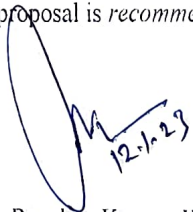


RECOMMENDATION

The area proposed for diversion is 6.80 ha (*Notified Forest land- 6.18 ha, Deemed forest land (GMJJ)- 0.62 ha*) in Latehar Forest Division. Proposed project is related to the Chakla Coal mine allotted to Ms. Hindalco Industries Limited. Forest diversion proposal for the Chakla Coal mine is still pending and, in the meantime, User Agency has submitted this proposal for the Rail & Road pathway for transportation of coal from the mine. The proposed area falls in the forest area of Chakla PF and Bana PF. In and around Chakla forest area presence of herds of Elephants can be seen almost throughout the year. In and around the area proposed for diversion is rich in floral and faunal diversity. In recent time, regular reports of Human-Elephant conflicts is being reported from the area. The proposed Chakla Coal mine will get connected to the existing Rail line and Road with the help of this proposed Rail line and Road segments. As a result of this project forest of this area will further get fragmented and will adversely affect the roaming pattern of wildlife specially Elephant herds. This may further increase the existing Human-Elephant conflicts and losses due to these conflicts. The increased traffic of trains and heavy vehicles may result in almost separating the area on both sides of these lines from the perspective of animal movement in and around the area and more so for megafauna like Elephants. Therefore, measures to mitigate these adverse impacts through comprehensive *Integrated Wildlife Management Plan* and creation/management of pathways (specially *overpass and underpass*) suitable for animal crossings across these lines are very important. A small rivulet named Thakurjarwa passing through this area feeds Mahdonia (tributary of Damodar river which flows through the proposed Chakla Coal mine area). Therefore, to minimize the impact of this Rail & Road project on the water regime of this area, a comprehensive *Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan* for the surrounding area is necessary. Representatives of the User Agency informed that a good portion of this pathway will be *elevated* Road and Rail line. This if done properly can help in minimizing the fragmentation of habitat for wildlife.

Considering the above-mentioned mitigative measures for mitigating the adverse impacts of this project the diversion of 6.80 Ha (*Notified Forest land- 6.18 Ha, Deemed forest land- 0.62 Ha*) of Forest land for construction Rail and Road Pathway for transportation of coal proposal is *recommended* as per the provisions of Forest Conservation act/rules.

Date: 12/01/2023


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