ha., **Therefore, Compensatory Afforestation is not applicable as per 3.2(viii) (c) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 handbook/guideline.**
- iii. The user agency has stated that clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 will be obtained before commencements of mining operations.
- iv. The user agency has furnished undertaking for payment of compensation for the loss of forests if any due to underground Mining.
- v. Inspected the site on 15.02.2018 and the proposed area is passing through compt. No. 350 of Bellampally RF to an extent of 104.095 ha.
- vi. There are no unique trees, protected archaeological and Heritage Site, Defence Establishment or any other important monuments are found.
- vii. The flora consists of mainly of Billudu, Tuniki, Teak, Nallamaddi which are sparsely scattered.
- viii. The undergrowth mainly consists of Teegadhari, Dante and Billudu.
- ix. The fauna present are Hares, Spotted Deer, Chinkara, Four Horned Antelope, Wild cat, Hyena and Wild Dogs.
- x. The site is degraded and is suitable for water harvesting measures that can be taken up within the distance of 200 mtr, from the periphery of underground mining area under ANR.
- xi. The site is situated near shankarpalli village at Bellampally range.
- xii. **As per para 3.2 (viii)(c) of Chapter-3 of the guideline of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no Compensatory Afforestation shall be insisted upon in respect of the proposals for underground mining in forest land below 3 meters. However, in respect of forest area required for surface rights, compensatory afforestation shall be required as per relevant provisions. As the present proposal is for underground mining, no Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed. The Surface use is proposed by User Agency is outside the notified forest.**

4. The forest land proposed to be diverted has been inspected by Dr. MRG Reddy, APCCF (Central), Regional office (South Eastern Zone), Chennai. Additional information furnished in the inspection report submitted by the Regional office (South Eastern Zone), Chennai vide their letter dated 09.08.2018 (Pg. 262-271/c) are as under:

- i. The State Government of Telangana, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (FOR.I) Department, vide its letter No.1443/For.I (1)/2018 dated 26.05.2018, has recommended and forwarded the statutory proforma proposal

under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, submitted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana State, Hyderabad, for diversion of 104.095 ha. of forest land in Bellampally RF of Bellampally Forest Division in Mancherla District for grant of Mining lease for Kalyani Khani No.6 Incline (Underground Mining), Mandamarri area, Mancherla District to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi with the request to obtain and communicate the approval of the Government of India, MoEF & CC for the proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. The present application is for prior approval for grant of mining lease for 104.095 ha. of forest land for underground rights for excavation of coal by underground mining method.

ii. **Location of the forest land proposed for diversion:** The forest land of 104.095 ha. proposed for diversion is falling in Compartment No.350 (P) in Bellampally Reserve Forest, Bellampally Forest Division, Mandamarri area in the Mancherla District of Telangana. Mandamarri Shaft Block is proposed to be excavated by underground bord and pillar system of mining with continuous miner.

iii. **Need for the project proposal:** It is stated by the project proponent that in order to meet the ever increasing demand for coal and the targets set by Government of India from time to time, the SCCL has proposed to increase coal production by opening new projects and expansion of existing mines. Accordingly, it has been planned to open a new mine Kalyani Khani No.6 Incline (new Underground Mine) in Bellampally RF, Bellampally FD, Mandamarri area of Mancherla District of Telangana.

iv. **Salient features of the project proposal:**

A. Proposed land use

It is stated as below	–	
Reserve forest land	-	104.095 ha.
Non-forest land	-	303.285 ha.

		407.380 ha.

(Note: Part of mine take area to the extent of 14.23 ha. falls under North Godavari mining lease, which was granted already. So 421.61 ha – 14.23 ha = 407.380 ha)

B. Mining reserves: The minable reserves estimated in the Kalyani Khani No.6 Incline mine are 15.65 MT. It is proposed to extract coal with the Continuous Miner Technology. The rated capacity of the project is arrived at by taking average output over the life of the mine, which is around 8.00 LT per annum (Peak capacity of 12.30 LTPA). The total life of the project is 19 years, including the period of accessing the coal deposit. The lease period of the forest land proposed is 25 years, including for pre-mining and post-mining activities.

C. Cost of the project: Cost of the project is estimated at Rs.477.65 crore and employment of about 785 persons will be generated during the mining operations. The project proposal does not involve any displacement of people.

D. No felling of trees: Since the project is underground mining, there is no need for felling of trees in the proposed area.

E. Diversion of Palavagu Nallah: It is projected that during the 8th year of the project, part of the Palavagu Nallah, about 923 mts. flowing in the forest land, is to be diverted by acquiring 5 ha. non-forest land.

F. Subsidence Studies: The project proponent has submitted the report on Subsidence Studies, which has recommended for underground mining in that area.

5. **Flora and fauna:** There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion. The proposed area is not falling in any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Bio-sphere reserve, tiger reserve or elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor, etc.

The forest types are, as below –

Group : Tropical Dry Deciduous forests

Sub Group 5A : Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous forests.

Flora : *Boswellia serrata, Pterocarpus tomentosa, Pterocarpus marsupium, Chloroxylon swietenia, Acacia nilotica, Aegle marmelos, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Lannea coromandelica, Zizyphas xylopyrus, Derris indica, etc.* Not much teak is found there.

The density is 0.1 to 0.2

Fauna : The Tiger is to be predominant species earlier, which is not the case now. Other species are Leopard, Leopard Cat, Jungle Cat, Common Langur, Wolf, Jackal, Indian Fox, Sloth Bear, The Gaur, Nilgai, Four Horned Antelope, Sambar, Chinkara, etc.

6. **The Compensatory Afforestation:**As per para 3.2-viii-c of Chapter -3 of the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, no compensatory afforestation shall be insisted upon in respect of the proposals for underground mining in forest land below 3 meters. As the present proposal is for underground mining, no compensatory afforestation has been proposed. The surface use proposed by the user agency is outside the notified forest.
7. **Remarks and Recommendations of Additional PCCF (Central):**As proposed by the State Government, keeping in view that it is underground mining, which would not have much deleterious effect on forest crop, the project proposal is recommended for approval subject to usual conditions, especially and essentially subject to the following: -
 - a) The compliance of obtaining environment clearance has to be ensured before the grant of Stage II clearance.
 - b) The project proponent has to be requested to maintain and enrich further the forest crop above surface, so that the density would attain at least 0.6 to 0.7.

In view of the above facts related to the proposal, it is proposed that proposal with the Site Inspection Report as submitted by the Regional office (South Eastern Zone), Chennai, may be submitted to the FAC for its consideration in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held on **30.08.2018**.
