

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

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

To
The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government,
Forests Department,
Telangana State,
Hyderabad.

Ref.No. 17918/2019/FCA-4 Dated:12.03.2021.

Madam,

Sub: TSFD - F(C) Act, 1980 - TS - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Regularization of 330.33 ha (330.1826 Ha as per DGPS survey) of forest land in Upperlakesaram Forest Block in Manthani Range of Peddapalli Division for Open Cast Mining Operations and other activities of SCCL in Peddapalli District in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited- **Furnishing of proposals for according approval-** Regarding.

Ref: 1. PCCF's Rc.No.30176/2009/FCA-1/TS, Dt:07.09.2015 and letters issued till that time and later.
2. General Manager, SCCL, Ramagundem Area-III, Peddapalli district Ref.No.RG3/EST/FL/104-F/239,Dt: 18.10.2019.
3. PCCF Rc.No.17918/2019/FCA-1/PS, Dt: 07.11.2019.
4. General Manager, SCCL, Ramagundem Area-III, Peddapalli District Ref.No.RG3/EST/FL/104-F/270,Dt: 14.12.2019.
5. PCCF Rc.No.17918/2019/FCA-1/PS, Dt: 07.01.2020.
6. General Manager, SCCL, Ramagundem Area-III, Peddapalli District Ref.No.RG3/EST/FL/104-F/123,Dt: 09.07.2020.
7. PCCF Rc.No.17918/2019/FCA-1/PS, Dt: 20.08.2020.
8. CCF/CF, Karimnagar Rc.No. 56/2019/M2, Dt. 12.02.2021.

It is submitted that the vide reference 8th cited the CCF/CF, Karimnagar has submitted processed proposals for Regularization of 330.1826 Ha of forest land in Upperlakesaram Forest Block in Manthani Range of Peddapalli Division for Open Cast Mining Operations and other activities of SCCL in Peddapalli District in favour of M/s.SCCL (User Agency); duly recommending the project in Part-II and Part-III of the proposal by the District Forest Officer, Peddapally and the Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests, Karimnagar respectively along with inspection notes & other necessary documents.

The details of proposal are as follows:

I. The User Agency has furnished following information in Part-I:

- i. South Godavari Mining Lease was granted in the year 1927 for a period of 30 years by the HEH, Nizam Government and subsequently renewed from time to time up to 2035 for continuing Mining Operations. SCCL acquired the Patta / Assigned land as required for opening Mines and in case of Govt. lands, possession of the land taken over from the State Govt. as per condition imposed in the Mining Lease as and when required for Mining. Accordingly, SCCL taken over the possession of Govt. land from the Revenue Department to an extent of 448.90 Ha of non-forest land in Upperlakesaram block since 1973.
- ii. SCCL acquired land to an extent of 293.83 Ha in the adjoining the Upperlakesaram block for the purpose of Mining operations before 1980. As such SCCL continuing Mining operations from the year 1927 without any objection from the Forest and Revenue Departments up to 2010.
- iii. Meanwhile, SCCL submitted two surface diversion proposals i.e. 308.40 Ha for Manuguru OCP-III (Phase-III) and 104 Ha for OCP-IV in Manuguru area for Opencast Mining. The CA land for these projects totalling to an extent of 412.40 Ha (308.40+104) in Manuguru area, SCCL handed over the acquired Patta & Govt. land to an extent of 412.40 Ha in Ramagundam (part of Upperlakesaram block and part

in other villages) to State forest department in the year 1987. The State forest department has notified it as a protected forest land in the year 1989.

