

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From
Dr.C.Suvarna, IFS,
Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests
& Head of Forest Force,
Telangana State, "Aranya Bhavan",
Saifabad, **Hyderabad.**

To
The Principal Secretary to Government,
EFS & T Department,
DR.B.R.Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat,
Hyderabad.

Ref.No. FC4/FC29/3/2022 Dated: 02-04-2026

Sir,

Sub:- TGFD - F(C) 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- Stage-I approval accorded - **Submission of Compliance report** -Reg.

Ref:-

1. Gol, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, F.No.8-16/2021-FC dated.21.11.2023.
2. PCCF Rc.FC4/FC29/3/2022 Dt. 24.11.2023.
3. CCF, Kaleshwaram Rc.No.1048/2023/K1 dt.19.11.2025.

Kind attention is invited to the references cited.

It is submitted that the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kaleshwaram Circle in reference 3rd cited respectively, has furnished the condition-wise compliance report for according necessary approval U/s 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for 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. A copy of reference 3rd cited together with its enclosures is enclosed herewith.

The Condition-wise Compliance report with corrections and remarks are as follows:

S.No	Description of the Condition	Compliance
i	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.	Agreed to. Further User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and submitted an undertaking which is enclosed.
ii	The State Govt. shall impose NPV for 330.33 ha as per the prevailing Rates.	The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.31,63,83,467/- towards NPV (Part of Rs.34,31,29,794/-) into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account vide UTR

		No.SBIN52025050784706164, dt. 07.05.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.)
iii	The State Govt. shall impose a penalty of five (5) times the NPV for 330.33 ha which is the area under violation, plus 12 percent simple interest on the total amount so calculated from 01.08.2013 till the actual date of deposit as penalty for violation of FCA 1980.	<p>The State Govt. imposed the penalty of five times the NPV for 330.33 Ha which is the area under violation, plus 12 % Simple Interest on the amount so calculated from 01.08.2013 for an amount of Rs.363,84,09,868/-.</p> <p>The User Agency has informed that, a request letter was submitted to Gol, MoEF & CC to delete this condition on 23.01.2024 and the State Government also addressed to Gol on 27.05.2024 with a request to delete this condition based on the facts reported in the letter. Reply awaited.</p> <p>Again, the User Agency has informed that, a request letter was submitted to Gol, MoEF & CC to reduce the penal NPV to minimum penalty without interest to sustain the financial viability of the project and to supply the coal to NTPC and other sectors and awaiting for the decision from Gol, MoEF & CC.</p> <p>Further, SCCL has reported that the Gol, MoEF & CC, minutes dated:08.01.2025 it is informed to User Agency that the compliance is needed to be considered by the Advisory Committee and to follow up with State Government for expediting the compliance. Accordingly, the User Agency has submitted undertaking that the payment will be made as per outcome of the Gol, MoEF&CC decision, which is enclosed.</p>
iv	Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 330.33 ha of Non-forest land for the CA purpose at the cost of the User Agency. The non-forest land identified for CA shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval. A copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may	<p>The User Agency has identified CA land in biologically reclaimed dumps of Non forest land as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 271.45 Ha of NFL on Khairiguda OC Dumps, in Tiryani mandal of KB Asifabad district. 2. 65.8408 Ha of NFL in RG OCP2 dumps of Ramagiri mandal of Peddapalli district. <p>The Non forest land of 330.33 ha out of 337.2908 Ha (271.45+65.8408) was Mutated and Handed over to Forest department. The remaining 6.76 Ha is under process of tagging to another projects belonging to SCCL.</p>

