

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 17 October, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
Odisha, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal

Sub: Acceptance of reclaimed non-forest land (biological and under technical reclamation) by CIL and its subsidiaries for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation - Reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the decision taken in the meeting held between the Secretary, EF&CC and Secretary, Ministry of Coal on 3rd September, 2019 wherein, after deliberations, it was decided that restored and biologically reclaimed mined out non-forest land may be accepted for raising compensatory afforestation (CA).

In this connection, it is to inform that after further examination of the matter in the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Coal, it is revealed considerable restored non-forest mined out areas are available with the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries which can be used for raising compensatory afforestation, in lieu of their proposals submitted for prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

In view of the above, I am directed to convey the in-principle' agreement of the Ministry to accept restored and biologically reclaimed mined out non-forest land for raising CA subject to following conditions:

- i. Non-forest mined out lands which have been reclaimed technically and restored biologically shall be accepted for raising compensatory afforestation.
- ii. Once accepted for CA, such lands need to be notified under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, essentially to bring them under the management and administrative control of State Forest Department. Forest Conservation Division of MoEF&CC will issue an advisory to the concerned State Governments conveying its in-principle agreement to accept such lands for raising CA. An undertaking to this effect shall be submitted by the CIL/Subsidiary along with the respective diversion proposal, in lieu of which such restored lands will be used for raising CA.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 13.10.19.

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)/Nodal Officer (FCA), State Governments of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal.
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), all Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC.
3. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
4. Guard File.