

Minutes of the meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee held on
27th January, 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

(File no. 8-35/2019-FC)

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 238.373 ha of forest land in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited for Baroud Expansion Open cast Coal Mining project (3 MT) in Raigarh District of Chhattisgarh.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 27.01.2022. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Chhattisgarh was also present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination report of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by Member Secretary before the FAC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant court orders, provisions under other Acts & Rules relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. FAC after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. Proposal was earlier considered by the FAC in its meeting held on 27.07.2021 and the FAC desired additional information viz. complete detail of wildlife including animal corridors,
 - ii. The Government of Chhattisgarh vide their letter dated 03.01.2022 submitted the additional information, as desired by the FAC. The FAC, after examination of the additional information furnished by the State, observed as under:
 - a. A management plan for avifauna has been submitted to CCF (Wildlife) for approval and no wildlife corridor is situated in the area proposed for diversion.
 - b. The user agency has deposited an amount of Rs. 9,03,96,420/- towards the cost of NPV in respect of 123 ha of forest land and Rs. 1,10,20,585/- in lieu of diversion of 19.001 ha of forest land diverted earlier. No NPV has been paid in respect of **238.373 ha of forest land, being considered under the extant project. NPV in lieu of 238.373 will be paid by the user agency after Stage-I approval.**
 - c. As per suggestion made by the IRO, the user agency has agreed to leave a buffer area of 100 meters contiguous to the Kurket river bank to maintain hydrology of River.
 - d. Reclamation of the mined out area will be done as per the approved Mining Plan. With regards to reclamation of already mined out area, it was informed that there are 9 workable seams in the area and currently only 3 upper seams are being worked out. After decoaling all reserves in these seams works related to reclamation will be undertaken by the user agency as per approved mining plan. Committee was also apprised that plantation in the over dump area could not be taken up, as the user agency has plan to handle the OB area for excavation of coal seams located underneath of the OB.
 - e. Nodal Officer (FCA), Chhattisgarh informed the Committee that CA scheme implemented by the State, invariably includes local and indigenous species which are

facing threat to their existence.

4. **Decision of FAC:** The Committee had detailed discussion on the proposal. After going through the facts of the proposal, observations of the of the Regional Officer, IRO, Raipur in their site inspection report and detailed deliberation with the Nodal Officer of the State Government on the various aspects, the **FAC deferred the proposal** seeking following information:
- i. Impact on the cost benefit ratio of the project, if any, due to leaving a buffer area of 100 meters contiguous to river Kurket as per the recommendation of IRO may be worked by the State and the same may be intimated to the Committee.
 - ii. State Government may provide details of major wildlife and wildlife movements recorded in the area during last five years. In this regard, comments of Chief wild life warden of the State may be submitted.
 - iii. State Government may inform if any study or detail of hydrological regimes of the area is available for the area. Detail of the same may be informed to the Committee. If the same is not available, a study on effect of mining on the hydrology of the area may be conducted and user agency has to submit an undertaking that it will carry out all mitigation measures at its own cost as suggested in the study report.
 - iv. Comprehensive plan/schemes on the soil and moisture conservation works in the area contiguous to the river bed will be implemented by the user Agency.
 - v. State government shall clarify if NPV, as applicable, has been charged from the User agency.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

(File No- 8-29/2021-FC)

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti Village, Sy. No.128,129 and 130 of Chakrageri Village and Sy. No.3 and 4 of Kagihal Village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka State (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018) .

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting held on 27.01.2022. The details of the proposal may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with analysis of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained before the FAC for their examination and deliberation.
3. FAC after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. A fresh proposal was submitted by the Government of Karnataka, on 17-11-2021 to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - ii. DFO, CCF, PCCF/Nodal officer, State Government and IRO has recommended the project with certain conditions.
 - iii. On 14-01-2022, State Government informed that, out of 180.085 ha of land in

Karalakatti Sy No.146, 6.21 ha of land is occupied by displaced persons and the rest with the forest department.

