

Site inspection by the District Forest Officer, Peddapally, for the proposed area for diversion of 330.1826 for regularization of use of forest land for Mining in Upparlakesaram RF Block in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited for Ramagundam Coal Mine, Peddapalli District.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, & HOFF, Telangana vide reference No. 17918/2019/FCA-1/PS Dt.20.08.2020 has forwarded the proposal for processing as required under F (C) Act, for diversion of 330.1826 Ha RF land for conversion from Underground to surface use for Opencast Mining in Compartment No-488, 488/1 of Upparlakesaram RF Block in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited for Ramagundam Coal Mine, Peddapalli District.

I along with the Forest Range Officer and the General Manager RG-III of the SCCL and other Officials of the SCCL took site inspection **today 17.10.2020.**

- 3- The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in Form-A of the proposal furnished following information:
- SCCL is a Government Company, jointly owned by both the State and Central Governments. This is the only Coal Mining Company in South India entrusted with the task of extracting the coal to meet the energy needs of South India.
 - In order to meet the ever-increasing demand for Coal and to achieve the targets fixed by the government of India time to time, the SCCL has embarked upon largescale expansion of Coal mining.
 - SCCL taken over the possession of Govt. land from the Revenue Department to an extent of 448.90 Ha of non-forest land in Upparlakesaram block and in that land doing mining operations since 1973. Further, SCCL also acquired private land to an extent of 293.83 Ha adjoining to the Upparlakesaram block for the purpose of Mining operations before 1980.
- (d) Meanwhile, SCCL submitted two surface diversion proposals i.e. 308.40 Ha for Manuguru OCP-III (Phase-III) and 104 Ha. for OCP-IV in Manuguru area for Opencast Mining. CA land for the above projects totaling to an extent of 412.40 Ha (308.40+104) was handed over in the area acquired as Patta & Govt. land to an extent of 412.40 Ha in Ramagundam (part of Upparlakesaram block and part in other villages) to State forest department in the year 1987. The State forest department has notified it as a protected forest land in the year 1989.
- (e) During the year 2000, SCCL submitted application for diversion of **412.40** Ha (which was handed over to Forest department as CA land and Notified as RF) including **247.00** Ha. for surface rights. Accordingly, MoEF, GoI, has granted final approval (stage-II) vide letter No. 8-109/2005-FC, dated 02.5.2008 and the State Government issued G.O. Ms.No.74, dated 18.6.2008.

As such, 412.40 Ha of forest land was diverted in favour of SCCL involving surface rights for 247.00 Ha and 165.40 Ha with underground rights.

- (f) Further, the SCCL submitted another application for diversion of (from UG rights to surface rights) **147.42 Ha** of forest land (out of 165.40 Ha having UG rights) for the purpose of RG.OC-II expansion project. While processing the proposal, it came to the notice, that mining operations are being carried out in the adjoining area since 1973, presuming it as Revenue land but during 2000 found to be part of Upperlakesaram Forest Block which was notified as RF in the year 1944. This fact was not updated in the Maps of Forest Department and never any objection was raised even though SCCL was doing mining since 1927 in this area. Even, at the time of notification as Forest during 1944 no notice was issued to the SCCL though the land was in possession of the SCCL.
- (g) The SCCL carried out detailed survey of the Upperlakesaram RF block and boundaries have been demarcated and found that an extent 448.90 Ha of forest land was in the possession of SCCL and being used for different Mining activities. Out of 448.90 Ha **an extent of 118.57 Ha from Upperlakesaram block was included in 412.40 Ha and it was treated as overlapped area.** Accordingly, the balance area of 330.33 Ha (448.90 – 118.57) is being utilized by the SCCL without diversion. **Hence, this application is for regularization of already diverted area of 330.1826 Ha.**
- (h) The MOEF, GoI vide letter No. 8-109/2005-FC, dated 19.07.2012, while granting prior approval (stage-I) for diversion of 147.42 Ha out of 165.40 Ha having UG rights (412.40–247.00 Ha) for surface use for expansion of RG OC-II, has stipulated a condition No. 2(xi), which is as follows:
- "State Government shall create and maintain penal compensatory afforestation funds realized from the user agency over degraded forest land twice in extent to the portion of the 448.90 Ha of forest land in the Upperlakesaram Reserved Forest Block kept under possession by the SCCL without obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, after excluding the 118.57 ha (overlapped in 412.40 ha) of forest land which was utilized by SCCL for creation of compensatory afforestation (CA) considering it as non-forest land for which penal CA has separately been stipulated [i.e. $2X(448.90 - 118.57 = 330.33) = 660.66 \text{ ha}$]"*
- (i) Accordingly, SCCL has deposited Rs. **14,47,81,601/-** for raising of C.A. in **660.66 Ha** (330.33×2) and then MoEF, GoI, has accorded final approval (stage-II) vide letter No.8-109/2005-FC, dated 01.8.2013. The State Government issued G.O.Ms.No.79 dated 21.9.2013 and the Forest Department has handed over possession of 147.42 Ha to SCCL. 237.45 Ha of Addl. Non-forest land as twice against 118.57 Ha overlapped area in Upperlakesaram Reserve Forest towards C.A. was already handed over to Forest Dept. and also Rs.5,96,04,091 was deposited into CAMPA A/c through RTGS towards C.A. charges as per the demand issued by the DFO, Karimnagar(East).

