

Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Ranchi for proposal
No.FP/JH/MIN/44804/2020

The Head Office (HO) of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change (MoEF&CC) is processing a forest land diversion proposal with PARIKSH 1.0 online proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/44804/2020 that seeks forest land diversion of 133.69 ha of forest land in favour of M/s BCCL (Bharat Coking Coal Limited) for coal (coke grade) mining in Muraidih Colliery in Dhanbad Forest Division/ District, Jharkhand.

Ministry's HO has requested its Regional Office located at Ranchi to submit the necessary Site Inspection Report for further processing of the proposal as prescribed in Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023. Accordingly, the team of Regional Office, Ranchi visited the forest area proposed for diversion & Degraded Forest Land (DFL) identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation (CA) to prepare the present Site Inspection Report (SIR).

Details of the visit are as:

Name of the Inspecting Officer: Sh. Shashi Shankar, DIGF & Sh. Poreddy Sanjeeva Reddy, AIGF

Date of Visit: 26th & 27th December 2025

Officials of State Govt. Present during inspection: Sh. Vikas Paliwal, DFO Dhanbad, his ACF, Range Forest Officer & Others

Official of Project Proponent present during inspection visit: Sri. Singh, GM Barora Area, Sri Kajal Sarkar, Project Officer Muraidih Colliery and others.

Salient Features

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), was incorporated in 1972 to operate numerous coking coal mines (underground mostly) belonging to private entities in Jharia (Jharkhand) & Raniganj (West Bengal) Coalfield.

At present, BCCL has 32 active mines under control of 13 different Areas, grouped into 17 cluster.

Muraidih Colliery is under the administrative control of Barora Area of BCCL in Cluster-II. Total lease area of Muraidih Colliery is 717.71 ha having total remaining extractable reserve of around 45MT (around 85MT already produced since its inception).

Till 1972 (Prior to Nationalization of Coal) more than 20 companies were operating in the area. Muraidih Colliery was formed after amalgamating all these small privately owned coal companies & their collieries.

As on today, Muraidih colliery is comprised of two sections – Muraidih section (536.4 ha) & Shatabdi section (181.30 ha) having 8.97 MTPA EC capacity (EC-Environment Clearance obtained in 2013).

Mining activities in Muraidih colliery is happening since 1960 and most of the area was already broken when BCCL inherited it in 1972. Initial mining lease under Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation)-MMRD Act-1957 was given to BCCL for 30 years (ie upto 2002) which was extended for another 30 years under provisions of the Coal India (Regulation of Transfer & Validation) Act, 2000.

As most of mining in area was through under-ground, to augment the production, BCCL Board approved Muraidih open cast project in 1994 for 206 ha area within. Area of 7.6 ha of forest (unbroken) was coming under it for which user agency applied & obtained forest diversion approval (Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/915/1993), Stage – I on 19/7/1995 & Stage – II on 9/6/1997.

Upon being insisted by forest department for getting diversion approval for broken forest land too within the colliery area, BCCL citing the vesting order of land filed WP (c) 66 of 1999 in Hon'ble Patna High Court. Hon'ble high court directed in its interim order that mining activities should not be interfered during the pendency of the case.

Final order /Judgement was not made available to the inspecting team, but it was apprised that State Government- user agency settled in 2007 on obtaining forest diversion of all forest areas within Muraidih Colliery. Accordingly, the user agency applied for 29.75 ha forest land diversion which could not be processed completely as it included only Protected Forest and not the Revenue Forests. The extant proposal is for entire remaining and broken forest land in the Muraidih Colliery.

1. Location and legal status of the forest area in Muraidih Colliery:

The total area of Muraidih Colliery is 717.71 ha that comprised of 576.42 ha non forest land and 141.29 ha of Forest land. Forest area of Muraidih Colliery is located in two revenue villages of Baramasia & Barora of Dhanbad Forest Division/District, Jharkhand.