	be, will be submitted by the State Government prior to Stage-II approval.	Copy of Mutation certificates and Charge Handover certificates are enclosed.																						
		The Notification process has been initiated.																						
v	The CA land identified and mutated in the name of Forest department w.r.t. the two proposals adjoining to the instant mine shall be notified as RF/PF under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may be within three months and the compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry.	<p>The Status of Notifications of earlier diverted forest lands are as follows:</p> <p>The details of CA lands of 247.00 Ha proposal for surface use:</p> <p>Initially the Non-forest CA land has been identified in Srikakulam division (Andhra Pradesh State) to an extent of 184.38 Ha and 62.62 Ha in Venkatapuram division of Telangana.</p> <p>An extent of 46.20 Ha has been encroached in Srikakulam division for which UA has identified 30.18 Hain Polkepad village of Wanaparthi District, 11.91 Ha in Kadekal village of Mulugu district, 4.11 Ha in RG OC-II dump area in Pedapalli District.</p> <p>The details are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Village</th> <th>Sy. No.</th> <th>CA mutated in Ha</th> <th>Notified U/s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dharmavaram (V&M) of Srikaulam District A.P State</td> <td>551 & 553</td> <td>86.28</td> <td rowspan="2">Notification proposals submitted from DFO, Srikakulam to the PCCF (HoFF), AP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeerupalem of Dharmavaram (M) of Srikaulam District A.P State</td> <td>40 (P)</td> <td>51.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Kadekal of Wazedu mandal of Mulugu District of Telangana State</td> <td rowspan="2">25/2, 45/2</td> <td>62.62</td> <td rowspan="2">Annexures I & II have been prepared by DFO and has addressed to collector for revised Mutation certificate.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polkepadu (V) of Gopalpet (M) Wanaparthi (Dist) of Telangana State</td> <td>158, 157/140</td> <td>30.18</td> <td>Annexures I & II have been prepared for polkepad CA block and are pending at District Collector for revised mutation certificate to an extent of 293.00 acres (short fall of 7 acres 19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Village	Sy. No.	CA mutated in Ha	Notified U/s	Dharmavaram (V&M) of Srikaulam District A.P State	551 & 553	86.28	Notification proposals submitted from DFO, Srikakulam to the PCCF (HoFF), AP	Jeerupalem of Dharmavaram (M) of Srikaulam District A.P State	40 (P)	51.90	Kadekal of Wazedu mandal of Mulugu District of Telangana State	25/2, 45/2	62.62	Annexures I & II have been prepared by DFO and has addressed to collector for revised Mutation certificate.	11.91	Polkepadu (V) of Gopalpet (M) Wanaparthi (Dist) of Telangana State	158, 157/140	30.18	Annexures I & II have been prepared for polkepad CA block and are pending at District Collector for revised mutation certificate to an extent of 293.00 acres (short fall of 7 acres 19
Village	Sy. No.	CA mutated in Ha	Notified U/s																					
Dharmavaram (V&M) of Srikaulam District A.P State	551 & 553	86.28	Notification proposals submitted from DFO, Srikakulam to the PCCF (HoFF), AP																					
Jeerupalem of Dharmavaram (M) of Srikaulam District A.P State	40 (P)	51.90																						
Kadekal of Wazedu mandal of Mulugu District of Telangana State	25/2, 45/2	62.62	Annexures I & II have been prepared by DFO and has addressed to collector for revised Mutation certificate.																					
		11.91																						
Polkepadu (V) of Gopalpet (M) Wanaparthi (Dist) of Telangana State	158, 157/140	30.18	Annexures I & II have been prepared for polkepad CA block and are pending at District Collector for revised mutation certificate to an extent of 293.00 acres (short fall of 7 acres 19																					

			guntas) and also for
Nagepally (V) of Ramagiri (M) of Peddapally District of Telangana State		4.11 (part of 65.8408 Ha shown in s.no(iv))	confirmation proposals are under process
TOTAL		247.00	

The details of CA lands of 147.42 Ha proposal for surface use:

Village	Sy.No.	CA mutated in Ha	Notified U/s
Madanapally of Mulugu (M&Dist) of Telangana State.	228	20.41	U/s-4
Jaggannapet of Mulugu (M&Dist) of Telangana State.	519/1	80.68	U/s-4
Pathipally of Mulugu (M&Dist) of Telangana State.	638	46.33	U/s-4
TOTAL		147.42	
ZafferGadh village & MANDAL OF Jangoan District	228/1, 1566/1	86.60	U/s-4
Sy.No. of EsalaThakkallapalli (V), Ramagundam (M)	620/2, 662/2, 638/2	71.53	Annexures I & II have been prepared by DFO and has addressed to collector for revised Mutation certificate.
503/2 of Singireddypally (V), 560/1 of Potlapally (V) and 880/25 of Janampeta (V) of Pinapaka Mandal.		48.863	Annexures I & II have been prepared by DFO and has addressed to collector for revised Mutation certificate.
Polkepadu (V) of Gopalpet (M) Wanaparthy (Dist)	158, 157/140	30.33	Annexures I & II have been prepared for polkepad CA block and are pending at District Collector for revised mutation certificate to an extent of

