



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
शेत्रीय कार्यालय(दक्षिणी पूर्व परिशेत्र)/Regional Office (South Eastern Zone)
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F.No.4-TSA152/2019-CHN/1007
Dated the 21st June, 2019

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
5th Floor, Jal Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Diversion of 694.159 ha of forest land in Chatakonda RF of Kothagudem Forest division for koyagudem OCP-III mining in Bhadradi Kothagudem District in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem area, Bhadradi Kothagudem District. - reg.

Ref: Site inspection report submitted by Shri.L.Chandrasekar, DIGF (C), RO(SEZ), Chennai.

Sir,

I am to forward here with the site inspection report of above subject proposal submitted by Shri.L.Chandrasekar, DIGF (C), RO(SEZ), Chennai. This project is an opencast mining project, Koyagudem OCP-III of Bhadradi Kothagudem District of Telangana. It is reported that most of the area around 550 ha out of 694.159 ha is encroached area with ROFR entitlements and around 36 ha is for nalah diversion with reasonably good forest area and remaining are isolated patches. As observed by the DIGF(C), the project is recommended subject to following specific 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 over 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.

O/C

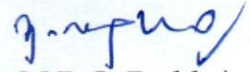
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Date 21/06/19

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 undertakings 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.

Submitted for favour of further necessary action please.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr.M.R.G. Reddy)
Additional DGF (Central)



सत्यमेव जयते

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F.No.4-TSA152/2019-CHN/

Dated the....June, 2019

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (C),
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (SEZ),
Chennai - 600 034.

Handwritten signature and date: 11/6/19

Sub: Diversion of 694.159 ha of forest land in Chatakonda RF of Kothagudem Forest division for koyagudem OCP-III mining in Bhadradri Kothagudem District in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem area, Bhadradri Kothagudem District. - reg.

Ref: MoEF&CC's Letter No.F.No.8-014/2019-FC dt.11.04.2019.

Sir,

As mentioned in the above reference, the forest land diversion renewal for 694.159 ha of forest land in favour of M/s SCCL, Koyagudem area in Kothagudem area, Bhadradri Kothagudem District, Telangana was inspected by the undersigned on 13.06.2019 & 14.06.2016.

The inspection report is enclosed for kind approval.

Yours faithfully,

Handwritten signature and date: 21/6/19

L.CHANDRASEKAR

Deputy Inspector General of Forests(Central)

Site Inspection Report

1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for division	Reserved Forest
2.	Item-wise break up details of the forest land proposed for diversion	Quarry area 302.52 ha External dump 295.96ha Safe barrier road bund 42.48 ha CHP & Coal Yard 3.93ha Nallah Diversion 36.30 ha Belt conveyer and rail siding 11.59 ha
	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. if yes, the details thereof	No
4.	Total cost of the project at present rates	Rs.426.79 Crores
5.	Wild life: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from the wild life point of view or not	Though the area has some wildlife it is not a predominantly Wildlife area.
6.	Vegetation	34873 trees 68554 poles
	(i) Total number of tree to be filled	
	(ii) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area	Out of 694.159ha proposed diversion about 550 ha of forest land is under encroachment and cultivation of dry crops. The remaining area is seen as islands of woody growth with canopy density ranging from 0.2 to 0.5. The main species in the wooded areas are scrubs, Wrightia, Chloroxylon, Anogeissus, Diospyros etc.
	(iii) Important species	As mentioned above
	a) Number of trees to be felled of girth below 60 cm	Sample plot enumeration of tree growth attached.
	b) Number of trees to be felled of girth above 60 cm	
7.	Background note on the proposal	A separated inspection note attached.
8.	Compensatory afforestation	The 10 bits of CA areas are all areas evicted from encroachments and taken over by the forest department.
	(i) Whether land for CA is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not?	
	(ii) Whether land for CA is free from encroachments/other encumbrances?	They are evicted areas.
	(iii) Whether land for CA is important from religious/archaeological point of view?	Reportedly not.
	(iv) Land identified for raising CA is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not?	10 patches and compact

