

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No. FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department.
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Madam Cama Road,
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.
Date:- 19.06.2024

To,
The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road. Aliganj.
New Delhi-110003.

Subject: Forest Land-Chandrapur

Diversion of 80.77 ha Forest Land for Renewal of Mining lease under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra.

Sir,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer. Maharashtra State has submitted Proposal for renewal of mining lease under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Dist. Chandrapur. The details of forest land proposed for diversion are given as below –

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Comptt No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
1	Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur	400	39.15	Reserved Forest
2		401	41.62	
Total Forest Area			80.77	

2.0 Proposal for renewal of mining lease for Durgapur Opencast project has been initiated by Area General Manager WCL. Chandrapur Area for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 . Previously, the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha. of forest land had been approved by the Government of India under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 vide letter No.8-123/2003-FC. dated 08/11/2005. The Project is located in Durgapur Geological Block in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State. The project can be demarcated on Toposheet No.55P/8 & 56M/5 having Latitude of 19°59'40.95" to 20°01'13.53" and Longitude of 79°19'15.69" to 79°19'57.13". The

project has capacity of production 2.00 Million tonnes of Coal per annum and is directly linked to the Thermal Power station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Chandrapur.

2.1 The User Agency has stated that the coal reserve in the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Opencast mine is 15.19 Million Tone out of which only 7.19 MT coal had been mined out during Forest Clearance granted for the period from 2005 to 2013. Subsequently, 8.00 MT coal reserve is still available in the benches of remaining forest land. However, this reserve could not be extracted as vertical mining was not possible. Hence, for the extraction of balance coal reserve extension of time period is required. Therefore, the user agency has proposed for renewal of mining lease under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980.

2.2 Details of approvals under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 conveyed by the Ministry from time to time.

Sr. No.	Project Name	Forest area diverted in (ha.)	Letter from the Government of India for diversion under the FCA, 1980.	In-Principle or formal approval under the FCA, 1980.	Period of diversion approved by the Government of India.
1	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	172.54	F.NO. 8-35/2001-FC, dated 12/06/2002.	formal approval	2 Years
2	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	136.54 (Reduced from 172.54)	F.No.8-35/2001-FC, dated 19/09/2006 & 19/05/2005.	formal approval granted for renewal of mining lease	20 Years or co-terminus with Mining Lease
3	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	80.77	F. No. 8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005.	formal approval	8 years
4	Durgapur Rayatwari Underground Mine	462.43	F. No. 8-53/2005-FCD, dated. 11/08/2006.	formal approval	Co-terminus with Mining lease as per CBA (A&D) Act 1957.
5	Durgapur Deep Extension Open Cast mine	121.58	F. No. 8-84/2014-FC, dated 16/12/2015.	in-principal approval	Proposal under consideration for Stage-II approval

2.3 The above said approvals for Durgapur Block are in accordance with Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal) Notification under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 for (i) 338.85 ha. of forest land issued vide Notification No. S.O. no 450 (E), dated 04.08.1979 (ii) 1220.00 ha forest land coming under Schedule 'B' for Durgapur Block, Wardha Valley Coalfield issued

vide Notification No. S.O. no 450 (E), dated 04.08.1979 and for (iii) 121.58 forest land issued vide Notification No. 2922, dt. 25/11/2010. The B:C ratio for the project is 8.811.

3.0 The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur has certified that:-

- 3.1) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III of Open Forest category.
- 3.2) The forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 3.3) There are 93 trees of various species and girth in the area proposed for diversion. Girth class wise abstract is given as under:-

Tree Girth in cm											
15-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	121-135	136-150	Above 150	Bamboo Ranjhi	Total
3	11	10	8	8	2	0	0	1	2	48	93

- 3.4) The proposed project is 12.25 km from the boundary of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and the Notified Buffer/Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary is near about 1.25 km.
- 3.5) The proposed project is not likely to affect monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 3.6) There is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980.
- 3.7) No Compensatory afforestation is required as the same has been already carried out over 162.00 ha degraded forest land in accordance with the approval granted by the Central Government vide letter F. No. 8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005.

4.0 The user agency has given an undertaking:-

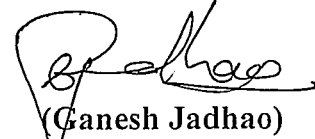
- 4.1) to defray the cost of Net Present Value.
- 4.2) to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
- 4.3) The user agency has submitted Mining Plan approved by CMPDIL Nagpur and Mine Reclamation plan.
- 4.4) The project has been accorded environmental clearance with conditions stipulated by Government of India vide their letter No. J-11015 /56/2008-IA, II (M), pt. file dated 10/11/2017.
- 4.5) The user agency has submitted the certificate of the Collector, Chandrapur under the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006
5. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur & Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur have recommended the proposal for approval under section-2 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam. 1980.
6. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam

Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
8. In the circumstances explained in the aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted subject the conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur as well as following additional condition:-

“User agency shall obtain wildlife clearance, prior to commencement of work.”

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.



(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Area Statement
3. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of Net Present Value.
4. Brief note of the project
5. Site Inspection Report.
6. Certificate in Part V.

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Copy:

1. Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Nagpur.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), M.S., Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), M.S., Nagpur.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.

5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/NC/I/ID-896/19-20, Dated:-23.08.2019
6. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur.
7. Collector, Chandrapur.
8. Chief Executive Officer, Zilha Parishad. Chandrapur.
9. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur.
10. The Area General Manager, Western Coalfields Ltd., Chandrapur.
11. Select file (F-10).

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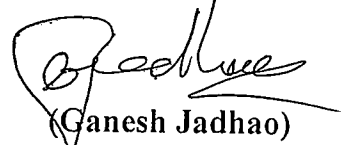
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PART - V

(To be filled up by the Secretary In charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the
State Government**

The Proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No.FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10
Dated:- 19.06.2024



(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Place: Mumbai

Date:- 19.06.2024

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