- iv. No Objection Certificate from the Renuka Sagar Reservoir and other related departments has not been submitted by the User agency.
- v. IRO, Bangalore has informed in their SIR that proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. The user agency have informed that no family is fully displaced in the proposed project and only partial land holding is being affected for which detailed compensation package has been prepared in the EIA/EMP report, which was duly approved by MoEF&CC while recommending the project for Environmental Clearance.
- vi. The proposed area for diversion itself is the catchment area for the Renuka Sagar Reservoir. Hence, as per para 9.2 of Handbook of FC Guidelines, the Catchment Area Treatment Plan is applicable for this project proposal, as being the Hydroelectric project.
- vii. The CA land suitability certificate states that there are reports of presence of endangered bird species Lesser Florican in Aurad and Bidar Taluk of Bidar District. DFO has recommended that the identified CA land may be maintained as grassland without tree planting, to ensure availability of nesting and breeding areas for endangered Lesser Florican species. On this FAC observed and appreciated that the area identified for CA, has high conservation value since it is a habitat of the lesser Florican species. But due to the situation that the area should not be afforested, the balance seedlings may be planted in DFL area to be identified by the State Government.
- viii. IRO Bangalore has opined that the area identified for raising CA plantations cannot accommodate 1000 trees per hectare. The State Government may be requested to identify larger extent of degraded forest land so as to accommodate 1000 per ha.

Decision of FAC:

FAC deferred the proposal seeking following details.

1. User Agency to submit R & R plan for displaced people from the site.
2. User Agency to take NOC from Renuka Sagar Dam Authority and other related departments.
3. State Government to identify DFL for Compensatory Afforestation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

(F. No. 11/274/2019-FC)

Sub: -Terms of Reference (ToR) for (ii) the Study on Impact of Downhill Pipe Conveyor on wildlife due to increase in operation timings of conveyor belt system during experimental phase of four months (Short term Study)-Reg

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 27.01.2022. The details of the proposal may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, were presented and explained before the FAC for their examination and analysis.

3. On 25.06.2019, the proposal was accorded Stage-II approval, in which the following was one of the conditions:
"In order to safeguard Wildlife and free movement of wild animals during the night, transportation of ore through conveyor belt shall be restricted from sunset to sunrise."
4. The user agency requested to allow them to operate the conveyor belt for 24 hours. The State Government proposed for allowing 20 hours subject to certain conditions, while forwarding the application to GOI.
5. State Government's recommendation was accepted and allowed 20 hr per day operation on an experimental basis, subject to following conditions:
 - a. *The operation time of Conveyor Belt established by M/s JSW Steel Ltd., Thorangal be extended from morning 6.00 hours to night 2.00 hours (total 20.00 hours) on experimental basis for 04 months.*
 - b. *A study on impact on wildlife due to increase in operation timings of conveyor belt system during experimental phase be taken up through an institute of repute like Wildlife Institute of India with ToR of proposed study finalized in consultation with State Forest Department.*
 - c. *The findings of the study will be shared with Forest Conservation Division of the Ministry and the cost of the study would be borne by the user agency.*
5. On 22.01.2021, Govt of Karnataka, due to Covid-19 Pandemic situation, were unable to submit the compliance of the conditions.
6. This agenda item was discussed by the FAC on 17.02.21 and after thorough deliberation recommended that the user agency may not be allowed to operate the conveyer belt in continuity for 24 hours a day without appropriate study as suggested in earlier approval dated 13.01.2021. However, considering the unprecedented situation due to COVID 19 pandemic, the user agency may be permitted by the State Government to operate the Conveyer belt *from morning 6.00 hours to night 2.00 hours (i.e. a total of 20.00 hours a day) upto 15th June 2021*. The State Government shall ensure that the required study is completed and the findings are submitted to the Ministry for appropriate decision prior to 15th June 2021, which was later extended upto 31-07-2021.
7. The matter was again deliberated in the FAC on 16.08.2021. The State Government further informed that the required study was likely to be completed by 15 .09.2021. Taking this request into consideration the FAC recommended that: -
".... The operation time of conveyor belt established by M/s JSW Steel Ltd., Thorangal be extended from morning 6.00 hours to night 2.00 hours. The permission shall be valid upto 30.9.2021. No Further extension in the time limit will be considered till the study is completed, submitted and findings are shared with the Ministry. Further decision on the operation timing will be made based on the findings of the study."
8. The Study and report submission was carried out by the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Karnataka.
9. FAC, after thorough deliberation and discussion, observed that:

