

Received  
31/01/26



ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area,  
AT/PO: Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



**MCL**

Ref. No.: MCL/MLA/GME&F/2025-2026/ 49

Date: 31/01/2026

To,  
**The Divisional Forest Officer,**  
Sundargarh Forest Division,  
District: Sundargarh, Odisha.

**Subject:** Proposal for non-forestry use of 227.62 ha of forest land within a total mining lease area of 323.92 ha within Basundhara (West) Extension Opencast Coal mining project by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

**Proposal No.:** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/521279/2025.

**Ref. No.:** Please refer to the following in chronological order.

- 1) Letter dated 14.01.2025 of MoEF&CC, GoI (FC Division).
- 2) Memo No. 1398 dated 18.01.2025 of Chief Conservator of Forest (Nodal).
- 3) Memo No. 368/4F(Misc.) dated 18.01.2025 from your good offices.
- 4) Letter No. 319 dated 11.07.2025 from the undersigned, duly received by your good offices on 11.07.2025.
- 5) Memo No. 4796/4F(Misc.) dated 20.08.2025 from your good offices.
- 6) Letter No. 396 dated 08.09.2025 from the undersigned, duly received by your good offices on 08.09.2025.
- 7) Memo No. 5942/4F(Misc) dated 08.10.2025.

Respected Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, this is to bring to your kind notice that the hard copy of the Form A Part V along with the forest proposal of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP has been submitted at MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi in the month of December 2024 and after scrutiny of the forest proposal, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi had requested the State Forest Department for submission of compliance regarding some of their observations and had also advised the IRO, BBSR for field inspection. Accordingly, the field inspection of IRO, MoEF&CC, BBSR has been completed on 26.03.2025. On successful completion of field visit, DDGF (Central) from MoEF&CC and DIG, Forests has also recommended the project on 28.05.2025

However, in pursuance of the observations raised by MoEF, GoI, New Delhi, the same was conveyed by you vide memo no. 368/4F(Misc.) dated 18.01.2025. Subsequently, the reply was submitted



by the undersigned vide letter no. 319 on 11.07.2025, which was duly received by your good offices on 11.07.2025 (receiving copy attached herewith as "Annexure A"). Thereafter, another memo was received from your office vide no. 4796 on 20.08.2025, the reply was submitted by the undersigned vide letter no. 396 on 08.09.2025, which was duly received by your good offices on 08.09.2025 (receiving copy attached herewith as "Annexure B").

However, another memo was issued by you vide memo No. 5942/4F(Misc) dated 08.10.2025 advising the project proponent to file a fresh, complete and correct proposal on Parivesh portal. Accordingly, the project proponent had submitted the online Form A Part I for consideration in PSC meeting on 18.12.2025. Subsequently, the PSC meeting was held on 19.01.2026 and the PCCF, FD-cum-Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha had made it clear that the project proponent needs to submit the compliance of observations raised by MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi and there is no need for filing a fresh proposal on Parivesh portal once again. The same meeting was attended by the project proponent and you as well. Moreover, the Minutes of the meeting regarding the PSC meeting held on 19.01.2026 (copy attached herewith as "Annexure C") states the following:

**"Deliberation details:**

***The UA has to submit other compliances to Nodal Officer through DFO concerned. After obtaining the compliance report, the proposal will be taken in the PSC meeting offline and the minutes of the PSC meeting will be attached with the compliance report at this level and submitted to MoEF&CC.***

**Recommendation remarks:**

***In view of the above, the PSC rejected the proposal and advised the UA to submit the compliance report of the observations made by MoEF&CC in the proposal filed on Parivesh 1.0."***

Therefore in pursuance of the above, the compliance has already been submitted at your good offices vide letters on 11.07.2025 and 08.09.2025 respectively and the decision against the third EDS letter raised by you on 8.10.2025 concerning PSC meeting only has already been addressed by the Project Screening Committee vide the minutes of the meeting held on 19.01.2026, it is humbly requested to kindly forward the EDS reply to the competent authority at the earliest.

Your co-operation will be highly solicited from our end.

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲ୍‌ଫିଲ୍ଡ୍‌ସ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area,  
AT/PO: Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



**MCL**

Thanking you.

Enclosure: As above.