		of Telangana State		293.00 acres (short fall of 7 acres 19 guntas) and also for confirmation.
			Total	237.00
Copies of Notifications are enclosed.				
vi	The State Govt./User Agency shall identify 14.04 ha of degraded forest land w.r.t. the CA against Safety Zone as recommended by the RO and State Nodal Officer.	<p>The DFL area of 10.00 ha is identified in Compt no.708, Thakallapally RF & beat & section and 4.04 ha in compt no.475, Kunaram RF & beat & section of Peddapally Range of PEddapally District.</p> <p>The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.267,46,280/- towards raising of plantation against safety zone area (Part of Rs.34,31,29,794/-) into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account vide UTR No.SBIN52025050784706164, dt. 07.05.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.)</p> <p>Copy of kml file and scheme is enclosed.</p>		
vii	The State Govt. shall also undertake penal CA of 237.14 Ha DFL (2*118.57=237.14) as recommended by the RO and State Nodal Officer.	<p>The CA DFL has been identified in Compt.No.150, Annaram(C) beat, Mahadevpur Range of Mahadevpur division for an extent of 100.00 ha and in Compt no.598, Pandikunta beat, to an extent of 90.00 ha, Compt.no. 588, 587 of Abbapur beat, to an extent of 27.00 ha and 30.00 ha, Mulugu range of Mulugu division.</p> <p>Copy of kml file and scheme is enclosed.</p>		
viii	The State Govt. shall forward the details of the CA land and CA scheme (if revised) pertaining to the proposals (diversion of 412.4 ha of forest land for underground mining in which 247 ha for surface use for GHDK-9, 10 & 10 A inclines in Ramagundam-II and OC Project-I expansion and diversion of 147.42 ha of forest land in RF of Karimnagar east division for expansion of Ramagundam OCP- II in RG-III for which approvals were accorded by	<p>The CA schemes are not revised for the two proposals. Only for the encroached area of 46.20 Ha in Srikakulam division, the UA has identified 30.18 Ha in Polkepad village of Wanaparthy District, 11.91 Ha in Kadekal village of Mulugu district, 4.11 Ha in RG OC-II dump area in Pedapalli District.</p> <p>The approval for change in CA lands in the concerned file of 247.00 ha proposal for surface use is under process of submission to Gol.</p>		

	<p>this Ministry in 02.05.2008 & 01.08.2013 respectively). Further the State Govt. shall take approval of this Ministry w.r.t the revised CA lands within a period of three months.</p>	
ix	<p>State and Regional Office, must monitor the compliance of the proposals granted FC clearances to the User Agency and take appropriate action.</p>	<p>The annual compliance reports in respect of earlier diverted FL 247.00 Ha and 147.42 Ha are being submitted by the User Agency. The DFO has submitted the monitoring reports to the CCF Kaleshwaram Circle and Prl.CCF (HoFF),TG,Hyd vide DFO, Peddapally Rc.No. 4502/S4/2026, dt:06.05.2025 (247 Ha) and 2355/S4/2009, dt:12.09.2025 (147.42 Ha).</p> <p>These monitoring reports were scrutinized by the Monitoring Committee stationed at head office and deficiencies were found. Hence, instructions were issued to the concerned Circle heads where CA is applicable to submit the reports on the status of the CA lands. (Minutes of Monitoring reports is enclosed).</p> <p>As soon as the information is received, the same will be forwarded to the Gol.</p>
x	<p>The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.</p>	<p>The proposal is for regularization, there are no trees existing on the proposed land to be felled.</p>
xi	<p>The cost of compensatory Afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory Afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years, into the account of National Authority, CAMPA managed by the State Govt.</p>	<p>The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.31,73,60,000/- into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account for CA vide UTR No. SBINR52025102403430107, dt. 24.10.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.)</p> <p>The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.25,08,25,861/- for penal CA into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account vide UTR No.SBINR52025102403429431, dt.24.10.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.)</p>

xii	The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India TOPO sheet of 1:50,000 scale.	CA Map in 1:50,000 scale is enclosed.
xiii	The KML files of diverted area and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage-II approval.	The details of diversion area and CA areas has been uploaded in the e-green watch portal. The GPS id of diversion area is 18425. The GPS id of CA rea is 32691
xiv	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/).	The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.31,73,60,000/- into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account for CA vide UTR No. SBINR52025102403430107, dt. 24.10.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.) The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.25,08,25,861/- for penal CA into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account vide UTR No.SBINR52025102403429431, dt.24.10.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.) The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs.31,63,83,467/- towards NPV (Part of Rs.34,31,29,794/-) into Adhoc CAMPA Telangana account vide UTR No.SBIN52025050784706164, dt. 07.05.2025, against the generated e-Challan in the Ministry's portal (copy enclosed.)
xv.	Safety Zone shall be maintained at project cost by the user agency as per relevant guidelines issued by this Ministry.	The area of diversion is surrounded by Non-forest CA land at North east, North, West and South and the other side 247.00 ha proposal diverted for surface use at east side and south east side. There is no safety zone area.
xvi	The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the	The User Agency has submitted the total 19 nos of village tanks and other water bodies existing within 5 kms radius. Out of which 14 Nos tanks was taken up de-silting by the State Government under Mission Kakatiya project and One by the User Agency, i.e., M/s SCCL and one more is in legal dispute. As per advise of State Forest Dept. and Irrigation Dept., the SCCL is following the guidelines for de-silting of identified ponds and water bodies (Copy enclosed).

	impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF&CC before Stage-II approval.	
xvii.	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 and submit the documentary evidence, along with compliance of Stage-I approval, as prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof.	The User Agency has submitted the RoFR certificate obtained from the District Collector dated:17.02.2025, as there is no RoFR pattas in the proposed regularization of forest land. The Complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act-2006, no objection certificate (RoFR) was obtained from District Collector and copy enclosed.
xviii.	The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal. (https://parivesh.nic.in/)	Complied with.
xix.	At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present 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.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xx.	Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO.	The proposal is for regularization of 330.33 Ha of forest land which has already been diverted for mining activities. There is no felling of trees involved.
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	The User Agency has submitted under taking for reclamation plan as prescribed by Ministry as stipulated the condition and as per the approved Environmental Management Plan (Copy enclosed).

	<p>very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 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 concern DDGF (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed.</p>	
xxii.	<p>The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, 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.</p>	<p>The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).</p>
xxiii.	<p>Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under.</p>	<p>The proposed area is falling in South Godavari Mining Lease and it is valid upto 01.01.2035 and issued vide Telangana State G.O.Ms.No.2/energy(PR.I),dept, dt:12.01.2015.</p>
xxiv.	<p>The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.</p>	<p>The User Agency has informed that the Environmental Clearances are obtained as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and the EC of RGOCM-I is obtained on 16.01.2023, for Vakeelpalli Mine on 25.06.2024 & for RGOCP-III on 16.12.2022.</p>
xxv.	<p>No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency</p>	<p>The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).</p>

	shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.	
xxvi.	The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet height reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.	The User Agency has deposited an amount of Rs. 24,72,000/- vide cheque bearing No.909126 dated:12.08.2025 with the District Forest Officer, Peddapally in CA PD Account for construction of RCC boundary pillars. As informed by the DFO, the construction of boundary pillars is possible at North and North east portion of the diversion area and in the 8 th incline colony, the rest of the portion is falling in the Quarry area and it is not possible to construct the pillars. The pillars will be completed by June 2026.
xxvii.	The layout plan of the mining plan/ 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.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xviii.	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.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xxix.	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xxx.	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.	Agreed to.
xxxi.	The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure	The proposal is for regularization of 330.33 Ha of forest land, which has already been diverted for mining activities. There is no felling of trees involved.

	that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.	
xxxii.	Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and 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.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xxxiii.	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.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xxxiv.	The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the 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; and	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).
xxxv.	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.	The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect (Copy enclosed).

In continuation to the Condition No.(3) of Stage-I approval for imposing a **penalty of 5 times NPV**, the facts are as follows.

