

Site inspection by the District Forest Officer, Peddapally, for the proposed area for diversion of 17.994Ha RF land for conversion from Underground to 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.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, & HOFF, Telangana vide reference No. 6963/2019/FCA-1/PS Dt.20.08.2020 has forwarded the proposal for processing as required under F (C) Act, for diversion of 17.994Ha 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.

3- The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in Form-A of the proposal furnished following information:

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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:

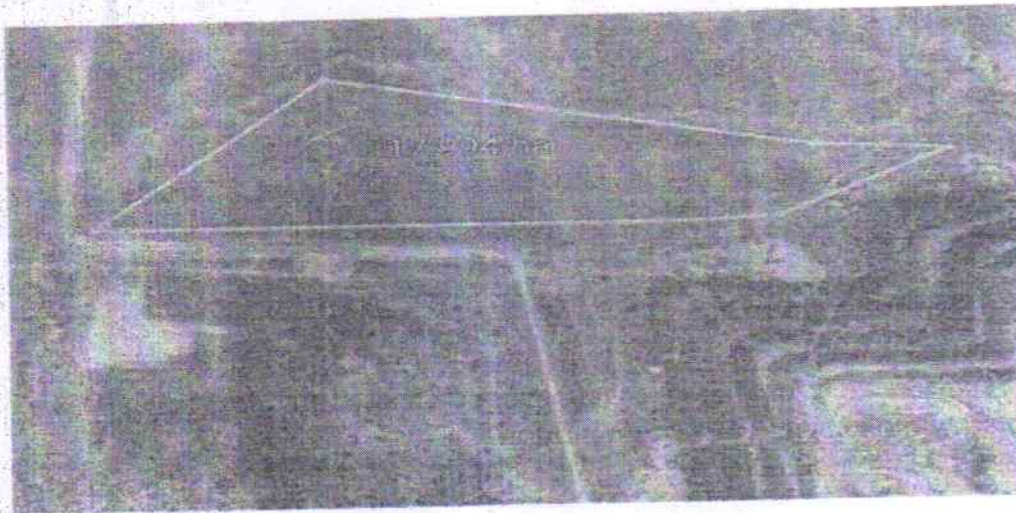
Sl. No	Name of the Lease	Area in Ha	Lease valid up to
1	South Godavari ML	17.194	31.12.2034
2	Pandulapally ML	0.800	18.07.2021

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

(d) Present proposal is for Ramagundam Coal involving diversion of 17.994 Ha of Forest land for surface use in Upperlakesaram block in Manthani Range and Peddapally Division in Peddapalli District.

- (e) Earlier this land was accepted as C.A land by the Forest Department (by mistake of facts that it is as non RF land 412.40Ha) for the diversion off RF land for Manuguru, OCP-II during 1987-88 in erstwhile Khammam District (present Bhadradi Kothagudem District). This land as Non-RF was already under the possession of SCCL. However, after accepting it as C.A land, the same was notified as Protected Forest land vide GO Ms.No.270, dtd.29.07.1989 .
- (f) Later, it was found that the Coal deposits are available in the said land of 412.40 Ha., which was handed over to Forest Department for the purpose of CA. Hence, SCCL submitted a proposals for diversion of the above land. Accordingly, the MoEF, GoI, vide Lr.No.8-109/2005-FC, dtd.02.05.2008 has accorded final approval for diversion of 412.40 Ha of forest land in Adriyala RF. This involved 247.00 Ha for surface use. Thereafter, again MoEF, GoI vide letter No.8-109/2005-FC (vol), dtd.01.08.2013 granted final approval for diversion of 147.42 Ha (part of 165.40 Ha. Forest land diverted for Underground rights) for surface use. As such, out of 412.40 Ha an area of 394.42 Ha. (247.00 Ha. + 147.42 Ha.) of Forest land was diverted for surface use in 2 phases as mentioned above. **Now, it is proposed for diversion of balance Forest land of 17.98 Ha. (412.40 Ha. – 394.42 Ha) from Underground rights to Surface rights for mining purpose.**
- (g) As per the DGPS survey and the authentication communicated by the Office of Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, (HoFF), TS, Hyderabad vide letter Rc.No.6963/2019/FCA-1/PS, dtd.17.05.2019, the extent of Forest land was confirmed as 17.994 Ha. Protected forest land in compartment No.488, 488/1 of Upperlakesaram RF.
- (h) 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.
- (i) With regard to CA land, it has been informed that the MoEF vide letter No: 423/2011-Fc dated 31.01.2013 has accorded status of CPSU to SCCL for the purpose of creation of Compensatory Afforestation (Annexure-VI). Accordingly, an Undertaking for payment of CA charges for raising Compensatory Afforestation in double the area of degraded forest land is enclosed.
- (l) 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.
- (m) **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 Regeon 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**

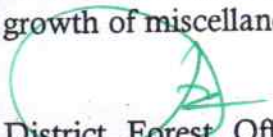
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- (n) SCCL has submitted undertakings to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation and/or penal Compensatory Afforestation as well as cost for protection and regeneration of Safety Zone etc., NPV etc as per the scheme prepared and submission of ROFR Certificate soon.



- 4- During my inspection it was observed that in this area proposed for diversion, initially no growth was there. However, being on the surface of the UG mining below, the SCCL has taken up planting into the area during 2012 and as on day about 5260 plants are surviving. The main species planted were *Ficus benghalensis*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Hardwickia binate*, *Dendrocalmus strictus*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Brachystegia manga*, *Sasia ariculata*, *Lannea coromandalica* etc.



- 5- I have also seen the degraded RF area (36Ha) identified to the double the extent of area proposed for diversion. It is in compartment number 710 of Kundanpally Beat and Kannala RF. The area is suitable for afforestation. The existing species are rudimentary and coppice growth of miscellaneous species.


District Forest Officer,
Peddapally