Yours truly,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
31/1/20

General Manager,  
General Manager  
Mahalaxmi Area  
Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited

Copy to:

1. PCCF (FD & NO) FC-Act, O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF, Odisha Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar: For kind information.
2. RCCF, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela: For kind information.
3. T.S. to D.T.(P&P), MCL HQ.: For kind information.
4. GM (E&F), MCL.: For kind information.
5. P.O., B(W)OCP, MCL.: For kind information.



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,  
SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION**

Phone No-06622-Phone No-06622-272243, E-Mail- [dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in](mailto:dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in)



No. 4796 /4F (Misc.) /Dated. 20 /08/2025

To

**The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area of MCL.**

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 227.62Ha of forest land for Basundhara (West) Extension Coal Mining Project of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL). (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/521279/2025)  
-Submission of EDS Compliance report.

Ref: - 1) Memo No.1398 dt.18.01.2025 of CCF(Nodal).  
2) This Office letter No.368 dt.18.01.2025  
3) Your letter No.319 dt.11.07.2025.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above and on verification of EDS compliance, the following discrepancies are pointed out, which is furnished below: -

**Point No. (5):** - The evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution has not been submitted.

**Point No. (6) (i):** - The project area of the Basundhara west extension Coal Mining Project was acquired under CBA Act-1957. The Section-11(2) of CBA Act, Stipulates "*Where the rights under any mining lease acquired under this Act vest in a Government Company under Sub-Section (2) of Section-11, the Government company shall, on and from the such vesting, be deemed to have become the lessee of the State Government, as if a mining lease under the Mineral concession rules had been granted by the State Government to the Government company for the entire lease period permissible under these rules. All rights and liabilities of the central government, in relation to the lease or the land covered by it shall, from the date of vesting, be deemed to have become the rights and liabilities of the Government Company*".

Hence, the action taken by you against non-forestry work, solid structures, road and cultivation land visible in the proposed forest patches from date of vesting of rights to you needs to be submitted.

**Point No. (6) (ii):** - No objection certificate from the Irrigation/ Water Resource Department, has not submitted.

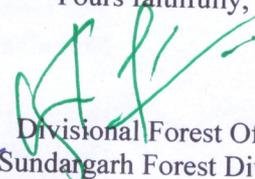
**Point No. (6) (iv):** - The component wise KML file has not been uploaded in Parivesh Portal.

Contd-P/2

**Point No. (6) (v):-** As observed, regarding proposed CA land-cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible. Necessary compliances to be submitted through DFO Koraput.

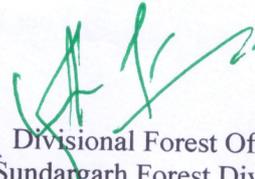
Hence, you are requested to submit the EDS compliance on the above points to this Office at earliest for taking further action.

Yours faithfully,

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

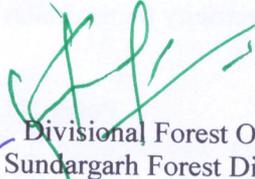
Memo No. 4797 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD & NO) FC-Act, O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for favour of information and necessary action.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

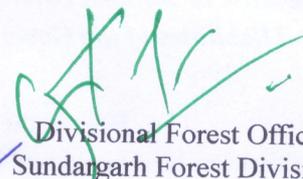
Memo No. 4798 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela for favour of information and necessary action.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

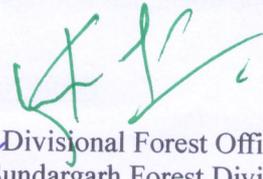
Memo No. 4799 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Division for information and necessary action. He is requested to clarify regarding cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible within the proposed CA land as per the EDS point no.6(v) of MoEF & CC, GoI after proper field verification.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

Memo No. 4800 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Range Officer, Gopalpur Range for information and necessary action. He is directed to contact with MCL authority of Basundhara West Extension OCP to conduct joint verification

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
महानदी कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area,  
AT/PO: Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



**MCL**

Ref. No.: MCL/MLA/GM/E&F/2025-2026/ 319

Date: 11/07/2025

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division,  
District: Sundargarh, Odisha.

