

**Background of the proposal:**

The Project Report for Lakhanpur Opencast, 5.0 Mty capacity of Ib-valley coalfield was prepared in April,87 and approved in January,92 vide letter No.43011/ 43/ 87-CPA, dt.22.1.92. The mine started coal production from 1992-93. Expansion proposal for Lakhanpur OC mine for incremental production of 5.00 Mty (Total 10 Mty) was approved by CIL Board in February, 2004. (Phase-II) has also been sanctioned for 15 Mty (5 Mty Incremental) in September, 2008.

The PR of Belpahar OC was prepared in Oct.'80 for a production of 2 Mty. The project was sanctioned by the Govt. in Dec.'82. The project was started in 84-85. Expansion proposal of Belpahar mine for an incremental production of 1.50 Mty (3.50 Mty total capacity) was sanctioned by the MCL Board in August, 2004. Ph-II expansion of Belpahar OC has also been approved by MCL Board for rated capacity of 8.0 Mty (4.5 Mty incremental).

Project Report of Lilari OCP was sanctioned in Sept 1987 for a rated capacity of 0.80 Mty. An extension PR was formulated in March, 2002 within the same property by reducing the safety zone in the forest land from earlier 300m to 7.5 m as per guidelines. The extension PR was approved by FDs meeting of MCL.

Belpahar OCP was planned in Belpahar Block-I & II to exploit the lower seams (Ib and Rampur), whereas Lakhanpur OCP and Lilari OCP were planned further dip side in Belpahar block-III to exploit upper Lajkura seam. Both the mines were planned for open cast mining. The lower seams (Ib and Rampur) below Lakhanpur OC and Lilari OC were not planned due to thick parting between Lajkura and Rampur seam resulting in adverse economics.

In the present proposal, all the three mines (Lakhanpur, Belpahar and Lilari OCs) have been proposed to be integrated into one mine to exploit all the three principal seams of the coalfield i.e. Ib, Rampur and Lajkura by open cast mining.

Land approved for the three mines namely, Lakhanpur, Belpahar and Lilari mines is 4133.333 ha and total land was considered as Mining Lease. Out of approved Mining Lease, Forest land measures to 878.745 ha. Out of 878.745 ha, forest diversion has been made for 541.622 ha and 337.123 ha of Forest land has not been diverted yet for the three approved projects. Within diverted Forest land, re-diversion of use pattern for 171.774 ha Forest land is required.

Additional land required for Integrated Project is 609.544 ha in which, Forest land involved is 117.643 ha, out of which, 37.693 ha Forest land lies far away and falls outside Mining Lease, which need not be diverted. Additional Forest land required to be diverted is 79.950 ha. Total Forest diversion is required for 417.073 ha. Therefore the total mine lease area of Integrated Lakhanpur – Belpahar- Lilari Opencast Project (40MTY) is 4399.246 Ha out of which total forest is 958.695 Ha and Non-Forest land is 3440.551 Ha.