- i. The present proposal is for decision on the request made by the User Agency to amend the condition, so as to allow them to operate the conveyor belt for 24 hours.
- ii. While forwarding the report, the State Government has not provided any comments on the study report.
- iii. The report doesn't give any conclusive remark for FAC members to decide about the alteration in timing of usage of conveyor belt.

10. Decision of FAC:

FAC deferred the proposal seeking following details.

1. The Karnataka state government shall give comments on the report submitted by EMPRI.
2. The State Government shall get the comments of CWLW and submit to FAC for taking further decision.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

(File no. 8-23/2021-FC)

Sub: Diversion of 339.80 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for relocation of Village Suplai from Bori Sanctuary under Satpura Tiger Reserve District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/FVC/145866/2021) - reg.

1. The above stated agenda was considered by FAC in its meeting held on 27.01.2022. 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 Government vide letter no. F-5/1055/2021/10-11/2735 dated 12.08.2021 forwarded 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 339.80 ha of forest land for relocation of Village Suplai from Bori Wildlife Sanctuary under Satpura Tiger Reserve District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh State.
 - ii. The relocation process for all the families residing in the Village Suplai in Bori Wildlife Sanctuary will be complete with the diversion of 339.80 ha forest area and no more additional forest land will be required for relocation of village Suplai.
 - iii. The PCCF (WL)/CWLW, the Nodal Officer Madhya Pradesh, Sh HS Negi Additional PCCF (WL) and the Field Director Satpura Tiger Reserve attended the meeting online. PCCF (WL) informed to FAC that the Suplai village which is being relocated falls in core of the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - iv. 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.

- v. The State Govt. has 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 area of village Suplai is 158.397 ha. However, in addition to the above an area of 260 ha is being used for Nistar Rights.
- vi. The FAC in its meeting dated 26.11.2021 had considered a policy issue pertaining to the voluntary relocation of Village Rantalodhi of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, wherein it was inter-alia recommended that the anthropogenic pressure of a village is there beyond the village boundary and the area under Nistar/community rights may be considered as a part of the village area, provided the extent of such rights is duly recorded in the relevant records and documentary evidence are available to support such claims. The said recommendation of the FAC has been accepted by the competent authority in the Ministry.
- vii. As per DSS analysis, a small portion of the area proposed for diversion is within the Satpura-Melghat Tiger Corridor. A similar case of Village Khamada was earlier referred to NTCA as a portion of the area proposed for diversion was partially within the said Tiger Corridor. The NTCA has recommended the said proposal with a condition that no further diversion of the forest land will be allowed in the said corridor.
- viii. However, the justification given by the Chief Wildlife Warden Madhya Pradesh/APCCF(WL), the Field Director Satpura Tiger Reserve and the DSS analysis revealed that only a part of the proposed area (45 ha. approx.) is lying within the corridor. Moreover it is located on the edge of the said corridor and the area is adjoining to the Revenue villages. Further there is sufficient forested patch/ green area available on other side to provide adequate movement space to the Tiger as well as other wild animals. Therefore, keeping in view the specific location of the proposed area, availability of adequate space for Tiger/animal movement and the fact that the relocation will make available an inviolate space of 418 ha, the NTCA may examine the instant proposal.

