

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From
Smt. R.Sobha, IFS,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Head of Forest Force,
Telangana State, "Aranya Bhavan",
Saifabad, **Hyderabad - 500004.**

To
The Spl Chief Secretary to Government,
Forests Department,
Telangana State,
"Aranya Bhavan",
Saifabad, **Hyderabad - 500004.**

Ref.No. 9982/2018/FCA-4 Dated:26.03.2021.

Madam,

Sub:- TSFD- F(C) Act, 1980 - Application for 2nd renewal of Indaram Mining Lease over 929.29 Ha of forest land involving 15.16 Ha for surface use in compt.Nos from 699 to 703,706 to 709 and 711 to 713 in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial forest division in Mancherial District in favour of M/s..SCCL-**Furnishing of proposals for according approval** - Regarding.

Ref:-

1. General Manager, Sri Rampur Area, SCCL,Mancherial district Ref.No.SRP/EST/M/3/2018/163,Dt.28.05.2018.
2. PCCF Rc.No.9982/2018/FCA-1/PS,Dt: 13.06.2018.
3. General Manager, Sri Rampur Area, SCCL,Mancherial district Ref.No.SRP/EST/M/3/2018/224,Dt.25.07.2018.
4. General Manager, Sri Rampur Area, SCCL ,Mancherial district Ref.No.SRP/EST/M/3/2018/223,Dt.23.07.2018
5. PCCF Rc.No.9982/2018/FCA-1/PS(I),Dt: 18.08.2018.
6. General Manager, Sri Rampur Area, SCCL,Mancherial district Ref.No.SRP/EST/M/3/2018/73,Dt.26.02.2020.
7. PCCF Rc.No.32770/2008/FCA-1/PS,Dt:19.03.2020.
8. PCCF Rc.No.9982/2018/FCA-1/PS(i),Dt: 10.06.2020.
9. Director(operations), SCCL, Bhadradi Kothagudem District Ref: CRP/EST/F/510/757,Dt:02.09.2020.
- 10.PCCF Rc.No.9982/2018/FCA-1/PS,Dt:11.09.2020.
- 11.CF &FDPT, KTR, Nirmal Rc.No.3629/2018/D2,Dt:20.02.2021

It is submitted that the Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal in the ref 11th cited has submitted processed proposal for 2nd renewal of Indaram Mining Lease over 929.29 Ha of forest land involving 15.16 Ha for surface use in compt.Nos from 699 to 703,706 to 709 and 711 to 713 in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range, Mancherial Forest Division, Mancherial District in favour of M/s..SCCL; duly recommending the project in Part-II by Forest Divisional Officer, Mancherial and Part-III by the Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal along with inspection notes & other necessary documents.

The details of proposal with remarks are as follows:

I. User Agency has furnished following information in Part-I & other letters:

- Indaram Mining Lease was originally sanctioned by State Govt vide G.O.Ms.No.438, dt.28.05.1979 over an extent of 2900-Ha (29 km²) for a period of 20 years from 29.07.1980.
- Subsequently, MoEF vide letter NO.FC(A)/16.1/AP/II/MIN, dt.23.02.1996 diverted 6.20 Ha of Forest land (falling in Indaram Mining Lease) for RK.8 Incline for surface use. Similarly, MoEF vide letter No.8-70/90-FC, dt.23.02.1998, diverted 8.96 Ha of forest land for surface use for Ravindra Khani New Tech underground mine which is also covered in the same lease. As such, all together 15.16 Ha for forest land diverted for surface use and CA land to an extent of 21.36 Ha (8.96 + 12.40) given in Rallapet, Gurijala and Bhoodakalan Villages of Bellampalli Forest Division and accordingly CA charges paid.
- Further, MoEF vide Lr.No.8-1/2000-FC, dt.28.11.2001 renewed Indaram Mining Lease over an area of 1070 Ha of forest land for a period of 20 years. The extent of

forest land was subsequently modified by MoEF vide Lr.No.8-1/2000-FC, dt.20.03.2002 as 1054.84 Ha excluding 15.16 Ha which was already diverted by MoEF as stated above. Boundary pillars have been constructed all along the boundary of 1070 Ha.