- iv. In the year 2000, SCCL submitted application for diversion of 412.40 Ha (which was handed over to Forest department as CA land and Notified as RF) including 247.00 Ha for surface rights. Accordingly, MoEF, GoI, has granted final approval (stage-II) vide letter No. 8-109/2005-FC, dated 02.5.2008 and the State Government issued G.O. Ms.No.74, dated 18.6.2008. As such, 412.40 Ha of forest land was diverted in favour of SCCL involving surface rights for 247.00 Ha and 165.40 Ha with underground rights.
- v. Further, the SCCL submitted another application for diversion of (from UG rights to surface rights) 147.42 Ha of forest land (out of 165.40 Ha having UG rights) for the purpose of RG.OC-II expansion project leaving 17.98Ha under UG right. While processing the proposal, it came to the notice that mining operations are being carried out in the adjoining area since 1973 presuming it as Revenue land but found to be part of Upperlakesaram Forest Block and notified as RF in the year 1944 and this fact was not updated in the Maps of Forest Department.
- vi. After detailed survey, the Upperlakesaram RF block boundaries have been demarcated and found that an extent 448.90 Ha of forest land was in the possession of SCCL and being used for different Mining activities. Out of 448.90 Ha an extent of 118.57 Ha from Upperlakesaram block was included in 412.40 Ha and it was treated as overlapped area. Accordingly, the balance area of 330.33 Ha (448.90 – 118.57) is under utilization of SCCL without diversion.
- vii. As per the DGPS survey and Authentication by the O/o PCCF, Hyderabad dated 07.01.2020 the forest land has been decreased from 330.33 Ha to 330.1826 Ha. Now, the present proposal is for regularization by way of post approval of above RF land of 330.1826 Ha.
- viii. The proposed forest land for regularization of area is 330.1826 Ha.
- ix. Map showing the forest area proposed for diversion overlaid with Geo-coordinates recorded by using ETS & DGPS/DGNSS on a 1:50000 scale Topomap enclosed.
- x. Cost of the project is estimated as **Rs. 218.67 Crores.**
- xi. Employment likely to be generated: No further Employment will be generated as it is ongoing Project.
- xii. In this area of 330.1826Ha following mines are falling:

Sl. No	Name of Mines	Area in Ha
1	Ramagundam OC-I (RG-OC-I)	225.6492
2	Ramagundam OC-III (RG-OC-III)	40.4552
3	Vakilpalli Mine UG Mine	21.66
4	Godavarikhani 10A (GDK 10A) UG Mine	8.1
5	No Mine Boundary (other Infrastructures	34.3182
Total		330.1826

- xiii. The UG mine of GDK 10A is closed and it will be converted into opencast mine. Similarly, Vakilpalli underground mine will also be closed as UG mine and converted into opencast mine after 8 years.
- xiv. Details of the present utilization of 330.1826 Ha of Forest land is as follows:

Sl. No	Description	Present Land use					Total
		RG OC I	RG OC III	GDK 10A	Vakilpalli - Mine	No mine Boundary	
1.	Quarry	210.2808	22.0553	Nil	Nil	Nil	232.3361
2.	Bund	Nil	4.3729	Nil	Nil	0.1874	4.5603
3.	Nalah	Nil	3.1884	Nil	Nil	1.1369	4.3253
4.	Safe Barriers	14.4379	9.5646	Nil	Nil	0.0666	24.0691
5.	Roads	0.9305	1.2740	Nil	1.6820	Nil	3.8865
6.	Other (Infrastructures)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	32.9273	32.9273
7.	Underground						

	Mine	Nil	Nil	8.1000	19.9780	Nil	28.0780
	Total	225.6492	40.4552	8.1000	21.6600	34.3182	330.1826

- xv. After merging of Underground mines in to proposed RG Coal Mine (OCP) the usage of 330.1826 Ha forest land purpose wise details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	RG Coal Mine (Extent in Ha.)	RG OC-III (Extent in Ha.)	Total (Extent in Ha.)
1	Quarry	257.996	22.055	280.051
2	Dump	0	0	0
3	Safe Barriers	4.905	3.198	8.103
4	Nalah	0	4.326	4.326
5	Bund	0	4.5556	4.5556
6	Roads	0	0	0
7	Other Infrastructures (Roads, HT Lines, Office buildings, Quarters etc.)	27.929	5.218	33.147
	Total	290.83	39.3526	330.1826
Grand Total - 330.1826 Ha				

xvi. Justification for requirement of 330.1826 Ha:

- o **Quarry area (232.3361 Ha):** is a coal bearing area which is falling in RG.OC-I quarry and the same was already mined out.
- o **Protection Bund against vagu (8.8856 Ha):** Part of the RG OC-III quarry area falls under Highest Flood Level of Jallaram vagu. Thus, protection bund constructed around the quarry to prevent the water entering into the quarry. Hence, protection bund is proposed along the periphery of the excavation area. This part of land is falling under the proposed bund area and therefore it is very essential in view of safety.
- o **Safe Barriers (24.0691 Ha):** The quarry and dumps of RG OC-I is spread over in wide area and it is planned to deepen the quarry upto a maximum depth of 400m. Forest land which lies beside the excavation area and dumps is a bare minimum requirement.
- o **Roads, HT lines and Structures (64.8918 Ha):** There are public roads and HT lines leading from 8 Incline Colony to GDK No.10 Incline and 8 Incline Colony to Centenary Colony which is passing through the proposed Forest Land.

