

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 18th August, 2021

To

The Special Secretary to Government,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Deptt.,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Sub: Diversion of 4.828 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. Singareni collieries Company Ltd. for sinking of Man Winding Shaft and essential infrastructure in Shantikhani Long Wall Project in Mandamarri area, under Forest Division Benampally and District Mancheri, State Telangana (Online Proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/27545/2017). -reg.,

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No.2917/For.I (1)/2018 dated 28th August, 2018 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of 4.828 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. Singareni collieries Company Ltd. for sinking of Man Winding Shaft and essential infrastructure in Shantikhani Long Wall Project in Mandamarri area, under Forest Division Benampally and District Mancheri, State Telangana, was sought in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, *In-principle approval /Stage-I clearance* for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 08.01.2019 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Telangana vide their letters No.2917/For.I(1)/2018 dated 30th June, 2020 and letter No. No.2917/For. I (1)/2018 dated 16th July, 2021, **the Final approval/Stage-II approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 4.828 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. Singareni collieries Company Ltd. for sinking of Man Winding Shaft and essential infrastructure in Shantikhani Long Wall Project in Mandamarri area, under Forest Division

Benampally and District Mancheri, Telangana subject to the following conditions: -

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land to user agency by the State Govt.:

- i. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate along-with annexures as required, from the concerned District Collector;
- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, is demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates; and
- iii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- iv. The State Government shall upload the Kml files of the area for diversion and the accepted degraded forest land for raising compensatory afforestation, in the E-Green Watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;
- v. The State Govt. shall ensure that all the undertakings wrt this Ministry's Stage-I approval letter dt 08.01.2019 are submitted to the State Govt. by the User Agency;

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Govt.:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 10 ha of degraded forest land (Compt.no. 348 of Bellampalli RF of Bellampalli range of Bellampalli division of Mancheri district) at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species will be avoided
- iii. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the ad-hoc CAMPA under intimation to this Ministry;
- iv. The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957, as amended or Rules framed there under;
- v. The State Govt. and the User agency shall ensure de-silting of the village tanks and other water bodies located within five km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies, whenever required, preferably within five years;
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government;

- vii. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- viii. The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Birds' nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
- ix. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- x. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implemented with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xi. The Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xii. No additional or new road/path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xiii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xiv. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xv. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xvi. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xvii. The mining lease holder shall after ceasing the mining operation, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora and fauna.
- xviii. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per extant provisions in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and made thereunder.;
- xix. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency; and
- xx. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 08.01.2019 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the

provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

Yours faithfully,

Sd-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division,