3. Decision of the FAC:

After detailed discussion with the Nodal Officer (FCA), Madhya Pradesh, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh and the Field Director Satpura Tiger Reserve and considering the fact that this village relocation will make the vacated area as inviolate, **the FAC recommended for according Stage-I approval of the proposal** for relocation of Village Suplai from Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh with General, Standard and following specific conditions:

- i. Prior to issuing of Stage-1 approval the Ministry will seek report from NTCA and ensure that the area proposed for diversion does not affect the Melghat-Satpura or any other Tiger Corridor.
- ii. The State Govt. will submit the documentary evidence/relevant record indicating that an area of 260 ha is under occupation by way of Nistar/Community Rights
- iii. The State Govt. shall submit a written confirmation that the Village Suplai is

- within the core of Bori Wildlife sanctuary.
- iv. State Government shall ensure that the area under the Suplai Village becomes inviolate and no families are left within this village for further relocation. The 418.00 ha area to be made available as inviolate on account of relocation of village Suplai will be used for Wildlife conservation.
 - v. State Government shall take effective steps to ensure that the villagers who are relocated do not return to the area.
 - vi. State Government shall submit the certificate of compliance under FRA, in both the areas i.e. the area being vacated and the area where the people will be relocated.
 - vii. The Forest Department should encourage rehabilitated families in relocated forest area for improvement of their livelihood based on tree/ forest based economic opportunities by providing appropriate training and imparting skill-sets in ecotourism, Bamboo and Medicinal plants and other NTFPs through sustainable collection, processing, value addition and marketing etc. to help in conservation of forest area around rehabilitation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

(File no- 8-81/2005-FC (Vol)

Sub: Proposal for extension of approval under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 to make it co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMDR Amendment Act 2015 in respect of diversion of 1177.2110 ha including 25.1070 ha for safety zone (in addition to 232.438 ha of forest land already diverted) in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. within total mining lease area of 1590.8673 ha for Iron Ore mining in Gandhamardan (Block-B) mining lease in District Keonjhar (Odisha) - reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 27.01.2022. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar were also present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by Member Secretary before the FAC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant court orders, provisions under other Acts & Rules relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. FAC after through deliberation and discussion noted the following:
 - i. Extant proposal is for extension of approval granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 09.10.2018.
 - ii. Mining lease has expired on 31.03.2020 in terms of provisions contained in the MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015. Subsequently, State Government extended the mining leases on 08.03.2019 for a period of another 20 years in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3(2) of Minerals (Mining by Government Companies) Rules, 2015.
 - iii. Proposal was considered and recommended by the FAC in its meeting held on 30.03.2020 and the FAC recommended the proposal for extension of validity of FC approval subject to certain conditions inter-alia

- inspection of the area by the IRO to assess the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval dated 09.10.2018.
- iv. IRO has submitted the inspection report on 29.05.2020 wherein it has reported certain non-compliance of conditions regarding non-declaration of non-forest land of 72.469 ha as PF/RF under the IFA or local act and raising of afforestation over non-forest land and Penal CA over 0.85 ha of degraded forest land as stipulated in the FC approval.
 - v. Proposal along with the inspection report was considered by the FAC in its meeting held on 11.06.2020 and the FAC recommended that non-compliance of conditions stipulated, as reported by the IRO shall be complied with by the State and after receipt a report on the same, the proposal shall be submitted for the approval of the competent authority.
 - vi. State Government vide their letter dated 14.12.2021 (received on 20.12.2021) furnished reply to all the observations of FAC mentioning that non-forest land identified for CA has been notified as PF on 25.10.2021. State Government has also informed that degraded forest land of 0.85 ha for raising Penal CA has been identified in Mundula RF under BJP range of Keonjhar Forest Division. Degraded forest land, as per DSS analysis, is suitable for raising afforestation.
 - vii. FAC further observed that Ministry based on the recommendation made by the FAC in its meeting held on 30.03.2020 conveyed to Government of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, the approval of Central Government for extension of FC approval of such cases on 20.04.2020.
4. **Decision of FAC:** The Committee had detailed discussion on the proposal. After going through the facts of the proposal and the inspection report of the Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar and deliberation with the Nodal Officer of the State Government on the various aspects, issues of the case, **FAC recommended extension of validity of lease**, subject to the following:
- i. Compliance of observations, as suggested by the IRO in its inspection report, may be ensured by the State Government and a status report on the same may be submitted to the IRO of the Ministry at the interval of every six months.
 - ii. The project authorities should ensure that flow of water from OBs and lease area is regulated so as to prevent any gully formation/landslide in the area during and after rainy season.
 - iii. Suitable soil conservation measures for protection of area should be taken up by the user agency. Biological reclamation/afforestation should be taken up of area in a time bound manner.
 - iv. The project authorities shall take up works for cleaning of the garland drains, stabilizing the retaining wall and take necessary steps for proper terracing the OB dumps and checking the gully formation resulting in soil erosion. The compliance of same shall be reported to IRO within six months.
 - v. Vetiver grass and bamboo spp should be planted in the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil cover to prevent erosion and give better stability to the dump. This needs to be replicated in the other part of the Dump.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