xvii. The Project does not involve displacement of people.

xviii. Necessary clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been obtained from time to time against all the projects / Mines for Mining Operations.

xix. The User agency furnished certificate stating that the proposed forest area for diversion is barest minimum and essentially required for the proposed project.

xx. The User agency has furnished following undertakings:

- o to pay the cost of Net Present Value (NPV), the additional NPV as per the assessment made by the State Forest Department.
- o to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation as per the scheme prepared by the State Government.
- o 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.
- o And others.

xxi. The User Agency has submitted the details of reclamation of OB dumps and plantation made in Forest Land diverted in RG-3 area.

xxii. The User Agency has submitted the details of bio-engineering structures of RG OC-1 and RG OC-2 projects, Ramagundam-3 area.

xxiii. The Mining plan including Mine closure plan has been approved by the Ministry of Coal, GoI for RG Mine, RG OC-I Mine, RG OC-III Mine.

II. Chief Conservator of Forests, Karimnagar and the District Forest Officer, Peddapally has furnished following information in Part- II and Inspection Reports dated 30.12.2020 and 17.10.2020.

- i. The proposed forest land for regularization of area is 330.1826 Ha.
- ii. The area of 330.1826 Ha proposed for regularization of forest land is falling in Upperlakesaram RF notified under HFA vide G.O.No.49, Dt 26 Arban 1354 F.
- iii. SCCL taken over the possession of Govt. land from the Revenue Department to an extent of 448.90 Ha of non-forest land in Upperlakesaram block and doing mining operations since 1927 and also other surface operations 1973. Further, SCCL also acquired private land to an extent of 293.83 Ha adjoining to the Upperlakesaram block for the purpose of Mining operations before 1980.
- iv. Meanwhile, SCCL submitted two surface diversion proposals i.e. 308.40 Ha for Manuguru OCP-III (Phase-III) and 104 Ha for OCP-IV in Manuguru area for Opencast Mining. CA land for the above projects totaling to an extent of 412.40 Ha (308.40+104) was handed over in the area acquired as Patta & Govt. land to an extent of 412.40 Ha in Ramagundam (part of Upperlakesaram block and part in other villages) to State forest department in the year 1987. The State forest department has notified it as a protected forest land in the year 1989.
- v. During the year 2000, SCCL submitted application for diversion of 412.40 Ha (which was handed over to Forest department as CA land and Notified as RF) including 247.00 Ha for surface rights. Accordingly, MoEF, GoI, has granted final approval (stage-II) vide letter No. 8-109/2005-FC, dated 02.5.2008 and the State Government issued G.O. Ms.No.74, dated 18.6.2008.
- vi. As such, 412.40 Ha of forest land was diverted in favour of SCCL involving surface rights for 247.00 Ha and 165.40 Ha with underground rights.
- vii. Further, the SCCL submitted another application for diversion of (from UG rights to surface rights) 147.42 Ha of forest land (out of 165.40 Ha having UG rights) for the purpose of RG.OC-II expansion project. While processing the proposal, it came to the notice, that mining operations are being carried out in the adjoining area since 1927, presuming it as Revenue land but during 2000 found to be part of Upperlakesaram Forest Block which was notified as RF in the year 1944. This fact was not updated in the Maps of Forest Department and any objection was raised even though SCCL was doing mining since 1927 in this area.
- viii. The SCCL has carried out detailed survey of the Upperlakesaram RF block and boundaries have been demarcated and found that an extent 448.90 Ha of forest land was in the possession of SCCL and being used for different Mining activities. Out of 448.90 Ha an extent of 118.57 Ha from Upperlakesaram block was included in 412.40 Ha and it was treated as overlapped area. Accordingly, the balance area of 330.33 Ha (448.90 – 118.57) is being utilized by the SCCL without diversion.
Hence, application was submitted by SCCL for regularization of already diverted area of 330.1826 Ha.
- ix. The MoEF, GoI vide letter No. 8-109/2005-FC, dated 19.07.2012, while granting prior approval (stage-I) for diversion of 147.42 Ha out of 165.40 Ha having UG rights (412.40–247.00 Ha) for surface use for expansion of RG OC-II, has stipulated a condition No. 2(xi) , which is as follows:
"State Government shall create and maintain penal compensatory afforestation funds realized from the user agency over degraded forest land twice in extent to the portion of the 448.90 Ha of forest land in the Upperlakesaram Reserved Forest Block kept under possession by the SCCL without obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, after excluding the 118.57 ha (overlapped in 412.40 ha) of forest land which was utilized by SCCL for creation of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) considering it as non-forest land for which penal CA has separately been stipulated [i.e. $2 \times (448.90 \text{ ha} - 118.57 \text{ ha}) = 330.33 \text{ ha}$]=660.66 ha]".
- x. Accordingly, as per the demand raised, M/s.SCCL has deposited an amount of Rs.14,47,81,601/- for raising of C.A. in 660.66 Ha (330.33x2) into Adhoc CAMPA account and then MoEF, GoI, has accorded final approval (stage-II) vide letter No.8-109/2005-FC, dated 01.8.2013. The State Government issued G.O.Ms.No.79 dated

