

Ref No: MCL/GM(BA)/FC/2023-24/1026

Date: 04.01.2024.

To,
The Divisional Forest Officer,
Angul Division, Angul.

Sub: Submission of reply to Essential Details Sought in respect of proposal for seeking approval of Central Government under section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of 44.64 ha of Forest land and 13.09 ha. of Lookalike forest (Total 57.73 ha.) for coal mining at Bharatpur Open Cast Expansion Project of Bharatpur Area of MCL.

Ref No: 1. Proposal No. FP/OR/Min/153736/2022.
2. Your letter vide no. 9468 DRP/2022 dated 27.12.2022.
3. Our letter vide no. 994 dated 28.11.2023.
4. Your letter vide no. 8696 dated 27.12.2023.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above mentioned letter, please find below the compliance to the observations raised regarding the CA land for Bharatpur OCP.

1. The proposal for seeking approval of Central Government under section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of 44.64 ha of Forest land for coal mining at Bharatpur Open Cast Expansion Project of MCL has been submitted and accepted in Parivesh Portal on 27.03.2022 and hence as per the guidelines dated 18th July 2022, the proposal shall be processed as per the FC rules 2016.

2. However, as per file No. 8-07/2020-FC dt:12.03.2021 of MoEF&CC, Nodal Officer shall give a certificate that no afforestation / plantation has been taken up under any plan/ programme/ scheme on the proposed CA land in the last ten Years. However given the fact that Talcher Coal Mining area involves very large forest area the same would need to be properly compensated, further forest-diversion proposals in the area will be accepted with CA on degraded notified forest area on the following conditions:

- a. State Government issues a certificate that degraded forest land outside notified forests is not available for CA purpose, and
- b. Nodal Officer Certifies that no afforestation / Plantation has been taken up under any plan/programme/ scheme in the degraded notified forest area proposed for CA in the last ten years.

3. For diversion of forest land of 44.64ha, degraded forest land has been identified at Sunajhari R.F and Balibo R.F of Dhenkanal Division vide letter no. 190 3F/Misc/654/2020 dated 06.01.2021. However with addition of Looklike forest/ deemed to be forest of 13.09 ha over Govt. Non-Forest Land, an additional land has been identified at Ramei R.F under Sadangi Range of Dhenkanal Division. Subsequently, CA scheme has been prepared based on onetime cost norm for an area of 115.981ha. identified at Ramei R.F of Sadangi Range and Sunajhari R.F of Bhuban Range of Dhenkanal Division.



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4. In the instant case, degraded forest land and non-forest land in the Angul district could not be identified due to various impediments and the unavailability of the same has been communicated by DFO, Angul vide letter no. 1117 dated 15.02.2020. In view of this, degraded forest land in the neighboring district i.e Dhenkanal district has been identified. Accordingly CA scheme has been prepared with an outlay of Rs. 5,50,53,200/-. This would compensate the loss of trees by trees. However, to compensate the loss on forests at the Talcher region under Angul district, it is proposed that equivalent biologically reclaimed non-forest land will be handed over within 10 years after grant of Stage-II clearance. This would also help compensate the loss on forest cover or loss of "land by land" and increase the notified forest area in the Talcher region.

Therefore, it is prayed that the CA scheme for the degraded forest area of 115.981 ha which has been identified in Dhenkanal Division with an outlay of Rs. 5,50,53,200/- along with a submission to handover the equivalent bio reclaimed non-forest land within 10 years may kindly be considered for approval.

This is for your kind consideration and acceptance, please.

Yours Faithfully


24/07/2024
General Manager
Bharatpur Area

Copy to:

1. The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul for kind information.
2. The General Manager (E&F), MCL HQ.
3. The Project Officer, Bharatpur OCP.
4. The Staff Officer (Survey/Envnt.), Bharatpur Area.
5. Office copy.

