

F. No. 8-33/2015-FCVol (E-251634)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 19-12-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Madhya Pradesh
Bhopal.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.654 ha Revenue forest land in Khasra No 13/1, 14/1 & 826 of Village Beliya and Atariya, Keshwahi Forest Range of South Shahdol Forest Division for Rampur Batura OCP in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) under the Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/18959/2016)– regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/18959/2016/5172 dated 08.10.2024 and additional information provided vide letter dated 03.11.2025 on the proposal mentioned in above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section- 3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam on 02.12.2025.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of MoEFCC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords "***In-principle/Stage-I***" approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.654 ha revenue forest land in Khasra No 13/1, 14/1 & 826 of Village Beliya and Atariya, Keshwahi Forest Range of South Shahdol forest division for Rampur Batura OCP in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) under the Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal.
- iii. Compensatory Afforestation over 9.308 Ha of Degraded Forest Land shall be

raised at the project cost and afforestation work shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme by the State Forest Department.

- iv. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (pt.) dated 29.12.2023 in this regard.
- v. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- vi. The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- vii. ***As per the recommendations of the Regional Office Bhopal, the entire CA area proposed over degraded forest land may not be suitable for plantation in view of rocky outcrops etc. The suitable degraded forest land shall be provided for compensatory afforestation accordingly. Further, keeping in view the small requirement of the area and the fact that many reclaimed non forest areas would be available with the user agency, state may also explore the possibility of providing such areas for CA as accredited compensatory afforestation (ACA) area.***
- viii. ***The State Government shall ensure the compliance of conditions stipulated in the earlier approval dated 16.07.2019 for diversion of 76.840 Ha. of forest land and submit the status of compliance dully verified by the Regional Office Bhopal.***
- ix. ***The State Government shall submit the copy of NoC from the Water Resource Department for diversion of Jamuna Nalla that is falling inside the land proposed for diversion. The State/user agency shall ensure the implementation of mitigation measures proposed in this regard.***
- x. The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xi. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled, if any, and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- xii. The cost of felling of trees, if any, shall be deposited by the User Agency with

the State Forest Department.

- xiii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- xiv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal.
- xv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xvi. The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels, if required to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xvii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.
- xviii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- xix. The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.
- xx. The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan, if applicable, as per R&R policy of State Government in consonance with National R & R policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R plan shall be monitored by the State Govt./Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
- xxi. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the DDGF (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed.
- xxii. The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per such schedule to the MoEF&CC before grant of 'Final' approval under the Adhinyam for diversion of the said forest land.
- xxiii. The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be

handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future.

- xxiv. **Safety Zone Management:** Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
- a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the. State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and
 - d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
- xxv. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
- a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of 'Final' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved Plan/scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme;
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- xxvi. The validity of approval granted under the Adhinyam shall be for a period co-terminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period

as may be specified by the Central Government.

- xxvii. The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval.
- xxviii. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies.
- xxix. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner.
- xxx. Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities.
- xxxi. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
- xxxii. The KML files of proposed area for diversion shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handover of the land.
- xxxiii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
- xxxiv. No damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused; Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost.
- xxxv. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xxxvi. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency.
- xxxvii. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxxviii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be

taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF–cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.