(File no- 8-68/2000-FC (Pt.)

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 66.20 ha forest land (including safety zone area safety zone 1.899 ha) under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of Jindal Chromite Mines of M/s Jindal Stainless Limited in village Kaliapani and Forest Block No.27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tahasil of Jajpur District under Cuttack Forest Division.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 27.01.2022. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar were also present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by Member Secretary before the FAC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant court orders, provisions under other Acts & Rules relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. FAC after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. State Government of Odisha vide their letter dated 03.09.2021 submitted the proposal for prior approval under the FC Act, 1980
 - ii. The Legal status of the forest land is "Revenue Forest and Mohagiri DPF".
 - iii. Vegetation density is 0.4 with 2080 project affected trees. Tree enumerated in the project are located in safety zone which is proposed to be mined in the extant proposal.
 - iv. Non-forest land of 65.645 ha been identified for raising Compensatory afforestation in Angul District of the State. CA scheme of Rs. 2,71,00,300/- has been approved and submitted along with the proposal. Site suitability certificate of CA land has been submitted.
 - v. Nearest protected area is Kapilas Wildlife Sanctuary, which is about 40 kms from the project boundary. Provisions of Regional Wildlife Management Plan and Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan have been recommended by the State. The Committee was apprised that all proposals from the Odisha are invariably accompanied with the provisions of the Regional Wildlife Management Plan and Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan. Ministry, after review of the situation vide its letter dated 05.10.2021 has requested the State to submit list of monies received towards different Regional WL Management Plans, Integrated WL Management Plans and site specific WL Management Plans vide approvals under FCA 1980, and the present financial and physical achievement against each of these plans. Reply from the State Government is awaited.
 - vi. With regards to violation of FC Act, 1980, Committee was apprised that erstwhile lessee was working over the entire lease hold area of 89 ha out of which approval under FC Act, 1980 was available only for 22.80 ha. As per Haal records forest land involved in the project was 24.24 ha, however, subsequently, after the guidelines dated 10.03.2015 issued by the Ministry additional land of 61.16 ha was also identified as forest land and accordingly proposal for approval under the FC Act, 1980 has been submitted.

