

**Subject: - Forest Land- Chandrapur**

Proposal for diversion of 36.98 Ha. Forest Land under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project at Reserve Forest Compartment No.485 in Chandrapur Forest Division.

**PART - V**

(To be filled up by the Secretary In charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the  
State Government**

The Proposal is recommended  
vide Government letter  
No.FLD-3615/ CR-294/ F-10  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

**Place: Mumbai**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

*VP (607)*  
( Virendra Tiwari ) 24/03/17  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)  
Revenue and Forest Department  
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032

# Government of Maharashtra

**By Speed Post**

No.FLD-3615/ CR-294/ F-10  
Room no. 456/ 461 Annex,  
Revenue and Forest Department,  
Madam Kama Road,  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,  
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

**To,**

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Regional Office, West Central Region,  
Ground Floor, East Wing,  
New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur-440 001.

**Subject: - Forest Land- Chandrapur**

Proposal for diversion of 36.98 Ha. Forest Land under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project at Reserved Forest Compartment No.485 in Chandrapur Forest Division.

Area General Manager, WCL, Chandrapur Area, Chandrapur has submitted the proposal for diversion of 36.98 Ha. Forest Land under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project at Reserved Forest Compartment No.485 in Chandrapur Forest Division. The location of proposed area is as given below –

Item of Work/ Purpose	Division	Comptt No.	Area (in Ha.)	Legal Status
a) Hindusthan Lalpeth Opencast (Expansion)	Chandrapur	485	34.43	Reserved Forest
b) Transportation, Roads and 11 KV H.T. Line				
c) Safety Zone	Chandrapur	485	2.55	Reserved Forest
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>36.98</b>	<b>Reserved Forest</b>

2. The proposal for Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project has been initiated by Area General Manager, WCL, Chandrapur Area, Chandrapur. Government of India, Ministry of Coal, New Delhi has approved Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project in their notification under Section-9 (1) of Coal Bearing Act (A&D) Act, 1957, vide S.O.No.22, dated 28/12/1983. Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, vide letter No.F.No.8-11/95-FC, dated 08/05/2001 had approved proposal for diversion of 72.22 Ha. (24.87 Ha. for opencast mining, 42.30 Ha. for underground mining and 5.05 Ha. for Safety Zone) of forest land for Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Mining Project in favour of M/s WCL in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. Total lease area for the project is 311.60 Ha. (72.22 Ha. forest land + 22.80 Ha. non-forest land (deforested area) + 216.64 Ha. non-forest land).

At present, out of 24.87 Ha. of forest land approved for opencast mining, opencast mining was done in about 18.65 Ha. forest land and backfilled. Mining operation in 6.22 Ha. balance forest area

shall be carried out. Out of 42.30 Ha. forest land approved for underground mining, underground mining in 21.63 Ha. forest land has been done and 20.67 Ha. forest land is virgin area.

The present proposal is for diversion of 36.98 Ha. for surface right for Opencast mining, includes 20.67 Ha. virgin forest land, 14.37 Ha. forest area out of 21.63 Ha. mined out forest land and 1.94 Ha. out of 5.05 Ha. safety zone which was approved by Government of India on 8/5/2001 for underground mining (42.30 Ha. for underground mining and 5.05 Ha. for safety zone) but is now proposed for Opencast mining. The total forest area 36.98 Ha. proposed for diversion includes 34.43 Ha. for surface right for Opencast mining and 2.55 Ha. for safety zone. The details are as under:-

Sr. no	Forest land approved mining for underground by Government of India letter dated- 8/5/2001. (Ha.)	Forest area mined out from underground mining (Ha.)	Forest area left virgin	Forest approved for safety zone (Ha.)	Forest land proposed for diversion for surface right for Opencast mining from mined out forest area (Ha.)	Forest virgin area proposed for Opencast mining (Ha.)	Forest area proposed from safety zone	Total proposed forest land for diversion (Ha.)
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I= (F+G+H)
1	42.30	21.63	20.67	5.05	11.82	20.67	1.94	34.43
	Safety Zone				2.55	-	-	2.55
	Total forest area				14.37	20.67	1.94	36.98

The Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast project is located in Lalpeth geological block in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra State. The proposed area lies in the dip side of southern part of existing Hindusthan Lalpeth Open Cast mine. The Coal block is demarcated on the survey of India Topo sheet No-56 M/5 having Latitude 190 53' 35" to 190 54' 04" and Longitude 790 18' 04" to 790 19' 30". At present Hindusthan Lalpeth Opencast project is supplying coal mainly to Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State, which caters to the need of power supply in Vidarbha and other parts of the Maharashtra State. To run the power plant and to meet the growing demand of power, it is essential to keep Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project running smoothly by diverting 36.980 Ha. for opencast mining. The project report of existing Hindusthan Lalpeth Opencast mine is prepared by CMPDIL Nagpur and duly approved by Competent Authority vide letter No. WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/123 dated 10/1/2013.

3. Rehabilitation Action Plan prepared by CMPDI, Nagpur is enclosed with mining plan.
4. The area belongs to Eco-value class-III of Open Forest Category.
5. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that no alternate alignment is possible and the forest land required is the barest minimum.
6. There are 79 trees of various species and girth in the area proposed for diversion. Girth class wise abstract is given as under:-

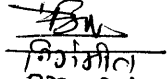
Tree Girth in Cm										
15-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	121-135	136-150	Above 150	Total
2	12	14	17	17	10	5	1	1	0	79

7. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that the proposed project is beyond 10 KM from the boundary of Protected Area.
8. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that proposed project is not likely to affect monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
9. The project has been accorded Environmental Clearance with conditions stipulated by Government of India, vide its letter No. J-11015/93/2005-IA. II (M), Dated 14/07/2006.
10. The User Agency has submitted mining plan approved by CMPDI, Nagpur and the mine reclamation plan.
11. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that non forest area covered under the project is not acquired under the Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975 by application of section-35 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 is not recognized as Deemed Reserved Forest or it has been identified as "Forest" as envisaged in the interim order given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Dated 12/12/1996.
12. There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as certified by Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that.
13. The User Agency has agreed to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation up to 73.90 Ha. degraded forest land.
14. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has given the suitability certificate for 73.96 Ha. in degraded forest land of (i) Area 25.00 Ha. in Comptt. No. 13 in Warora Range, Warora Taluka, Chandrapur District (ii) 23.96 Ha. in Comptt. No.518 in Chandrapur Range, Taluka & District-Chandrapur (iii) 25.00 Ha. in Comptt. No.1534 in Savali Range, Taluka-Savali, District-Chandrapur, which are proposed for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of forest land required for the project of Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project at Reserved Forest Compartment No.485 in Chandrapur Forest Division and it is contiguous to forest area and suitable for afforestation. The area is free from encroachment and encumbrances.
15. The User Agency will submit the Certificate separately to operate under Section-26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section-21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 before final approval. Now, User Agency has applied to Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on 03/05/2016 for the same consent.
16. User Agency has submitted the certificate under Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 issued by Collector, Chandrapur in the format prescribed by Government of India, vide letter dated 05/07/2013.
17. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
18. In the circumstances explained in the aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, it is requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for diversion of 36.98 Ha. of Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Hindusthan Lalpeth (Expansion) Opencast Project at Reserved Forest


Compartment No.485 in Chandrapur Forest Division on the conditions imposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur and communicated to this Government at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

O/C



Email/ 30-03-16 22-03-16

  
( Virendra Tiwari ) 24/03/17  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)

Encl: A) Set of case papers

b) **The following documents are enclosed:-**

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Certificate regarding minimum demand for forest land for the project
3. Area Statement
4. Index map of suitable scale
5. Brief note of the project from the project authority
6. Site Inspection Report by Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur.
7. Certificate that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
8. Certificate in Part V.

**Copy to:**

1. Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State Nagpur.
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/NC/I.I.D./1038/15-16, Date-04/09/2015.
4. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CAMPA), Maharashtra State Nagpur.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur.
6. Collector, Chandrapur.
7. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur.
8. Area General Manager, WCL, Chandrapur Area, Chandrapur.
9. Select file F-10.