

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

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Memo. No.: 6220/4F (Misc) /

Dated: 29/10/2020.

To

The Conservator of Forests, I/C  
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 349.709 ha of forest land of Siarmal Open cast Coal Mining Project of Mahalaxmi Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

(State Serial No. OR-061/ 2019 dated 07.09.2019)

**Ref:** Forest Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/32796/2018 submitted on 28/03/2018

With reference to the proposal cited above, I submit herewith the proposal for diversion of 349.709 ha of forest land of Siarmal 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.

**1. Brief Description:**

Siarmal OCP is consisting of Siarmal, Siarmal Extension and Banapatra blocks and located in north-western central part of Ib River coalfield of Odisha, known as Gopalpur sector. This coalfield is the southern middle part of lower Gondwana basin of Son Mahanadi Valley and occupies an area of about 1460 sq.km. The Ib River coalfield lies in between latitude 21°31' to 22°14' North and longitude 83°32'00" to 84°10'00" East and falls mainly in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts of Odisha. The total area of the project is 2290.449 Ha out of which the total forest land is only 349.709 Ha. The location of the site for coal mining operation fully depends upon nature's deposit of minerals and geological structure of the coal seams.

District headquarter Sundargarh, on State Highway-10 (Sambalpur to Rourkela), is at a distance of about 46 km. from the blocks. The Sundargarh (Odisha) – Raigarh (Chattisgarh) all weather road passes through the blocks. The blocks are also connected by black 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. south west of Basundhara West Colliery and are connected by part metallic road. The blocks are connected by road to the State capital 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-head is the Sardega railway siding, situated between latitudes 22°04'06.83" to 22°04'12.08" North and longitudes 83°42'41.01" 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 from the block (Approx. 45 KM).

## 2. Map

The User Agency have enclosed the following maps

Sl. No.	Particulars	Scale	Annexure
01	DGPS Survey map by ORSAC showing compensatory afforestation areas in Satparlia R.F. in Sundargarh Range in lieu of forest area proposed for diversion in Siarmal OC, Mahalaxmi Area of M/s MCL, Sundargarh district.	1:50000	Annexure A(I)

## 3. Forest land

The total revenue forest land of 349.709 ha shall be used in the diversion Proposal. Out of the 349.709 ha of forest land proposed for use in this Project, 260.729 ha shall be used for mining, 3.930 ha shall be used for safety zone (7.5 meter inside from mining lease boundary) and 85.010 Ha shall be used for Embankment, OB, Blasting zone and others. The detail of Forest land is enclosed as Annexure – III (Page-224-246) of the Diversion Proposal.

## 4. Trees enumeration:

Plot wise enumeration has been carried out in the Revenue Forest area applied for diversion. The details enumeration list has been enclosed separately with the proposal as Annexure- B. Total trees to be affected by the projects – 24414 Nos.

## 5. 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 hand book of forest conservation act, 1980 guidelines as such degraded forest land twice in an extent i.e., 699.418 ha (349.709 ha x2) has been identified in Satparlia R.F. under Sundargarh Forest Division for under taking Compensatory Afforestation. The scheme for Compensatory Afforestation amounting Rs. 23,29,60,989.32 is enclosed in DP at Annexure-A. The U.A has submitted the under taking to pay the approved cost for raising Compensatory Afforestation.

## 6. Resettlement and Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation plan and the resettlement plan are attached herewith the forest proposal. (Annexure-I)

## 7. Cost Benefit analysis

Cost benefit Analysis is enclosed herewith the forest proposal Annexure – II (Page No. 32-54)

## 8. Environmental Clearance.

The user agency has submitted the proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/24164/2014 dated 16 august 2014 for consideration in the EAC meeting for the accordance of EC. The proposal for EC was

considered in the EAC meeting, held on 22.08.2019 and 17-08-2020 and the EC is awaited till the submission of the forest clearance stage I. Details attached in Annexure - IV

**9. Wild life Management Plan**

Not required as the project is not falling within any eco-sensitive zone, national park or sanctuary in Sundargarh Forest Division. This has been mentioned in the online Forest Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/32796/2018 submitted on 28/03/2018, and thereby accepted on 28/03/2018.

**10. Deposit of NPV**

The User Agency has given an undertaking to pay the NPV as well as the additional NPV of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed at Annexure-V.

**11. Violation**

No violation noticed.

**12. Others**

- i) Site inspection report of Sundargarh Forest Division is enclosed with the proposal.
- ii) Part-II is enclosed with the proposal.

**13. Recommendation**

In view of the energy perspective of the country, the proposal for diversion of 349.709 ha of forest land for the Siarmal OCP of Mahalaxmi Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited is recommended.

**Encl:** 5 sets of proposal

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Sundargarh Forest Division

Memo No. 6221 /Dated 29 -10-2020

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Mahalaxmi Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, information and necessary action with reference to his proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/32796/2018 vide State Serial No. OR-061/ 2019 dated 07.09.2019.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.