21.9.2013 and the Forest Department has handed over possession of 147.42 Ha forest land to SCCL. As per stipulated in Stage-II, 237.45 Ha of Addl. Non-forest land as twice against 118.57 Ha which is over lapped area in Upperlakesaram Reserve Forest, towards C.A., was already handed over to Forest Dept. and an amount of Rs.5,96,04,091 was deposited into CAMPA A/c towards C.A. charges. The areas have been mutated and handed over to Forest Department and afforestation under progress.

- xi. Details of 237.45 Ha of the Non-forest land for C.A. as follows:

Sl. No.	Location	Extent in Ha
1	Zafarghad (V), Mulugu range, erstwhile Warangal North Division	86.727
2	Polkepad (V), Gopalpet (M), erstwhile Mahaboobnagar Division	30.330
3	Pinapaka (V), Bayyaram range, erstwhile Palvanha Division	48.863
4	Esala Thakkallapalli (V), Manthani Range, erstwhile Karimanagar (East) Division	71.530
Total		237.450

- xii. The proposed area of 330.1826 Ha is coal bearing area and site specific.

- xiii. The present Land use details of 330.1826 Ha of forest land shown as follows:

Sl. No	Purpose/Description	Extent in Ha.
1	Quarry purpose	232.3361
2	Drain & Bund	8.8856
3	Safe Barrier	24.0691
4	Road & HT lines.	64.8918
Total		330.1826

- xiv. SCCL has obtained South Godavari & Pandulapalli Mining Leases over an area of 68.48 & 48.77 km². 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

- xv. 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 to be issued.

- xvi. 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.

- xvii. 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. Moreover, the proposal is for regularization of diversion due to mistake of facts.

- xviii. 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 Region for Rs.335.68 lakhs involving Rs.139.34 lakhs for Peddapally District and Rs.196.34 lakhs for Chennur Division was already submitted vide this office Rc.No.612/S4/2020, dated:30.12.2020.

- xix. There are no trees to be felled in the proposed area.

- xx. There is no any protected archaeological heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monuments in the proposed site.
- xxi. 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.
- xxii. SCCL has carried out mining, because of mistake of facts treating this land as Non-forest land.
- xxiii. Safety zone Compensatory Afforestation is identified in the degraded forest area to the one and half in extent to the area used for Safety zone area. An extent of 14.04 Ha is required for raising SZA. Accordingly, 14.04 Ha has been identified for raising SCA. SZA scheme is prepared for an amount of Rs.243.148 lakhs for raising of plantation with 10 years of maintenance.

III. Recommendations of the DFO, Peddapally in Part-II:

The DFO, Peddapally has recommended the project in Part-II subject to payment of NPV for 330.1826 Ha and proposed for Construction of Forest Range Office, Peddpally and Meeting Hall with accessories etc., for an amount of Rs.50.00 Lakhs.

IV. Recommendations of the CCF/CF, Karimnagar in Part- III:

The Chief Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests, Karimnagar has agreed with the remarks of the District Forest Officer, Peddapally in Part II and has also recommended the project in Part-III stating that SCCL shall hand over the area after completion of lease period / mining activity dult stabilizing the mining area, dump area, water bodies and along with the immovable properties developed to forest department.

V. Information on RoFR Certificate:

The RoFR certificate in Form-II from the concerned District Collector is not required for this project. As the proposal is for regularization of the already utilized area by User Agency without diversion to an extent of 330.1826 Ha and there are no objections from the villagers nor claimed any area.