**Subject:** Proposal for non-forestry use of 227.62 ha of forest land within a total mining lease area of 323.92 ha within Basundhara (West) Extension Opencast Coal mining project by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

**Ref. No.:** 1) Letter dated 14.01.2025 of MoEF&CC, GoI (FC Division).

2) Memo No. 368/4F (Misc.) dated 18.01.2025 from your good offices.

Respected Sir,

With reference to the observations of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests regarding the proposal of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of Mahalaxmi Area, MCL, I would humbly like to draw your attention to the following reply from our end:

1. An area of 16.439 ha of forest land has been proposed for infrastructure which is for non-site-specific activities. The State Govt. shall explore and shift the non-site-specific activities on non-forest land and submit comments in this regard.

*Received at the SNG dated 11/7/25*  
Reply: Basundhara (West) Extension OCP has a total mining lease area of 323.92 ha, out of which 227.62 ha is forest land, 45.01 ha is GNF land and 51.90 ha is Tenancy land. Moreover, the component wise break-up of the project area is as follows:

Table No. 1: Land use of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP, Mahalaxmi Area, MCL

Sl. No.	Component	Type of land (ha)			Total Area (ha)
		Forest	GNF	Tenancy	
1	Mining	206.014	44.573	49.644	300.231
2	Infrastructure	16.439	0.142	0.00 (Nil)	16.580
3	Safety zone	5.169	0.295	1.646	7.109

From the above table, it is evident that the entire GNF and tenancy land is involved in the mining component and safety zone component, thus, leaving no additional area to be included in the infrastructure component. Moreover, there is no external OB dump as well. Thus, this needs to be taken into account that



total emphasis has been given on mining component and safety zone component and thus, the infrastructure has to be constructed over bare minimum forest area as there is no alternative available. **The infrastructure that has been considered for this project is essential and has been limited to bare minimum so that the opencast mine could function smoothly.** The possibility of shifting the infrastructure was scrutinized from every possible point of view but there is no free Non-forest land in the nearest vicinity as Basundhara (West) Extension OCP is bound by Jamkani Reserve Forest in the North, Rampia block in the west, which is not a Coal India Limited block and thus no activity can be taken on this land, ongoing Basundhara (West) OCP in the east where active OB backfilling is being done as per mining plans of Siarmal OCP and Basundhara (West) OCP and Basundhara River in the south and Siarmal OCP beyond the river.

Thus, the area of infrastructure has been kept as bare minimum for construction of necessary infrastructure from techno-economic feasibility point of view. Thus, it is humbly requested to kindly accept the same as there is no free space available within the project and around the mines. Thus, 16.439 ha may be allowed to set up the necessary facilities which is 7.18 % of the total forest area involved.

2. **The proposal was accepted by the Nodal Officer in 2018 and now after lapsing of almost of 6 years it has been submitted to the Ministry for approval. The reasons with cogent and valid justification for submitting the proposal with such extraordinary delay shall be submitted.**

**Reply:** The identification of Compensatory afforestation land to the tune of 455.14 ha of degraded forest against 227.62 ha of forest land involved in Basundhara (West) Extension OCP was a tedious job as such a large amount of degraded forest was not available under Sundargarh Forest Division. Several divisions such as Kalahandi, Rourkela, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Koraput, etc. were intimated regarding the identification of CA land but most of the divisions replied back that there was no such land available in such a huge volume. However, Koraput Forest Division had replied back that there was degraded land available but at different locations. Thus, the process of CA land identification, DGPS survey and pillar posting of 7 nos. of sites took a lot of time and there was such delay. However, the delay was totally unintentional and thus, the same may be accepted for further necessary action.

3. **As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. Fc-11/118/2021-FC dated 25.01.2024 the State Govt. shall complete the procedures laid down in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, the minutes of the meeting of Project Steering Committee (PSC), shall be attached with part-IV of forms and processing of proposals, through Conservator of Forests, for completing the procedural/technical purposes. The compliance in this regard is required.**

**Reply:** The Form A Part I was submitted online at Parivesh 1 portal on 20.09.2016. The proposal had been completed in all aspects and has been recommended by the DFO, SNG on 21.04.2024, recommended by RCCF Rourkela on 19.11.2024, recommended by PCCF BBSR on 06.12.2024 and recommended by



OSD cum Special Secretary to Government of Odisha on 17.12.2024. The site inspection has been completed by DIG, Forests, IRO, MoEF&CC, BBSR and the proposal has been recommended as well on 28.05.2025. As this proposal has been submitted prior to the commencement of Parivesh 2, the proposal may be considered and recommended to FAC for accordance of FC Stage I clearance.