- a. The said land of 330.33 Ha(330.1826 Ha) was handed over by Revenue Department in Upparlakesaram for different Mining activities since 1973 through charge certificates without any objection raised from Forest Department.
- b. During the year 1986, SCCL submitted proposal vide FP/TG/MIN/112/1986 for diversion of Forest land to an extent of 412.40 Ha for the purpose of Manuguru OCP-IV at Manuguru area. The CA land for above proposals equalling extent of 412.20 Ha was provided by the SCCL in above said area of 448.90 Ha as Government and Patta lands handed over by the revenue Department to SCCL.
- c. Forest Department has taken the above revenue land as CA in the year 1987-88 and notified as Protected Forest in the year 1989.
- d. As coal was available in the CA area, the SCCL vide letter dated 07.02.2005 submitted proposal for diversion of 412.40 Ha (247 Ha surface use + 165.40 Ha UG rights) from the protected forest land, which was earlier given as CA land for the purpose of GDK 9, 10 & 10 A and OC I and OC-II expansion.
- e. The MoEF, Gol vide reference No 81-09/2005-FC, dated 2nd May 2008, issued order for diversion of 412.40 ha of protected forest land (247 Ha Surface use + 165.4 UG Use).
- f. Further, out of the 165.40 ha of UG rights, SCCL submitted another proposal vide Lr.No.RG3/EST/FL/105/138, dated 25.06.2009 for conversion of UG to surface rights to the extent of 147.42 Ha.
- g. During Site inspection by the forest officials, it was concluded that the 448.90 ha of Upparlakesaram is Reserve Forest block and out of 448.90 ha, an extent of 118.57 Ha was already covered under diversion of 412.40 Ha and the balance 330.33 Ha was under possession of SCCL without any diversion.
- h. The MoEF, Gol has granted Stage-I for 147.42 Ha of Surface rights from UG vide F.No.8-109/2005-FC(vol), dated 19.07.2012, and amended on 23.07.2013, Subsequently granted stage-II vide F.No.8-109/2005-FC(vol), dated 01.08.2013.

In this regard, it is to submit that from the above facts the said land of 330.33 Ha was clearly recorded as Revenue Land in the Revenue records and the forest department also not aware of the fact till 2013.

Further, vide reference cited, the MoEF&CC, Gol has issued guidelines for **“Violations of provisions of Forest Conservation Act 1980 and rules made thereof and guidelines issued in this behalf, by user agencies and quantum of penalty to be imposed”**. As per the guidelines, the provision ‘E’ stated as follows:-

E- In cases where Forest land’ has been changed to non forest land’ in Governments records: If the violation is not attributable to the user agency, no penalty shall be imposed.

The same statement has been mentioned in Handbook on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (Guidelines) issued by the GoI, MoEF& CC, New Delhi , Dt.29.12.2024 **at para 1.16 (v) as "If the violation is not attributable to the user agency, no penalty shall be imposed on user agency"**.

In the instant case, the land was also **recorded as non forest land** and the same was handed over by the Revenue Department through charge certificates.

Further, the Inspector General of Forests (Central), Integrated Regional Officer, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad, had submitted the site inspection report to the Additional Director General of Forests (FC), MoEF&CC, GoI, vide F.No.TSA225/2021-HYD/97, dated 27.10.2021, wherein as per the para no.2 of conclusions and recommendations:

"The very fact that this land was forest land was not in the knowledge of Forest Department who has accepted it for raising CA against another diversion proposals of SCCL. The records shown during the site visit and discussions reveal that this land was lawfully obtained by SCCL from Revenue Department. Therefore this is to be considered as a mistake of fact involving errors on the part of Revenue Department, Forest Department and SCCL & thus cannot be solely attributed to SCCL. As a matter of fact of these three agencies least is expected to be in this knowledge of SCCL in respect of the status/ownership of this land, in fact it is SCCL which has pointed out that this a forest land as per records shown during the visit in presence of the senior officials of the Forest Department". They were fully unaware that Mining is going on in this area.

As per the above guidelines, and remarks of the Inspector General of Forests (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad, No Penalty shall be attributed to the user agency.

However, the **User Agency has submitted a request letter to GoI, MoEF & CC to reduce the penal NPV to minimum penalty without interest** to sustain the financial viability of the project and to supply the Coal to NTPC and other sectors and awaiting for the decision from GoI, MoEF & CC,.

Further, SCCL has reported that the GoI, MoEF & CC, in the Minutes of the Meeting dated:08.01.2025 it is stated that the compliance is needed to be considered by the Advisory Committee and to follow up with State Government for expediting the compliance. **Accordingly, the User Agency has submitted undertaking stating that the payment will be made as per outcome of the GoI, MoEF&CC decision.**

In this regard, the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi may consider the request of the SCCL and minimum penalty may be imposed without interest to sustain the

financial viability of the project and to supply the coal to NTPC and other sectors.

The Stage-I forest clearance granted has been published in verbatim along with the conditions and safe-guards imposed by the Central government in two widely circulated daily newspapers one is vernacular language and the other in English on 06.11.2025.

Hence, it is requested to forward the condition-wise compliance report to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi for according final approval.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
(Head of Forest Force)

Copy to

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kaleshwaram circle, Bhupalpally and the District Forest Officer, Peddapally for information.

The General Manager, RG-III, M/s Singareni Collieries Corporation Limited, Peddapally District.