VI. Information on Compensatory Afforestation:

While granting stage-I for diversion of 147.42 Ha out of 165.40 Ha having UG rights (412.40-247.00 Ha) for surface use for expansion of RG OC-II, MOEF, GoI vide letter No. 8-109/2005-FC, dated 19.07.2012, stipulated a condition No. 2(xi) stating that

"State Government shall create and maintain penal compensatory afforestation from funds realized from the user agency over degraded forest land twice in extent to the portion of the 448.90 Ha of forest land in the Upperlakesaram Reserved Forest Block kept under possession by the SCCL without obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, after excluding the 118.57 ha (overlapped in 412.40 ha) of forest land which was utilized by SCCL for creation of compensatory afforestation (CA) considering it as non-forest land for which penal CA has separately been stipulated [i.e. $2 \times (448.90 - 118.57) = 330.33 = 660.66$ ha]".

Accordingly, SCCL has deposited an amount of Rs.14,47,81,601/- for raising of C.A. in 660.66 Ha (330.33×2) and MoEF, GoI, has accorded final approval (stage-II) vide letter No.8-109/2005-FC, dated 01.8.2013. The State Government has also issued G.O.Ms.No.79 dated 21.9.2013 and the Forest Department has handed over possession of 147.42 Ha to SCCL. M/s SCCL has also paid Rs.5,96,04,091 which was deposited into CAMPA A/c towards C.A. charges for raising CA in 237.45 Ha of Addl. Non-forest land as twice against 118.57 Ha. The CA Scheme is under progress now. No amount was provided for fencing and for enhanced rates of CA in the earlier Scheme.

Hence, **fencing cost of Rs.200 Lakhs** are proposed for taking up fencing to the non-forest CA lands received for better protection which were not included in earlier CA Scheme and **Rs.200 Lakhs towards differential cost of CA is proposed**. Further, **scheme for raising SZA plantation with 10 years of maintenance** is prepared **for an area of 14.04 ha** over degraded forest land (one and half time in extent to the area used for Safety zone area)is prepared and are as follows:

S. No	Division Name	Location details	SZA in DFL in ha	Financial outlay in Rs.Lakhs	Remarks
1	Peddapally	Compt.No. 708, Thakkallapally beat and section	10.00	243.148	SZA scheme is prepared for an total amount of Rs.243.148 lakhs amount of for raising of plantation with 10 years of maintenance
2		Compt.No. 475, Kunaram beat and section	4.04		

Location maps of the degraded forest land identified for SZA is enclosed with the proposals along with the abstract.

Further, **an extent of 64.8918 Ha is being used for HT Lines, Roads and Other Structures. For this raising of CA** including raising of dwarf and medicinal plants under transmission lines **over double degraded forest land i.e., 129.7836 ha is proposed.** UA shall pay the cost towards raising of CA @Rs.5 Lakh per ha. The CA scheme shall be prepared and demand raised over UA after Stage I (in-principle) approval, amounting to Rs.648.923 lakhs.

Hence, Total Compensatory ^{Afforestation} levies proposed are as follows:-

S.No	Component	Financial Outlay (Rs.in Lakhs)
1	Fencing for Non-forest CA land	200.000
2	Differential CA Amount	200.000
3	Safety Zone Area plantation	243.148
4	CA for roads & HT lines	648.923
	Total	1292.071

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/44899/2020.**

VIII. Extent of forest land for regularization to be considered: The area of the Uppalakesoram block as per the notification is 448.90 ha. for Mining lease for coal for GDK 9,10,10A and other mines, 412.40 ha (247.00 ha OCP) has been diverted in favor of M/s SCCL, including 118.57 falling in Uppalakesoram block (Adrial RF). Hence, balance area for regularization shall be 448.90 ha -118.57 ha = 330.33 ha. After fixing the boundaries, as per the DGPS survey the extent of balance FL is estimated as 330.1826 ha and marginal difference in extent is 0.1474 ha, which is due to different survey and area estimation techniques adopted. **Hence, to avoid legal complications, the extent of FL for regularization shall be treated as 330.33 ha.**

IX. Purpose-wise break up: The present application is filed for various purposes mentioned by SCCL at Para I (xiv and xvi). For purposes mentioned at Para I(xv), SCCL shall obtain necessary forest clearance.

X. 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 forest clearance.

Encl: As above.

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

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Karimnagar, the District Forest Officer, Peddapally for information and necessary action.

Copy to the General Manager, SCCL, Ramagundem Area-III, Peddapalli District for information.

Copy to the Chairman and Managing director, SCCL, Red Hills, PB. No. 18, Khairatabad PO, Hyderabad -500004 for information.

Copy to Sri Surendra pandey, IFS (Retd.), Advisor (Forestry), The SCCL, Singareni Bhavan, Red Hills, PB.No.18, Khairatabad(Post). Hyderabad -500004.

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16/3/2021

P. Surendra
for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests