



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



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Memo No. 2371 Dt. 24/04/2024

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.

Sub: Proposal towards seeking clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change, Govt. of **India** for diversion of **227.62 ha** of forest land of Basundhara (Extension) Open cast Coal Mining Project of Mahalaxmi Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

{State Serial No:OR-024/2018 dated 26.04.2018}

{ProposalNo.: FP/OR/MIN/20559/2016}

Ref: Letter No. 187 dt. 08.04.2024 & EDS reply dated. 19.04.2024. of General Manager, Basundhara Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited,

In inviting a reference to the proposal cited above, the proposal for diversion of **227.62 ha** of forest land of **Basundhara (Extension) Open cast Coal Mining Project** of **Mahalaxmi Area** of **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited** for obtaining approval of Central Government of India under Section-2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is furnished below:-

1. Brief Description:

The proposed Basundhara (West) Extension OCP has been formulated within Chaturdhara block in the Gopalpur Sector of Ib-valley coalfield. The Chaturdhara block is in the north-western central part of Ib River coalfield of Odisha, known as Gopalpur sector. This coalfield is in the southern middle part of lower Gondwana basin of Sone- Mahanadi Valley and occupies an area of about 1460 sq.km with potential coal bearing area of around 1050 sq.km the Ib River coalfield lies in between latitude 21°31' to 22°14' North and longitude 83°32' to 84°10' East and falls mainly in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts of Odisha. Coal demand from Ib-valley coalfield has increased many folds due to its strategic location with Howrah-Mumbai railway main line passing through the coalfield. The coal of this coalfield is suitable for thermal power plants.

Many pit head power plants and other coal-based plants have come up due to easy availability of coal and water. The southern, western & central India power stations must depend on Ib valley coalfield for their growth. As Howrah-Mumbai rail line passes through this coalfield, coal can be evacuated from this coalfield to western India power houses via rail route. Coal to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is also supplied via rail-cum-sea route through Visakhapatnam and Haldia ports. Coal can easily move from this coalfield to Eastern India and Northern India as well. Necessary infrastructures like rail and port facilities are being developed/ augmented in the region. District Headquarter Sundargarh, on the State Highway-10 (Sambalpur to Rourkela), is at a distance about 46 km. from the Coal blocks. The Sundargarh (Odisha)-Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) all weather road passes through the blocks. The blocks are also connected by block top road with two important towns of Odisha namely Rourkela at 145 km and

Jharsuguda at 75 km. The blocks come under Hemgir Tahsil and Balinga police station in the district of Sundargarh, Odisha. The blocks are around 6 km. southwest of Basundhara West Colliery and are connected by part metallic road. The blocks are connected by road to the State of Bhubaneswar through State Highway-10 and National Highway-42, with a total distance of around 450 km. The blocks are well connected with MCL HQ at Sambalpur situated at a distance of about 100 km. Nearest rail-tail head is the Sardega railway siding, situated between 22°04'06.83" to 22°04'12.08" North and Longitude 83°42'41.0 1" to 83°43'08.38" East, the total length of the track line from Jharsuguda to Sardega Railway siding is 53.1 kms and the distance of Barpali yard from Sardega railway siding is 8.72 kms. The nearest port at bay of Bengal is Paradip and situated at a distance of about 600 km. from the block. The Jharsuguda airport is the nearest airport to the block (Approx. 45 KM).

The project covers 02 (two) villages viz. Ratansara village and Gopalpur (Telendih) village in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundargarh District and stands acquired by the Central Government and the ownership is vested with MCL, it also includes one reserved forest viz. Jamkani RF. Out of several coal mines, **Basundhara (Extension)** Open Cast Coal Mining Project has a rated capacity 8.75 MTY. The user agency has applied for diversion of 227.62 ha of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Forest land break-up is as given below.

Break-up of Forest Land			
Mining	Safety Zone	Infrastructure	Total
206.014	5.169	16.439	227.62 Ha

The above break up of forest land is attached at Page-28 in D/P.

2. Map

The user Agency has submitted the following maps:-

SL. NO.	DESCRIPTION	PLATE	SL. NO.
1.	ORSAC vetted DGPS Map showing surveyed Co-Ordinates for proposed forest land diversion of Basundhara (West) Extension in 1:3960 scale.	PLATE – 1.	1.
2.	Map showing alignments on the Survey of India Toposheet No. F44E12 in 1:50,000 scale	PLATE – 2.	2.
3.	Map showing Lay out Plan of Basundhara (West) Extension in 1:10,000 scale	PLATE – 3.	3.
4.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside KAVIDAMAL RF in 1:3,000 scale	PLATE – 4.	4.
5.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside RALEGADA PRF (PATCH-2) in 1:4,000 scale	PLATE - 5	5.

6.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside RALEGADA PRF (PATCH-3) in 1:2,000 scale	PLATE - 6	6.
7.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside SUNKI PRF in 1:2,000 scale	PLATE-7	7.
8.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside MENDHAJHOLA (BHIMDOL) RF in 1:3,000 scale	PLATE-8	8.
9.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside CHANDALGUDA RF in 1:3,000 scale	PLATE-9	9.
10.	ORSAC vetted DGPS map showing CA Land Inside RALEGADA PRF(PATCH-1) in 1:4,000 scale	PLATE-10	10.
11.	Index Map Showing DGPS Surveyed of RF Area Inside Koraput Forest Division in 1:70,000 scale	PLATE-11	11.
12.	Toposheet No. E44K11 showing CA Land Inside BHIMDOL RF in 1:50,000 scale	PLATE-12	12.
13.	Toposheet No. E44K10 showing CA Land Inside KAVIDMAL RF in 1:50,000 scale	PLATE-13	13.
14.	Toposheet No. E44L2 Showing CA Land Inside RALEGADA PRF & SUNKI PRF in 1:50,000 scale	PLATE-14	14.
15.	Toposheet No. E44K13 showing CA Land Inside CHANDALGUDA RF in 1:50,000 scale	PLATE-15	15.
16.	Phase Reclamation Plan and Afforestation Map in 1:4,000 scale	PLATE-16	16.
17.	Map showing Lay out Plan of Safety zone of Basundhara (West) Extension in 1:4,000 scale	PLATE-17	17.

3. Forest land

The proposed **Basundhara (Extension)** Open Cast Coal Mining Project includes the following categories of land duly authenticated by Tahsildar, Hemgir and the details village wise land schedule of forest lands are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Village/R.F.	Proposed Forest Area (in ha)	Govt. Non-Forest Area (in ha)	Tenancy Area (in ha)	Total Area (in ha)
1	Gopalpur	184.622	44.383	40.182	269.187
2	Ratansara	36.936	0.627	11.108	48.671
3	Jamkani R.F.	6.062	0.00	0.00	6.062
Total Area (in ha)		227.62	45.010	51.290	323.92

The purpose-wise breakup of forest land and non-forest land for requirement of this project are as follows:-

Sl. No	Purpose of Utilization	Forest Land (in Ha)	Non-Forest Land (in Ha)	Total area in Ha)
1	Mining	206.014	94.217	300.231
2	7.5m Safety Zone	5.169	1.941	7.109
3	Infrastructure	16.439	0.142	16.580
Total		227.62	96.158	323.92
Forest Land proposed to be diverted		227.62		

The detail of Forest land is enclosed in the Diversion Proposal (DP).

4. **Flora and Fauna**

The detailed study of flora and fauna is furnished blow:-

Available important species in the area i.e. Char (*Buchanania lanzan*), Mahul (*Madhuca idica*), Tentuli (*Tamarindus idica*), Mango (*Mangifera idica*), Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb*) & Bel (*Aegle marmelos*), etc. & movement of Wildlife like Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*), Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), **Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus affinis*)** Jungle Hen etc involved in the Project.

5. **Trees enumeration:**

Plot wise enumeration has been carried out in the Reserve Forest and Revenue Forest area applied for diversion. The details enumeration list has been enclosed separately with the proposal. Total trees to be affected by the projects – **57113 Nos.** (Both Forest land-51913nos. and Non-Forest Land-5200 nos. of trees) abstract at Page-40(C) in D/P & separate booklet of tree enumeration list.

6. **Compensatory Afforestation**

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, being a PSU, Compensatory Afforestation scheme may be taken up over twice the extent of forest land diversion in the degraded forest area as per provision made date para 2.5 (i) (f) of the handbook of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 guidelines as such degraded forest land twice in an extent i.e., **457.22 Ha.** of degraded forest land in Sunki-PRF-45.160 ha., Ralegeda PRF(Patch-I)-100.229 ha., Ralegeda PRF(Patch-II)- 94.979 ha., Ralegeda PRF(Patch-III)-21.090 ha. of Semiliguda Range, Bhimdol- RF -107.078 ha. Kavidimal RF-41.006 ha. of Balda Forest Range and Chandalguda RF-47.678 ha. of Koraput Range in Koraput Forest Division for raising compensatory afforestation.

The scheme for Compensatory Afforestation is enclosed in DP at page-42 to 105 along with total financial outlay of **Rs. 47,42,04,512.57/-**. The U.A has submitted the undertaking to pay the approved cost for raising Compensatory Afforestation, which is attached in **D/P at Page-162**.

7. **Resettlement and Rehabilitation**

The displacement of people like- 119nos. of ST, 60 nos. of SC & Others-40 nos. of Village Gopalpur & 70nos. ST, 35 nos. of SC & 12 nos. of Others of Village Ratansara involved in the Project at **page-153 in D/P**. The rehabilitation plan and the resettlement plan & an undertaking are attached in **D/P at 154 to 159**.

8. **Cost Benefit analysis**

The User Agency has submitted the Cost benefit Analysis, which is attached **in D/P at Page-135 to 142**.

9. **Environmental Clearance.**

The user agency has submitted the proposal for ToR, vide online application no.- IA/OR/CMIN/63468/2017, for consideration in the EAC meeting for the accordance of ToR. The proposal for ToR was considered in the 24thEAC meeting, held on 11.01.2017& ToR was granted and the grant of EC is awaited till the submission of the forest clearance stage I. An undertaking in this regards submitted by the User Agency which is attached **at page-133 in D/P**.

10. **Wildlife Management Plan**

The User Agency has intimated that, the Wildlife Management Plan is not required as the project is not falling within any eco-sensitive zone, national park or sanctuary etc. in Sundargarh Forest Division. An undertaking in this regards submitted by the User Agency which is attached **at page-164 in D/P**.

11. **Deposit of NPV**

The User Agency has given an undertaking to pay the NPV of the forest land proposed for diversion which is attached **in page No. 160**.

12. **Addl. NPV**

The User Agency has given an undertaking to pay the Addl.NPV of the forest land proposed for diversion which is attached **in page No. 161**.

13. **Forest Right Certificate**

The Collector, Sundargarh has issued the FRA Certificate vide No. 5414 dated 21.06.2021, which is attached **in page No. 106 to 132 in D/P**.

14. **Violation**

No violation of FC Act noticed till date.

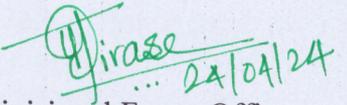
15. **Others**

Site inspection report of the undersigned along with Part-II, Basic information report are enclosed herewith in the proposal.

16. **Recommendation**

In view of the above, 227.62 ha. of forest land is recommended for diversion in favour Basundhara (West) Extension Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Mahalaxmi Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. Therefore, the proposal for diversion of 227.62 ha. of forest land of Basundhara (West) Extension Open cast Coal Mining Project of Mahalaxmi Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in five copies for obtaining approval of Central Government of India under the Act for diversion of forest land for the Project.

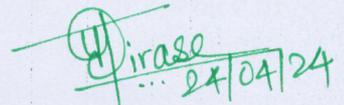
Encl.: 5 sets of proposal

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Divisional Forest Officer
Sundargarh Forest Division

Memo No. 2372 Dated 24 -04-2024

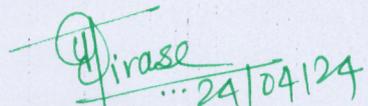
Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action.

 ... 24/04/24

Divisional Forest Officer
Sundargarh Forest Division.

Memo No. 2373 Dated 24 -04-2024

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Basundhara Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, information and necessary action with reference to his proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/50293/2020 vide State Serial No. OR-050/2021 dated 08.07.2021.

 ... 24/04/24

Divisional Forest Officer,
Sundargarh Forest Division.