The involved Protected Forest (under jurisdiction of State Forest Department) and Jungle Jhadi - JJ (Forest land under State Revenue Department) and their situation is shown in the table below

Village	Forest Area(Ha)			Non-Forest (Ha)	Total(ha)
	PF	JJ	Total Forest		

Baramasia	29.75+ 7.6	80.24	110+ 7.6	84.72	202.32
Barora	16.41	7.28	23.69	135.17	158.86
Kenduadiah	0	0	0	44.08	44.08
Bahalidih	0	0	0	102.28	102.28
Muraidih	0	0	0	210.17	210.17
Total	53.77	87.52	141.29	584.02	717.71

The situation of PF, JJ both Gair Majarua Jungle Jhadi (GMJJ) and Raiyatti Jungle Jhadi (Raiyatti JJ) as well as the non-forest land of the lease and their distribution therein is depicted in the imagery below:



Since 7.6 ha of PF, located in Baramasia village, has already been approved for diversion (in 1999) therefore present proposal seeks diversion of 46.17 ha Protected Forest & 87.52 ha of JJ constituting total forest area 133.69 ha applied for diversion in extant case.

It was further informed to the visiting team that out of 87.52 ha of Revenue Forest (JJ), 51.96 ha is Gair Majarua Jungle Jhadi (GMJJ) under State Govt. and rest 35.56 ha is Raiyatti Jungle Jhadi that is settled in name of private individuals prior 1980.

State Revenue Department has provided NOC to user agency for use of 25.94 ha GMJJ (with a condition that prior approval of Central Govt. shall be obtained) in the two villages - Baramasia & Barora. Rest 9.62 ha GMJJ and 35.56 ha Raiyatti JJ NOC procurement is under process.

The colliery and its various land types (forest and non - forest) is highlighted in the following photographs.



It can be seen in the above photograph that almost all the forest area in the lease is situated within the Excavation Area (black boundary). Only a small patch of about 21.47 ha forest area (shown below Baroda area in Photo above) is outside excavation zone. The user agency informed that this piece of Forest land shall remain undisturbed.

As depicted in the photo above, almost all the forest area of the lease are located inside excavation zone and are broken either for underground mining or opencast mining or any other ancillary mining activities. Forest area of 7.6 ha, for which forest diversion was taken in 1997, is shown in blue colour patches scattered in the middle of excavation area. Outside excavation zone, the lease area is full of habitations and agricultural fields. Several hamlets, as shown in the illustrating imagery above, belonging to villages of Muraidih, Baramasia, Baroda, Kenduadih, and Bahaldin are located within the lease. User agency informed that as they are out of excavation zone, their shifting or rehabilitation is not required at present. The visiting team enquired if the area outside excavation zone, but within lease are Coal bearing or not. The user agency informed that there are several coal seams in the block, and that is why both open cast and underground mining is necessary here. Therefore, areas beyond excavation zone also have deep coal seams, but their exploitation as of now is not contemplated.

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The user agency informed that all the forest area (around 110 ha) located inside the excavation zone shall be used for mining/quarrying. The forest patch of 21.47ha (that is situated outside the zone) shall remain unused. A very small part of 0.2ha is coming under an existing mine road too. They further informed that since mining work is ongoing since long, there would not be any requirement of fresh forest land for OB dumps etc.

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If, yes details thereof:

No. Forest area is not proposed for any building construction or other non-site specific activities.

4. Total cost of the project at present rate:

Project cost is informed to be about Rs. 514 Crore in the online application.

5. Wildlife:

The DFO present at the site informed the visiting team that most of the area is under active mining since more than five decades, it does not constitute any prominent habitat for wildlife in general. But, good forest of adjacent forest Ranges like Topchachi have high dense vast forest areas and few of them are connected with the extant site through narrow passages therefore occasionally the area is frequented by wildlife species like wolf, jackal, wild boar, porcupine etc. apart from diverse herpeto as well as avian fauna. The abandoned mine zones have profound presence of packs of jackals and skulks of foxes. The visiting team witnessed their wailing howls.

6. Vegetation:

The entire lease area is characterized by sparse vegetation, while a considerable portion of the non-forest land within the lease displays notable tree cover, especially in the southern region near Khudhi Nadi.

The Muraidih Coalmines area has diverse range of tree species that have grown over abandoned areas and dump area. The natural vegetation is sparse within the excavation zone. There are presence of trees including the dominant Sal (*Shorea Robusta*), fruit trees like Mango (*Mangifera Indica*), medicinal trees such as Neem (*Azadirachta Indica*), hardy Acacia species, bamboo, and Tendu (*Diospyros Melanoxylon*), Gamhar (*Gmelina Arborea*), Chakundi (*Moringa Oleifera*),

Siris (*Albizia Lebbeck*), Subabul (*Leucaena Leucocephala*), and Sheesham (*Dalbergia Sissoo*) in the lease area. These trees are vital for maintaining ecological balance and supporting local livelihoods despite the region's mining activities.

a) Total number of trees to be felled:

The forest staff reported that approximately 9,500 trees have been enumerated within the area proposed for diversion. The forest cover density is 0.5, and the eco-class is classified as III. But the trees in the excavation zone is considerably less. There is no separate enumeration within the excavation zone and therefore, project affected trees are considered as the entire enumerated.

b) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

The removal of trees would be harmful to the ecosystem, potentially causing increased soil erosion, decreased slope stabilization, loss of wildlife habitats including bird populations, reduced water percolation coupled with increased surface runoff, depletion of subsurface carbon reserves, and disruption of both surface and subsurface hydrological processes.