- As the present lease period is expiring on 23.07.2020, and since balance coal reserves are still to be extracted from this lease area, SCCL intend to apply for 2nd Renewal of Lease. As per MoEF guidelines, SCCL had done survey of forest area involved in the lease with DGPS instrument along with local Forest Officials concerned. As per the survey, the forest area covered in Indaram Mining Lease comes to 929.29 Ha only against earlier projected area of 1070 Ha. The difference in the extent of area is due to mistakes in the survey during earlier lease period as no accurate survey instruments were available during the olden days. The forest area diverted for surface use falling in the lease area covering an extent of 15.16 Ha (6.20 + 8.96) have also been surveyed with DGPS instrument and these extents are found as 6.20 Ha and 8.98 Ha.
- At present, the following mines are being operated in the proposed diversion of forest land, in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range & Division.
 - a. R.K-6 Incline
 - b. RKNT Incline
 - c. RK-7 Incline
 - d. Rk-8 Incline
 - e. SRP OC-II
- As the present lease period is expiring on 23.07.2020, the mining operations are to be continued in the lease hold area beyond the expiry of the lease period further for extraction of balance coal reserves in the ongoing mines to meet the coal production target fixed by the Government of India from time to time. As such, to extract the balance coal reserves, the mining operations are to be continued for further period of next 20 years.
- Accordingly, the M/s.SCCL has applied for 2nd Renewal of Indaram Mining Lease including surface area of 15.18 Ha in Mancherial District to an extent of 929.29 Ha.
- Map showing the area proposed for diversion overlaid with Geo coordinates recorded by using ETS & DGPS/DGNSS overlaid on a 1:50000 scale Topomap is enclosed.
- Cost of the project is estimated as **Rs. 327.00 Crores.**
- Justification for locating the project in Forest area is enclosed.
- Cost Benefit Analysis is also enclosed.
- Necessary clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been obtained from time to time against all the projects / Mines for Mining Operations
- The User agency furnished certificate stating that the proposed forest area for diversion is barest minimum and essentially required for the proposed project.
- The User agency has furnished following undertakings for acquisition of forest land
 - to pay the cost of Net Present Value (NPV), the additional NPV as per the assessment made by the State Forest Department.
 - to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation as per the scheme prepared by the State Government.
 - to pay the cost of extraction charges of tree growth, existing on the forest land proposed for diversion under the project as and when demanded by the Forest authorities.
 - Etc

II. Forest Divisional Officer, Mancheri has furnished following information in Part- II and Inspection Report Dt.06.08.2020, 16.01.2021 & 23.01.2021.

- The 2nd Renewal of Indaram Mining Lease over 929.29 Ha of forest land involving 15.18 ha for surface use is falling in Compt. Nos. from 698 to 701, 703, 706 to 709 is falling in Indaram RF and 711 to 713 in Indaram Ext-I RF, Mancheri Range of Mancheri forest division.
- The Legal status of the forest land of Indaram RF notified U/s 18 of Hyderabad Forest Act, Gazette No.9, Dt: 7th Bahman 1349F and Indaram Extn.I RF notified U/s U/s 15 under APFA,1967 vide G.O. Ms.No.1161, F & A, Dt: 07.08.1971.
- Density of vegetation is 0.4 in the proposed area.
- There are no trees are proposed for felling as the proposal submitted by SCCL is for underground mining.
- The area is mostly plain to undulating at some places. The area is mostly covered with shrubs.
- The important flora found on the surface of the proposed are mostly *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Azadiracata indica*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Grewia latifolia*, *Madhuca indica (Bassia latifolia)*, *Ougenia oojenensis (Gugni adalbergioides)*, *Tectonagrandis*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Terminalia arjuna* and *Zizyphus xyloporous*.
- The proposed area is not falling in any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Bio-sphere reserve, tiger reserve or Elephant corridor, Wild life migration corridor etc.,
- Though the area is not falling in the protected area, the area proposed and the adjoining RF areas are important from wildlife point of view. Since last six months and even earlier there are reports of tiger movement in the area and this area serve not less than corridor. Due to fragmentation, the movement of tiger is restricted. However, since the mining proposal is for underground mining lease, it may not cause significant disturbance to wildlife.
- There are no any protected archaeological heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monuments in the proposed site.
- The requirement of the land proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the Project and there is no alternate site available.
- The reduced boundary is demarcated in the field by erecting temporary pillars. During inspection of Forest Divisional Officer, Mancheri, he has checked the coordinates of revised boundary of the present diversion and found correct.
- During earlier inspection on 06.08.2020, it was noticed that, the User Agency has violated the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by constructing physical structures and unauthorized occupation of RF land and putting up usage for non-forestry works in the proposed area for 2nd renewal of Indaram Mining Lease over 929.29 ha of forest land is as follows.
 - a) Some areas and Dump yards area in 7.80 Ha
 - b) Excess area RK/New Tech area using 30 Ha instead of 8.98 Ha (21.02 Ha)
 - c) Total area under violation presumed was 28.82 Ha.**
- Notice was issued to General Manager, M.s SCCL, Srirampur by FDO, Mancheri for above violation vide FDO Ref.No.4137/2018/F3 dt.19.11.18, 18.06.2019, 05.09.2019 & 04.11.2019.
- The General Manager, M.s SCCL, Srirampur submitted reply stating that the encroachments reported were not encroachments and the structures were on the lands which were handed over to SCCL prior to 1980 under different G.O.s, but the report was not convincing as it was lacking of documentary evidence and supporting documents and could not produce documents showing the above lands were reserved.
- **Later on the documents along with maps were furnished by the User Agency, the same was verified in field on 16.01.2021 & 23.01.2021 and it**