- vii. It is also mentioned that the user agency has challenged the MoEF&CC guidelines dated 10.03.2015 in the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha at Cuttack and Hon'ble Court in its order dated 04.03.2016 and 03.12.2019 directed the *status - quo* till 17.12.2019. Currently mining operations is observed to be closed.
- viii. An amount of Rs. 4,91,82,489/- has been deposited by the user agency towards the cost of NPV for the entire forest area of the mining lease.
- ix. Total safety zone of the lease is 5.04 ha. Lease of the user agency shares boundary with the lease of another user agency M/s Balasore Alloys Ltd. Safety Zone has been reported to be managed jointly by these two agencies. Mining has also been proposed over an area of 3.141 ha of safety zone jointly by these two agencies.
- x. The Mining Plan and Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the period 2017-18 to 2021-2022 has been approved by IBM vide letter dated 29.12.2016 and is valid up to 31.03.2022.
- xi. IRO in their inspection report dated has made certain observations regarding soil conservation measures, reduction in toxicity, fencing of pits, plantation of draught hardy species, etc.
- xii. No project affected people are involved in the project.
4. **Decision of FAC:** The Committee had detailed discussion on the proposal. After going through the facts of the proposal, observations in the inspection report of the Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar and discussion with the Nodal Officer of the State Government on the various aspects, **FAC deferred the proposal** seeking following information:
- State Government may submit its comments on the suggestions made by the IRO in its inspection report dated 19.01.2022.
 - State government shall submit approved land use plan of total area in the project.
 - Mining has been proposed jointly in the safety zone area of 3.141 ha by M/s Balasore Alloys Ltd and extant user agency. As per the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957, mining lease granted in favour of lessee is sacrosanct i.e. there cannot be two lessee for the same lease and each lessee is supposed to undertake mining within the lease area granted to him under the MMDR Act, 1957. Therefore, sanctity of MoU entered between the two lessees may be informed by the State.

AGENDA ITEM No. 7

(File no- 8-17/2001-FC (Vol)

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 63.30 ha Sabik Kisam forest land in addition to 371.192 ha of forest land already diverted forest land located within the Mining Lease hold area of 767.284 ha in favour of M/s JSW Steel Ltd for Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines in Barbil Tahasil of District Keonjhar (Odisha)

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 27.01.2022. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at

www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar were also present in the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by Member Secretary before the FAC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant court orders, provisions under other Acts & Rules relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. FAC after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. Proposal was submitted in the year 2014 and was earlier considered by the Committee in its meeting held on 9th to 10th November, 2016 and Committee, after deliberations desired additional information from the State which were replied by the State on 16.09.2021.
 - ii. Additional information received from the State was deliberated by the FAC in its meeting held on 26.11.2021 and FAC after examination of the same desired additional information from the State and IRO.
 - iii. State Government submitted the additional information on 19.01.2021 and IRO also submitted their comments on the observations of FAC.
 - iv. FAC, after examination of the information received from the State and IRO, observed as under:
 - v. Necessary action has been taken against the erstwhile user agency against the violations of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Committee was further apprised by the Nodal Officer that Forest Offence cases have been booked against the erstwhile user agency in the year 2011-12 and 2012-13. Said cases are sub-judice.
 - vi. Committee was further apprised that an amount of Rs. 1074,93,88,658/- has been paid by the erstwhile agency as a penalty of illegal mining in accordance with the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
 - vii. Committee further noted that compensatory afforestation has been proposed over equivalent non-forest land and to undertake afforestation, as the non-forest land is fully stocked, degraded forest land of 65.0 ha has been identified and afforestation scheme for plantation of 1000 trees per ha has been provided by the State.
 - viii. IRO in their comments with regards to monitoring of compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval has reported that all conditions have been complied with by the user agency except condition no. 7 and 14 regarding reclamation of inactive dumps and unauthorized change in the land use, respectively.
4. **Decision of FAC:** The Committee had detailed discussion on the project. After going through the facts of the proposal and the inspection report of the Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar and discussion with the Nodal Officer of the State Government on the various aspects, the **FAC recommended the proposal** for prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject fulfilment of general, standard and following additional conditions:
 - i. Compliance of observations, as suggested by the IRO in its monitoring report, may be ensured by the State Government and a status report on the same may be submitted to the IRO of the Ministry at the interval of every six months.

(Confirmed through email)

(Sh S. D. Vora)
FAC Member

(Confirmed through email)

(Dr Sanjay Deshmukh)
FAC Member

(Confirmed through email)

(Sh Anmol Kumar)
FAC Member

(Confirmed through email)

(Sh Om Prakash Sharma)
FAC Member

(Confirmed)

(Sh SP Yadav)
Additional Director General of Forests

(Confirmed)

(Sh A. K. Mohanty)
Member Secretary (FAC)

(Approved)

(Sh. C.P. Goyal)
Director General of Forests & Special Secretary