Thus, as this proposal has been submitted prior to the commencement of Parivesh 2, i.e., in 2016 and since it has been recommended by the State Government and IRO, MoEF&CC, BBSR, this proposal may be considered for kind accordance of Stage I forest clearance.

4. The State Government has not uploaded CB analysis as per the guidelines and in prescribed format on Parivesh portal. The same needs to be uploaded, on Parivesh portal.

**Reply:** The CB analysis as per the guidelines and in prescribed format on Parivesh portal is attached herewith as "Annexure A" for your ready reference. However, the same needs to be uploaded by State Forest Department after due vetting.

5. The evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution shall be provided. If any additional forest area is required for the same then a comprehensive proposal shall be submitted.

**Reply:** The evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution will be managed within the acquired area. No additional forest area is required for the same.

6. Analysis of the area proposed for diversion and area proposed for CA area using DSS revealed the following:

- i. After the analysis of the KML file of the proposed forest land it has been observed that non-forestry work, solid structures, road and cultivation land is visible in the proposed forest patches. In this regard the comments of the State Government shall be provided along with action report as applicable.

**Reply:** As per OM No.11-599/2014-FC issued by MoEF&CC on 10.11.2015 (attached herewith as "Annexure B"), MoEF&CC has made it clear that "in case of mining leases having forest land in part or full, the concerned user agency may execute a single mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mine and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, for the entire area falling in the mining lease after final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained."



Therefore, it can be easily inferred that the concerned user agency can only execute the mining lease of any project only after final approval under the Section-2 of the Forest Conversation Act, 1980.

Moreover, the afore-mentioned file of MoEF&CC further states that "the State Government, if so desires, may execute a separate mining lease for a whole or part of non-forest land falling in such mining lease, once stage-I approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. The State Government, in such cases, shall take all measures to ensure that no violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurs on the forest land."

Thus, the concerned user agency has no role to play in any unauthorized activity within the proposed forest patches.

- ii. It has been observed that Basundhara River flows along the eastern boundary of Basundhara (West) Extension mining lease and proposed patch no. A, B falls within its 100 m buffer. In this regard the no objection from concerned State Department (irrigation/water resources) shall be provided.

**Reply:** Basundhara River Management study has already been prepared considering all the projects and Basundhara River Management Study has already been prepared. The work of implementation of the plan has been undertaken by State Department (Water Resources/Irrigation) itself. Thus, the necessary documentation is attached herewith as "Annexure C" for your ready reference.

- iii. The land proposed for diversion is 227.62 ha however, as per DSS analysis the area is found 239.409 ha. Therefore, there is a discrepancy of 14.731 ha observed in the KML file of proposed forest patches. The State Govt. shall examine and submit the correct area details and correct KML file of the lease area.

**Reply:** ORSAC is responsible for verification and authentication of Forest Diversion Proposals (FDP) surveyed through DGPS/ETS by competent empaneled survey agencies on behalf of User Agency regarding "Submission of Geo-referenced Digital data while filing Forest Diversion Proposal for non-forest use" under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as required by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Forest and Environment vide their circular F. No.11-9/98 dated 08.07.2011.

Accordingly, the work regarding "the Geo-referencing provision of co-ordinates and DGPS survey of 227.62 ha of Forest land of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP" has been done by ORSAC and the DGPS surveyed maps have been submitted by ORSAC vide map no. 4335/1 dated 06.11.2024 along with the .shp and .kml files.

Thus, ORSAC was requested to provide clarification regarding discrepancy in area as pointed out by MoEF&CC, to which ORSAC vide letter No. ORSAC/PR/0242/2015-2025/2762(6) dated 10.07.2025 (attached herewith as "Annexure D" has stated the following which is self-explanatory:

"Area has been verified using ArcGIS software & observed that the area delineated in shape file as well as KML file are same. The KML file has been generated through ArcGIS software and there is no error in the same, the calculation sheet of which is enclosed. However, when the KML files are opened in Google Earth Pro through split multi geometry option for area calculation, Google Earth Pro has been taking into account the non-forest plots and computing the area of the entire polygon without excluding the small non-forest plots. Sometimes it encounters some issues as observed from the split apart multi geometry overview, the copy of which is also enclosed for reference."