was found that the encroachment reported as excess area of 28.82 Ha is part of 84.8 Ha which were prior 1980 handed over to SCCL and over which surface rights exists. There is no excess area in occupation by SCCL at RK new tech. Hence there is no violation.

RF Area handed over to SCCL and put to use prior 1980 as per documents furnished by (GM, M/s SCCL, Srirampur Rc.No. SRP/EST/M/3/2020/430, dt: 05.09.2020)			
Item wise breakup for the 1070 Ha of Forest land during 1st renewal of Indaram Mining lease			
Sl. No.	Details	Extent in Ha.	Remarks
1	2	3	4
I	For Office building & other infrastructure	84.80	Surface area acquired prior FCA - Land used details are furnished
a.	Storing mineral/Ore	15.00	
b	Dumping of overburden	0.00	
c	Storing tools	0.08	
d	Construction of buildings, power stations, workshops etc	9.14	
e	Township/Housing colony	2.42	
f	Construction of road/ropeway/railway line etc.	4.09	
g	Magazine including safety zone	13.50	
h	Plantation	18.56	
i.	Indirectly affected	22.01	
	Subtotal	84.80	
II	R.K. New Tech	8.96	MOEF Letter no.8-70/90/FC dt.23.02.1998
III	RK 8 Incline	6.20	MOEF Letter no16.1/AP/11/MIN/FC dt.23.02.1996
IV	Underground workings	970.04	
	Total	1070.00	

- Site Inspection Report of the Forest Divisional Officer, Mancherial is enclosed.

Recommendations of the Forest Divisional Officer, Mancherial in Part-II:

The Forest Divisional Officer, Mancherial has recommended the proposal in Part-II stating that the Singareni Collorries Company Limited is Government Company jointly owned by Govt of Telangana & GoI. The present application is for diversion of reduced extent of 929.29 Ha forest land that includes 15.18 Ha surface rights in C.No.698 to 701, 703,706 to 709, 711 to 713 in Indaram RF and Ext RF, Mancherial Range and division in Mancherial district for 2nd renewal of Indaram Mining lease for underground mining for a period of 20 years. The present lease period expired on 23-07-2020 and mining operations will have to be continued in this lease hold areas beyond the existing lease period for extraction of balance coal reserves estimated to be 145.31 million tonnes to meet the coal targets fixed by GOI to extract balance reserves mining is to be continued for next 20 years. Hence, there is need for 2nd renewal of Indaram Mining Lease over reduced area of 929.29 Ha for another 20 years from the date expire of existing lease period.

The requirement of proposed mining lease is unavoidable. Since the mining lease is underground mining, it may not significantly affect the surface

flora and fauna of the area. The proposal is recommended with a condition that mitigation measures shall be taken up by the user agency for wildlife habitat management as this areas has movement of prominent wildlife.

III. Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal has furnished following information in his Inspection Report Dt.11.01.2021.