7. Background Note on the proposal:

As stated earlier.

8. Compensatory Afforestation (CA):

As per the CA scheme prepared by the DFO, Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 270.44 ha Degraded Forest Land (DFL) in Dhanbad Forest Divisions/Districts. The entire CA land is comprised in twenty-three (23) site/villages. The visiting team inquired about the suitability of the identified DFL for compensatory afforestation from a management perspective. The Divisional Forest Officer responded that the proposed DFL is notified forest land and hence under management of forest department even otherwise too.

The findings of the CA DFL areas on the basis of physical visit as well as examination of GIS-DSS outcomes, and satellite data analysis are highlighted below:

CA-Table 1: CA land information

Sl. No.	CA Land	Area in Ha.	Remarks/Observation
1	Barayatanr	9.753	Agricultural fields
2	Chalkari	20.005	island-like land without access route
3	Sundarpahari & Chururia	13.706	old plantation stretches
4	Daldali	11.915	---

5	Durgadi	9.419	---
6	Fatehpur	2.784	---
7	Gethibera	13.833	---
8	Kharmo	6.302	Waterbody and Agricultural fields
9	Kharmo & BANPURA	3.08	---
10	Kurkutanr 1	12.609	---
11	Kukrutanr 2	4.763	Agricultural fields
12	Kukrutanr 3	2.675	Waterbody and Agricultural fields
13	Machiyara & Nawatanr	6.924	---
14	Madhopur 1	3.681	island-like land without access route
15	Madhopur 2	0.659	---
16	Panchrukhi & Udaipur	41.331	Pakka construction
17	Pandungri	8.753	---
18	Pargho & Bantor	33.297	---
19	Sapanpur	15.024	Non-forest activity and Waterbody
20	Sapanpur & Jaipur	5.073	Agricultural fields and Kachha/pakka makan
21	Sundarpahari	5.911	---
22	Targa	25.003	---
23	Uparankura	10.812	Temple
Total Area		267.312	---

The DSS calculated area is 267.312 ha as against 270.44ha proposed by forest department in its CA Scheme.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

Most of the CA patches are covered by Jhari/buses, except for some small dense forest patches that are suitable for plantation.

Out of total 269 ha DFL proposed, 21 ha CA lands in Panchrukhi & Udaipur villages, vegetation/canopy density is between 0.4 and 0.7. The detailed forest cover information of CA land are as follows:

Forest cover information of the CA land (Area in Ha.)

FCM	Not Suitable for plantation			Suitable for plantation			Total area (ha.)
	Wat er	VDF	MDF	OPEN FOREST	SCRUB	NON FOREST	
		(Tree Cover: >70%)	(Tree Cover: 40 - 70%)	(Tree Cover: 10 - 40%)	(Tree Cover: <10%)	(Tree Cover: 0%)	
Barayatanr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
Chalkari	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Sundarpahari & Chururia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	14.00
Daldali	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	12.00
Durgadi	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	5.00	9.00
Fatehpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
Gethibera	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	14.00	15.00
Kharmo	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	6.00	7.00
Kharmo & Banpura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
Kurkutanr 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	8.00	13.00
Kukrutanr 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00