Thus, this is a software error and the .kml file seems to be correct and may kindly be accepted for further consideration.

iv. Component wise KML file of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP is not available on Parivesh Portal. The State Govt. Shall submit KML files on Parivesh portal.

Reply: The component wise .kml file of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP is attached herewith in the form of a readable disc.

v. With regard to the proposed CA land, it has been observed that cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible. The State Government shall offer comments.

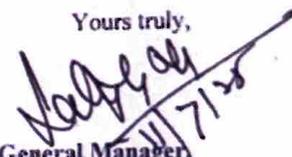
Reply: The entire CA land needed against diversion of 227.62 ha of forest land involved in the project is 455.24 ha. However, an area of additional 2.00 ha was taken into account while finalizing the CA land, thus, amounting to 457.22 ha. The additional land was taken into account after taking into account any encroachments that may be present which is less than 2.00 ha. The desired suitability certificate regarding the same is attached herewith as "Annexure E".

Therefore, in context of above, you are hereby humbly requested to kindly do the necessary regarding the proposal for non-forestry use of 227.62 ha of forest land within a total mining lease area of 323.92 ha within Basundhara (West) Extension Opencast Coal mining project by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

Your co-operation will be highly solicited from our end.

Thanking you.

Yours truly,

  
General Manager  
Mahalaxmi Area  
Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited

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महानदी कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

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District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



**MCL**

**Copy to:**

1. General Manager (E&F), MCL.

Remind with CD  
29/9/25

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area,  
AT/PO, Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



Ref No.: MCL/MLA/GM/E&F/2025-2026/ 396

Date: 08/09/2025

The Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division,  
District: Sundargarh, Odisha.

**Subject:** Proposal for non-forestry use of 227.62 ha of forest land within a total mining lease area of 523.92 ha within Basundhara (West) Extension Opencast Coal mining project by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

**Ref. No.:** Memo No. 4796/4F(Misc) dated 20.08.2025.

Respected Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above on compliance of EDS raised by your good offices, the point-wise reply is as follows:

1. **Point No. (5): The evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution has not been submitted.**

➤ **Reply:** The details regarding the evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution is as follows:

**Evacuation/transportation plan of the coal**

Transportation of coal will be done by coal transportation road (length- 1500 m) etc. and coal will be transported to Sardega Railway siding and its associated RLS for rail dispatch. The OB will be backfilled into the voids of the Basundhara (West) OC Expn following the same route. The route has been duly marked in the plan attached herewith as "Annexure A".

**Electricity Transmission**

The substation will consist of 33kV outdoor switchyard, control room & 6.6 kV outgoing arrangement. The two 6.6 kV switch boards will cater exclusively to HEMM. Pumping, lighting, colony & water supply and workshop etc. The location of the substation has been duly marked in the plan attached herewith as "Annexure A".

**Water Demand and supply Arrangement**

The potable water requirement will be met from Basundhara (East) OCP old Quarry. Industrial water demand will be met from the sump water of proposed mine: The breakup is as follows:



	Water Demand
Potable (In Kld)	500
Industrial (In Kld)	1510
<b>Total (In Kld)</b>	<b>2010</b>

The proposed pumping system has been designed to dewater the inflow of water due to precipitation falling within the active pit limit during the monsoon season to enable the mining activity to continue round the year. Coal and OB working faces and the haul roads shall be maintained free of water as far as possible. Water garland drains shall be developed in advance for each stage of mine working so that water is collected by the garland drains. The location of the mine sump has been marked duly on the plan attached herewith as "Annexure B". The drainage map considering core and buffer zone is also attached herewith as "Annexure C".

- Point No. (6) (i):** The project area of the Basundhara west extension Coal Mining Project was acquired under CBA Act-1957. The Section-11(2) of CBA Act, stipulates "Where the rights under any mining lease acquired under this Act vest in a Government Company under Sub-Section (2) of Section-11, the Government company shall, on and from the such vesting, be deemed to have become the lessee of the State Government, as if a mining leave under the Mineral concession rules had been granted by the State Government to the Government company for the entire lease period permissible under these rules. All rights and liabilities of the central government, in relation to the lease or the land covered by it shall, from the date of vesting, be deemed to have become the rights and liabilities of the Government Company". Hence, the action taken by you against non-forestry work, solid structures, road and cultivation land visible in the proposed forest patches from date of vesting of rights to you needs to be submitted.
  - Reply:** As per OM No.11-599/2014-FC issued by MoEF&CC on 10.11.2015 (attached herewith as "Annexure D"), MoEF&CC has made it clear that "in case of mining leases having forest land in part or full, the concerned user agency may execute a single mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mine and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, for the entire area falling in the mining lease after final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained."
- MMDR Act, 1957, being the mother Act & MCR, 1960, being the rule for the MMDR Act, 1957, all the provisions & orders thereunder, related to MMDR Act, 1957 & the MCR,**



# MCL

1960 shall also be applicable for mining leases acquired under any different Acts and rules.

Therefore, it can be easily inferred that the concerned user agency shall have valid mining lease for any project only after final approval under the Section-2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, even though the land is acquired under CBA Act, 1957.

Moreover, the afore-mentioned file of MoEF&CC further states that "the State Government, if so desires, may execute a separate mining lease for a whole or part of non-forest land falling in such mining lease, once stage-I approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. The State Government, in such cases, shall take all measures to ensure that no violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurs on the forest land."

Moreover, DIGF (CENTRAL), MoEF&CC, BBSR has clearly stated the following in her recommendations (copy attached herewith as "Annexure E") and has already proposed the following actions:

1. *Strict action needs to be initiated against erring officials of Revenue Department, being the custodian of the revenue forest land, for not being able to stop illegal mining in Revenue Forest land despite information by the DFO and RO on illegal mining.*
2. *The exact area of on-going illegal mining needs to be calculated and penal NPV and penal CA as applicable, needs to be imposed on the State Government's Revenue Authority. Immediate steps need to be taken to stop illegal mining in the area.*

In addition to this, DDGF (Central) has also recommended the project and the copy of the recommendation letter is attached herewith as "Annexure F".

Thus, based on the above recommendation from DIGF (CENTRAL), MoEF&CC, BBSR, the proposal may kindly be accepted.

3. **Point No. (6) (ii): No objection certificate from the Irrigation/ Water Resource Department, has not been submitted.**

➤ **Reply:** The Superintending Officer from Water Resources Department, Sundargarh has been requested to issue the NoC stating that the eastern boundary of the actual excavation area of the proposed coal mining project lies at a distance of approximately 118 meters from Basundhara River (letter attached herewith as "Annexure G").



**MCL**

However, it is hereby being undertaken that as soon as the NoC is obtained, the same will be submitted for your kind reference. The undertaking is hereby being attached as "Annexure H".

4. **Point No. (6) (iv): The component wise KML file has not been uploaded in Parivesh Portal.**

➤ **Reply:** The component wise kml file has been duly uploaded at point no. M-2 under the head "Upload a copy of map of the outer boundary of mining lease area" in Parivesh 1 Portal. The proof of the same is attached herewith as "Annexure I".

5. **Point No. (6) (v): As observed, regarding proposed CA land-cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible. Necessary compliances to be submitted through DFO Koraput.**

➤ **Reply:** The CA land site inspection has already been completed in 2022. The site inspection (attendance sheets attached herewith as "Annexure J") was attended by DFO, Koraput, concerned Ranger of the Forest Range, Forester, MCL officials and the DGPS consultant (ORSAC empanelled agency). The proposed CA land under Koraput forest division was thoroughly inspected by DFO Koraput taking into consideration the temporary structures available on the identified CA land.

**DFC, Koraput** after considering the above circumstances, **granted** the **suitability certificate** (attached herewith as "Annexure K") for carrying out **compensatory afforestation** on the above land and has **mentioned** that the "**degraded forest lands are free from encroachments and encumbrances**".

Therefore, in context of the above, the necessary compliance along with the documents are hereby being submitted for your kind acceptance and onward submission to MoEF&CC for consideration of FAC.