- The 2ndRenewal of Indaram Mining Lease over 929.29 Ha of forest land involving 15.18 ha for surface use is falling In Compt. Nos. from 698 to 701, 703, 706 to 709 is falling in Indaram RF and 711 to 713 in Indaram Ext-I RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial forest division.
- The Legal status of the forest land of Indaram RF is notified U/s 18 of Hyderabad Forest Act, Gazette No.9, Dt: 7thBahiman 1349F and Indaram Extn.I RF notified U/s U/s 15 under APFA,1967 vide G.O. Ms.No.1161 F & A, dt: 07.08.1971.
- The area is mostly plain to undulating at some places. The area is mostly covered with shrubs.
- The important flora found on the surface of the proposed are mostly *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Azadiracata indica*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Grewiatil latifolia*, *Madhuca indica (Bassialatifolia)*, *Ougeniadoojenensis (Gugeniadalbergiaides)*, *Tectonagrandis*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Terminalia arjuna* and *Zizyphus xyloporous*.
- The proposed area is not falling in any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Bio-sphere reserve, tiger reserve or Elephant corridor, Wild life migration corridor etc., but **there are reports of tiger movement in the area and other wild life and presently covered in tiger landscape.**
- During the field visit, the GM and other authorities of SCCL were not agreeing to the version of encroachment as reported earlier. Inspected the boundary at F14 pillar of the said proposed area for lease at Dubbapally village shivar. Also inspected the location of surface rights structure at RK 8 new tech and are inspected and a pillar was also noticed as per the map prepared by the SCCL.
- The Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal has requested the SCCL authorities to demarcate the areas used as surface rights on ground and the Forest Divisional Officer & staff to verify correctness regarding the location and area as per earlier approvals or permissions.
- Accordingly, after the completion of the said exercise by the District Forest Officer and Forest Divisional Officer and in case if there is no encroachment / violation the file will be processed for 2nd renewal of said Indaram mining lease.

Recommendations of the Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal in Part- III:

The Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal has also agreed with the remarks of the Forest Divisional Officer, Mancherial in Part II and has recommended the project in Part-III stating that subject to the condition of taking up of mitigation measures for wildlife and forest protection and improvement.

IV. Information on RoFR Certificate:

The District Collector, Mancherial District vide D4-A/41/2020 dated: .09.2020 has issued Certificate in Form-II (other than linear projects) and certified that the complete process for identification and settlement of rights under the FRA has been completed for the entire 929.29 Ha of forest land proposed to be diverted in favour of General Manager, Srirampur area, SCCL for 2ndRenewal of Indaram Mining Lease over 929.29 Ha of forest land involving 15.18 ha for surface use is falling in Compt. Nos. from 698 to 701, 703, 706 to 709 is falling in Indaram RF and 711 to 713 in Indaram Ext-I RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial forest division of Mancherial District.

V. Information on Compensatory Afforestation (CA):

As per para -2.6 (i) (c) & (d) of hand book of under F©A Act, 1980, F© rules, 2003 (amendments and clarifications) issued in F.No.5-2/2017-FC, Dt.28/3/2019 and amendments issued therein, no CA shall be insisted upon in respect of proposals involving Underground mining in forest land without surface rights and Renewal of mining lease for the forest area for which CA has already been paid.

In the instant case, the proposal is for underground mining to an extent of 929.29 Ha involving 15.16 Ha surface use (8.96+ 6.20 Ha). For Surface use of 15.16 Ha, necessary Compensatory afforestation has been taken from SCCL at Rallapet, Gurijala and Bhoodakalan Villages of Bellampalli Forest Division and payment towards CA has been paid.

NPV shall be applicable for entire area involving surface use also.

VI. Monitoring conditions on previous stage-II approval:

Stage-II has been granted for coal mining in Indaram RF vide F.No.MoEF Lr.No.8-1/2000-FC, dated 28.11.2001 & 20.03.2002.

