

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST LAND

The Siarmal & Siarmal Extension and Banapatra blocks are located in north-western central part of Ib River coalfield of Orissa, known as Gopalpur sector. This coalfield is the southern middle part of lower Gondwana basin of Son Mahanadi Valley and occupies an area of about 1460 sq.km. with potential coal bearing area of around 1050 sq.km.

Siarmal OCP is an XI Plan project of MCL. The proposed mine area lies towards south of Basundhara West OCP (8.0 Mty) on the southern side of Basundhara river. Basundhara West OCP is an ongoing project. Sanctioned Kulda OCP (10 Mty) lies to the east of proposed mine. Kulda OCP was sanctioned in January, 2005 by Govt. of India. Coal production from this mine has been 10 Mt in 2016-17. Rampia/Dip Extension of Rampia Block lies to the west of proposed Siarmal OCP (40 Mty)

A sum total of 1866.83 million tonnes net proved geological reserves for the coal seams viz. IB BOT to LAJ-IV have been estimated over an area of 14.67 sq.km in combined Siarmal & Siarmal Extension and Banapatra blocks.

The coal seams in both the blocks under consideration for the project (Siarmal & Siarmal Extn. and Banapatra) are thick and occur at shallow to moderate depth. The entire coal reserves of 1866.83 Mt have high quarriable potentiality. Considering the coal demand on MCL and quarriable potential of the blocks, formulation of the present opencast mine for rated capacity of 40.0 Mty is justified.

The total area of the project is 2290.449 Ha out of which the total forest land is only 349.709 Ha. The location of the site for coal mining operation fully depends upon nature's deposit of minerals and geological structure of the coal seams. Hence question of exploring alternative site for the purpose does not arise.

Stri/ all
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