	(v) Map with details	As in the proposal
	(vi) Total financial outlay	Rs. 7800.797 lakhs
9.	Whether proposal involves violation of the provisions of the FCA or any other Forest Act? If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials	FDO Kothagudem has reported that no violation has taken place in the proposed area
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons? If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not?	No
11.	Reclamation plan: Details and financial allocation	Solid waste management plan enclosed
12.	Details of catchment and command area under the project. CAT plan to prevent siltation of the reservoir	NA
13.	Cost benefit ratio	1:48.02
14.	Recommendation of the PCCF/State Govts	Recommended
15.	Recommendation of the RAPCCF (C) along with detailed reasons	Separate note attached
16.	Regional APCCF (C) shall give detailed comments on whether there is any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non forest land?	-do-
17.	Utility of the project	To safeguard the energy security of the nation
18.	Number of scheduled castes/STs to be benefitted from the project	---
19.	Whether area being diverted has any socio cultural, religious value?	No as reported by FDO Kothagudem
20.	Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion?	-do-
21.	Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique ecosystem?	-do-
22.	Situation of the project with respect to any PA	The proposed area is adjacent to the boundary line of ESZ of Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary
23.	Any other information relating to the project	Photos taken during the visit attached


L. Chandrasekar, IFS
 Conservator of Forests (Central)
 Government of India
 MoEF&CC, Regional Office (SEZ)
 Chennai-600 034

Inspection Report of L.Chandrasekhr, I.F.S., Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) to the Koyagudem OCP - III area of 694.159 ha of forest land in Kothagudem Forest Division, Bhadrachari District, Telangana on 13.06.2019 & 14.06.2019.

Introduction

1. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a Government Coal Mining Company jointly owned by Government of Telangana and Government of India on 51:49 equity basis. SCCL is currently operating 16 opencast and 32 underground mines in 4 districts viz. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Bhadrachari of Telangana State.
2. The present proposal for Koyagudem OC-III (KOC-III) project is to optimize the excavation of reserves and to minimize the gap between coal demand and supply by extending the existing open cast projects considering their dip side reserves up to an optimum depth line, as the reserves in Pit-II & Pit-III of existing Koyagudem OCP-II are completely extracted. This project is dip side extension of the Pit-II & Pit-III (KOC-II) up to 175 m depth, to the floor of the Queen Seam.
3. The proposal KOC-III project is designed for a rated capacity of 3.60 MTPA with a peak capacity of 4.80 MTPA. The total extractable Coal reserves are 111.98 Mt and OB to be removed is 867.75 M.Cum with an average stripping ratio of 7.75 Cum/T. The life of the project is estimated as 30 years.
4. The total forest land required for Koyagudem Opencast-III Project is 1156.922 ha of which 694.159 ha of land is required to be diverted afresh and the balance 462.763 ha of land has already been diverted earlier for KOC-I & KOC-II (Pit-II & Pit-III) where extraction of coal is completed, and this de-coaled area will be utilized for dumping the part of OB from KOC-III. Hence the present application is for diversion (including the regularisation of 2.07 Ha of KOC-I & II) of 694.159 ha.
5. The area proposed for compensatory afforestation is in 10 bits with the total area of 1388.318 ha. One of the bits was inspected on 13.06.2019. All the bits including this bit are areas evicted from encroachments by the Forest Department. The area is devoid of any vegetation and the area has remnants of cultivation.
6. The area proposed for diversion is 694.159 ha. The area was inspected on 14.06.2019. Out of this area around 550 ha is under encroachment and cultivation. The remaining area is in islands. The islands of woody growth is of canopy density of 0.2 to 0.5. The main species are Chloroxylon sweitonia, Anogeissus, Diospyros etc.
7. An area of 36.30 ha is proposed for Nalah diversion. The present alignment of the Nalah is between a quarry and a overburden dump. The Nalah water drains into a tank and the tank water is reportedly the source for irrigation and fishing for the local population. The catchment of Nalah includes the existing overburden dump and the cultivated areas nearby. If the Nalah diversion is not done the user agency expressed its difficulty in expansion of mining area and expanding the external dump. Retaining the Nalah will increase the area to be utilized for external dump and also will hinder the operations of the existing quarry as per the user agency's view which appears to be logical. If the Nalah is obstructed without diverting the same the water flow to the tank downstream will be affected. The proposal is to divert the Nalah along the sides of the external dump and

connect it to the existing tank downstream so as to ensure water supply to the tank. The area to be diverted for Nalah when inspected seems to be a natural forest with a canopy cover of 0.3 to 0.4. The diversion of Nalah may also involve cutting and filling due to the geography of the area proposed for diversion. It is suggested that appropriate soil and moisture conservation measures need to be done on the cutting portions of the diverted land intended for Nalah diversion.

8. The other areas intended for diversion including belt conveyor, coal yard, inspection road etc. have been inspected and the vegetation appears to be similar as mentioned above.



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