The condition wise compliance is as follows:

S.No	Condition	Reply															
1.	Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.	Yes. Status of RF land remained un-changed.															
2.	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.	The forest land is being used for the purpose (under-ground mining) for which it was diverted.															
3.	The user agency will abide by the various mitigatory measures/subsidence management plan including specific technical prescriptions for mining of various seams as suggested by Department of Mining Engineering, Banaras Hindu University in their report so as to minimize the subsidence.	SCCL (User agency) is abiding by the mitigatory measures/subsidence management plan as suggested by Department of Mining Engineering, BHU. The subsidence occurred is within the prescribed limits.															
4.	The user agency will protect the 974.07 Ha forest area by erecting a stonewall/other fencing on the surface and carryout gap planting wherever required in consultation with the Forest Department. All works will be carried out by the user agency at their own cost within a reasonable period of time-say 3 years.	A trench of 2 x 2 x 2 Meter was dug all around the area of 974.07 Ha as suggested by Forest Dept. The degraded forest area identified and permitted by the Forest department to the extent of 175 Ha has been gap planted with about 146000 saplings of miscellaneous species like Ficus, Emblica, Syzizium, Pheronia, Terminalia billerica etc. These plants are coming up well and survival is more than 75%. Any further gaps if found subsequently will also be taken up later.															
5.	The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, if required.	Environmental Clearance (EC) has been obtained for the areas falling in Mine boundary. MOEF, GOI, issued ECs for the following Mines falling In Indaram ML. <table><tr><th>S. No</th><th>Mine</th><th>EC references</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>RK-NT</td><td>Lr.No.J-11015/16/88-IA.II(M), dt. 04.02,1994</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>RK-6</td><td>Lr.No.J-11015/304/2007-IA.II(M),dt. 24.10.2008.</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>RK-7</td><td>Lr.No. J-11015/298/2007-IA.II(M),dt. 24.10.2008</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>RK-8</td><td>SCCL applied EC under violation category vide</td></tr></table>	S. No	Mine	EC references	1.	RK-NT	Lr.No.J-11015/16/88-IA.II(M), dt. 04.02,1994	2.	RK-6	Lr.No.J-11015/304/2007-IA.II(M),dt. 24.10.2008.	3.	RK-7	Lr.No. J-11015/298/2007-IA.II(M),dt. 24.10.2008	4.	RK-8	SCCL applied EC under violation category vide
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4.	RK-8	SCCL applied EC under violation category vide															

			proposals No.IA/TG/ CMIN/64671/2017 ToR issued by MoEF&CC, dated 13.05.2019
		5.	SRP OC-II Lr.No.J-11015/212/2007- IA(M), dt.11.07.2008.
		6.	IKOCP Lr.No.J-11015/145/2007- IA(M), dt.31.07.2008.
6.	The water used for processing shall be discharged only after proper treatment.	The mine discharge water is being treated in slow sand filterbeds before utilizing for the purposes such as drinking, plantation, washing etc. Excess water discharged from the mines is left into and pass through the local drainage after above said treatment.	
7.	The user agency will make arrangement for free supply of coal to labourers and staff working on the project site so as to avoid any pressure on the adjacent forest areas.	All the employees of SCCL are being supplied with LP gas at free of cost @ 12 cylinders per annum.	
8.	The period of permission for lease under the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 will be for 20 years w.e.f.24.7.2000.	Yes, The SCCL has submitted 2 nd renewal proposal for 929.29Ha (1054.00 Ha.) on 19.07.2018 for further period of 20 years, i.e well before two years from the date of expiry of lease, the proposal has been submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Telangana.	
9.	Any other condition that the State Government or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore, may impose from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forest.	The conditions imposed, if any, by Forest Dept., will be complied with.	

VII. The proposal has been uploaded by UA in the ministry's website and a unique number generated for this proposal No.**FP/TG/MIN/34878/2018**.

VIII. In view of the above, the statutory proposals along with necessary enclosures with due recommendations of undersigned in Part-IV are submitted herewith in triplicate for forwarding after recommendation in Part-V to the GoI, MoEF& CC, New Delhi for issual of necessary clearance.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-R.Sobha
Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests.
(Head of Forest Force)

Copy to

The Conservator of Forests & Field Director Project Tiger, Kawal TR, Nirmal for information.

The District Forest Officer, Mancherial and the Forest Divisional Officer, Mancherial for information.

Copy to the General Manager, M/s Singareni Collieries Corporation Limited, Srirampur Area, Mancherial District for information.

//t.c.b.o//

2/10/2021
30/5/2021

D. Subbarao 30/5/2021
Superintendent