Your co-operation will be highly solicited from our end.

Thanking you.

**Enclosure:** As above.

Yours truly,

**General Manager,**

General Manager of  
Mahalaxmi Area.

Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
महानदी कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area  
AT/PO: Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



**MCL**

**Copy to:**

1. PCCF, BBSR: For kind information.
2. RCCF, Rourkela- For kind information.
3. GM (E&F), MCL.: For kind information.
4. P.O., B(W)OCP, MCL.: For kind information.



**Government of Odisha  
Project Screening Committee  
Minutes of Meeting**



**MoM ID** FC/MOM/PSC/270384/2026  
**Agenda ID** FC/AGENDA/PSC/500194/2026  
**Title of Meeting** 85th Project Screening Committee Meeting  
**Meeting Venue** N/A  
**Meeting Mode** Virtual  
**Meeting Dates & Time** Start Date : 19/01/2026  
 End Date : 19/01/2026

**List of PSC Members:**

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Dr.k. Murugesan Ifs	Nodal Officer	noda*****@odisha.gov.in
2	Shri Sudhanshu Sekhar Khora	Conservator of Forest (CF)	rccf*****@odisha.gov.in
3	Shri Ramasamy P	Conservator of Forest (CF)	rccf*****@odisha.gov.in
4	Shri T. Ashok Kumar	Conservator of Forest (CF)	cf_s*****@rediffmail.com
5	Anil Kumar Ray	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)	dfo.*****@odisha.gov.in
6	Manu Ashok Bhat	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)	dfo.*****@odisha.gov.in
7	Khushwant Singh	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)	dfo.*****@odisha.gov.in
8	Bikram Dev Pattanaik	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)	dfo.*****@odisha.gov.in
9	D D Hanumant	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)	dfo.*****@odisha.gov.in
10	Nitish Kumar	Divisional Forest Officer (DFO)	dfo.*****@odisha.gov.in

**Proposals considered during Meeting:**

**1. Project Name** Construction of New BG Railway Line Between DUBURI STATION & TATA STEEL PLANT , Kalinga Nagar (Upto boundary ) in connection with Angul \_ Sukinda NEW BG Rail Link Project.

On scrutiny of the online proposal on Parivesh Portal for PSC-II meeting, the proposal was found to be complete in all respect.

**Recommendation Remark:**

In view of above observation, the PSC recommended the proposal for onward transmission to the State Government for grant of Forest Clearance as per provision of Section-9 (16) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

**5. Project Name** Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of MCL  
**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/562205/2025  
**User Agency** Neeraj Kalla  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 227.62  
**Division** Sundargarh Division  
**Recommendation** Rejected

**Brief Description of Project:**

Basundhara (West) Extension OCP has been formulated within Chaturdhara Block is located in the North-Western Coastal Part of Ib-valley coalfield of Odisha of Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division. The proposal was applied by M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. on Parivesh 1.0 vide Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/20559/2016. The proposal has been duly processed in hardcopy by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, RCCF, Rourkela Circle, State Nodal Officer and Govt. of Odisha, FE&CC Department and was forwarded to GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for according necessary approval under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The AIGF, GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi (FC Division) has raised EDS on 06 points which have to be complied by the State Forest Department / User Agency. The EDS No.3 has stipulated that as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide Letter No. FC-11/118/2021-FC dated 25.01.2024 the State Govt. shall complete the procedures laid down in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the minutes of the meeting of PSC, shall be attached with Part-IV of forms and processing of proposals, through Conservator of Forests, for completing the procedural / technical purposes. In compliance to this observation, the UA perhaps filed the proposal in Parivesh 2.0 instead of complying the observations of MoEF&CC on Parivesh 1.0.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The UA has to submit other compliances to Nodal Officer through DFO concerned. After obtaining the compliance report, the proposal will be taken in the PSC meeting offline and the minutes of the PSC meeting will be attached with the compliance report at this level and submitted to MoEF&CC.

**Recommendation Remark:**

In view of the above, the PSC rejected the proposal and advised the UA to submit the compliance report of the observations made by MoEF&CC in the proposal filed on Parivesh 1.0.

**6. Project Name** Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia Coal Mines  
**Proposal Number** FP/OR/MIN/QRY/550354/2025