Details of the area handed over are as follows: 237.45 Ha. of the Non-forest land as a double the C.A. as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Extent in Ha	Location
1	86.727	Zafarghad (V), Mulugu range, Warangal North Division
2	30.330	Polkepad (V), Gopalpet (M), Mahaboobnagar Division
3	48.863	Pinapaka (V), Bayyaram range, Palvanha Division
4	71.530	Esala Thakkallapalli (V), Manthani Range, Karimanagar (East) Division
	237.450	

- (j) Further against the stipulation of the MOEF order of creating and maintaining penal compensatory afforestation from funds realized from the user agency over the degraded forest land twice extent to portion of the 448.90 Ha of forest land in the Upperlakesaram Reserved Forest block kept under possession by the SCCL after excluding the 118.57 Ha of forest land. The Forest Department identified 660.66 Ha. (330.33X2) of degraded forest land in **Bhagiradhi RF of Warangal Division**. As per the demand issued by Forest Dept., SCCL has deposited Rs.14,47,81,601 towards C.A. charges into CAMPA A/c through RTGS No.SBHYHI3067304841.
- (k) Now, as such there is no need for identification of areas for C.A and penal CA as these were already identified and all the payments were made by the SCCL.
- (l) As per the DGPS survey and Authentication by the O/o PCCF, Hyderabad communicated vide letter Rc.No.17918/2019/FCA/PS, dated 07.01.2020 the forest land has been decreased from 330.33 Ha. to 330.1826 Ha. Now, the present proposal is for regularization by way of post approval of above RF land of 330.1826 Ha.
- (m) The proposed area of 330.1826 Ha is coal bearing area and site specific.
- (n) The present Land use details of 330.1826 Ha. of forest land shown as follows:

Sl. No	Purpose/Description	Extent in Ha.
1	Quarry purpose	232.3361
2	Drain & Bund	8.8856
3	Safe Barrier	24.0691
4	Road & HT lines.	64.8918
	Total	330.1826

- (o) SCCL has obtained South Godavari & Pandulapalli Mining Leases over an area of 68.48 & 48.77 Sq.Kms. respectively covering all the mines of Ramagundam Region including the present proposal of the Ramagundam Coal Mine. The forest area of 17.994 Ha is falling in these two leases as follows:

Sl. No	Name of the Lease	Area in Ha	Lease valid up to
1	South Godavari ML	17.194	31.12.2034
2	Pandulapally ML	0.800	18.07.2021

Renewal proposal for Pandulapally mining lease has been submitted by SCCL vide Lr. No. CRP/EST/M/307/639 Dated 11.07.2019 and Renewal / extension is likely to get by end of 2020

- (p) The total reserves in the proposed mine is 324.19MT and in the RF area proposed for diversion is 7 Million tonnes. Life of the project is 42 years. As this area is falling in between other mines wherein mining operations will continue for 42 years, it is not possible to surrender this area before. Hence, the lease is required for 45 years.
- (q) **The User Agency i.e., The SCCL has not paid NPV for 330.1826 Ha.**
- (r) SCCL has **justified locating the project in the forest area on the ground that** proposed Forest land for diversion is located just by the side of the existing RG Open cast -II project and the occurrence of Coal deposits are extending into this Forest area as site specific. Thus being site specific, Coal reserves are to be extracted from the place of occurrence only. Moreover, the proposal is for regularization of diversion due to mistake of facts.
- (s) **The proposed area is falling in Eco-Sensitive Zone of Shivaram Wildlife Sanctuary (Map enclosed). The mitigation and wildlife conservation plan for areas involving (11) mines of Ramagundam Region for 335.68 lakhs involving Rs.139.34 lakhs for Peddapally District and 196.34 lakhs for Chennur Division was already submitted vide this office Rc.No.612/S4/2020, dated:30.12.2020**

This project is recommended for Regularization of 330.1826 Ha of forest land and usage of mining activities of Peddapally District of Telangana State.

District Forest Officer,
Peddapally