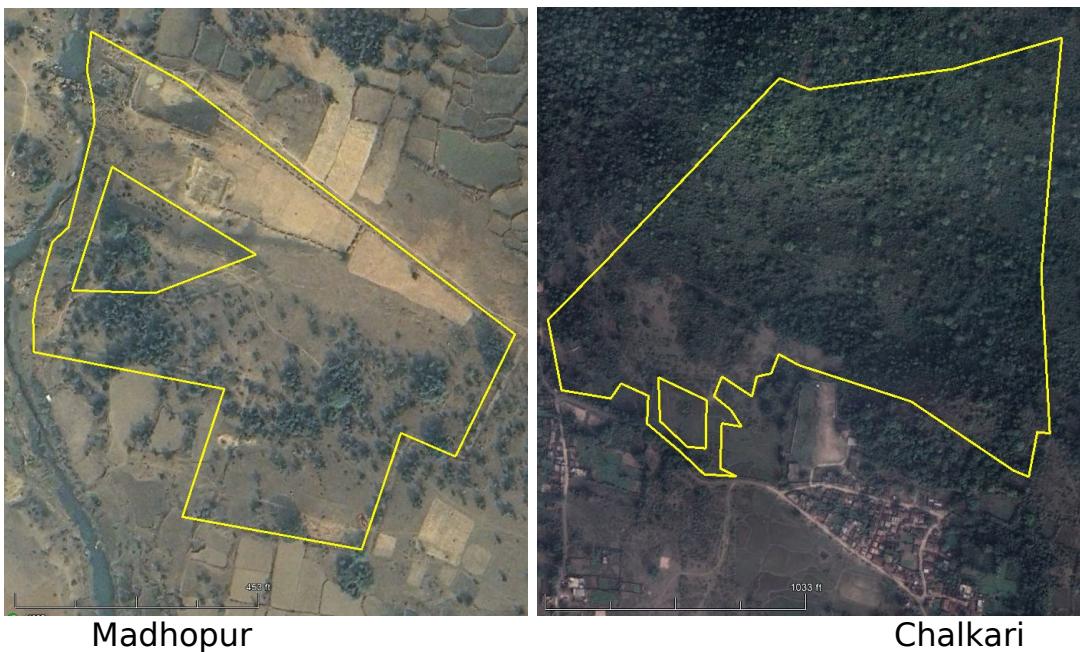
Kukrutanr 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
Machiyara & Nawatanr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
Madhopur 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
Madhopur 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Panchrukhi & Udaipur	0.00	0.00	21.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	41.00
Pandungri	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	9.00
Pargho & Bantor	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	20.00	34.00
Sapanpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	15.00
Sapanpur & Jaipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00
Sundarpahari	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
Targa	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	4.00	10.00	24.00
Uparankura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	11.00
Total area (Ha.)	0.00	0.00	21.00	62.00	12.00	174.00	269.00
		21.00		248.00			

Due to variations in projection and resolution of the image data, there is a slight difference between the area calculated by the software (267.312 Ha) and the area determined by DSS (269.00 Ha).

CA land area estimated using DSS is 267.312 ha (269 Ha). The forest cover of the CA area reveals that corresponding area falling under MDF, Open Forest, Scrub and Non-Forest category are 21.00 Ha., 62.00 Ha., 12.00 Ha. and 174.00 Ha. respectively. Therefore, Suitable for plantation is 248.00 Ha. Additionally, an extra 21 to 23 hectares need to be incorporated into the net CA DFL.

It is found that the proposed CA land is more or less suitable for plantation except for some small dense forest patches.

Small pocket or island-type land have been excluded from all two CA patches at Madhopur and Chalkari; however, no access route to these lands is available. The DFO informed that these situations are ubiquitous in the state and such patches can be taken up for plantations by providing linear access to the raiyatti land situated in between.



Few of the patches exhibit signs of encroachment (Agricultural fields, Kachha houses etc.) in the form of remnant agriculture or pasture. The DFO informed that such forest lands are intentionally identified for taking up under CA so that they are taken back into possession of forest department after evicting the encroachment and closing it for plantation. He further added, such practices of establishing plantation on the encroached land has been a successful method of encroachment eviction from the forest land in past too.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:

As explained earlier, encroachment was noticed during site inspection at some sites. Geospatial analysis from satellite images also revealed encroachment on applied forest land for CA purpose.

As per DSS analysis, Encroachment also was noticed in different sites. Additionally, geospatial analysis of satellite images confirmed the presence of Water body, Agricultural fields, Kachha/pakka makan or construction, Temple etc. on some applied CA lands making it difficult to raise plantations. Details are presented in CA-Table 1. DFO although has assured the team of raising successful planation on these patches too.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view:

The CA land is reportedly not important from Religious/Archaeological point of view.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

There are 23 CA site with 47 discrete CA polygon/patches proposed. Out of 47 CA patches/polylines, 30 CA polygons are less than 5 Ha., details are given below:

SI No.	Name of the CA Land	Area (Ha.)	SI No.	Name of the CA Land	Area (Ha.)
1	Daldali	11.915	25	Machiyara & Nawatanr	2.387
2	Durgadi	9.419	26	Machiyara & Nawatanr	2.026
3	Kharmo & BANPURA	3.08	27	Machiyara & Nawatanr	2.511
4	Kukrutanr 2	4.763	28	Madhopur 1	3.681
5	Kukrutanr 3	2.675	29	Madhopur 2	0.217
6	Panchrukhi & Udaipur	41.331	30	Madhopur 2	0.442
7	Sundarpahari	5.911	31	Pandungri	8.753
8	Targa	25.003	32	Pargho & Bantor	2.822
9	Barayatanr	7.395	33	Pargho & Bantor	9.465
10	Barayatanr	1.328	34	Pargho & Bantor	21.01
11	Barayatanr	1.03	35	Sapanpur	1.73
12	Chalkari	20.005	36	Sapanpur	0.933
13	Sundarpahari & Chururia	2.197	37	Sapanpur	6.552
14	Sundarpahari & Chururia	11.509	38	Sapanpur	5.809
15	Fatehpur	0.527	39	Sapanpur & Jaipur	0.397
16	Fatehpur	0.378	40	Sapanpur & Jaipur	0.019
17	Fatehpur	1.879	41	Sapanpur & Jaipur	0.719
18	Gethibera	2.783	42	Sapanpur & Jaipur	3.938
19	Gethibera	8.968	43	Uparankura	0.767
20	Gethibera	2.082	44	Uparankura	1.229
21	Kharmo	5.679	45	Uparankura	0.498
22	Kharmo	0.622	46	Uparankura	1.161
23	Kurkutanr 1	3.317	47	Uparankura	7.15

24	Kurkutnir 1	9.292				9
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But since all the patches are notified forests therefore, their respective size does not matter much towards their acceptance against CA.

(e) Total financial outlay:

₹: 3522.87424 lacs (as per CA scheme submitted along with online application)

9. Whether proposal involves violation of VAN (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.

Yes. The area is under active underground as well as opencast mining operation. The mining activity in the area is ongoing long before 1980, therefore almost all the forest area in the lease is broken. The visiting team could not get the data of broken and non-broken forest land as on 25/10/1980. But since user agency applied for only 7.6 ha of forest land for diversion in 1993, it is estimated that rest of all the forest land was already broken by then. Therefore, initial violation may not be attributed to user agency. But the user agency, through judicial respites, continued with the mining use of forest land despite forest department's request for obtaining the diversion and got the renewal of mining lease also done for post 2002 without soliciting forest land diversion. State Forest Department has considered this unauthorized use of forest land as violation of Indian Forest Act and it has already registered cases against BCCL officials-Sh. S. P. Sahu and Sh. A. N. Yadav, the previous General Manager (GM) & Project Officer (PO) of the colliery and filed the charge sheet.

For part of revenue forests involved in the proposal, conditional NOC has been accorded from Revenue Authorities that prior approval as prescribed under FCA should be obtained. Therefore, no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 apparent to be done by State Authorities. The DFO informed that no work in violation of forest regulations are continuing at present in forest area.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

No. The user agency informed that no habitations are there within the intended excavation zone therefore, no displacement of persons is involved in the proposal. There is no R&R plan in place in relation to the proposal. The user agency informed that NOC for remaining GMJJ

and Raiyatti land would be obtained after submitting the compensation amount for which exclusive R&R plan is not needed.

11. Reclamation Plan

The user agency informed that since several small-small mines operated in the area during 1960s and early 70s, the entire lease is broken with several pits, OB dumps and sub surface voids. Certain dump areas are planted and reclaimed. The inspecting team found several patches were mining is over but land is not reclaimed. Few such abandoned lands were seen affected with subsurface fire and subsequent/independent subsidence. During the visit no reclamation of mined out forest land found complete.





The user agency informed that as per the approved Mining Plan (of 25/11/2025) biological reclamation shall be done post mining operation during mine closure period by the project officer. But no timeline of such Reclamation plan was found in it.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

The existing natural drainage and the water bodies inside the lease are shown in the photo below:



Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

The region is part of the Chota Nagpur Plateau, characterized by undulating terrain and multiple small drainage. The entire lease area is part of the larger Suvarnarekha River catchment which is supplemented by Jamunia and its tributary streams. Jamunia river flows around 5km west of the lease. As informed by the user agency, the entire river bed is coal bearing and at times falls victim to illegal mining. Although the surface hydrology has been modified significantly due to persistent mining for several decades, apparently numerous 1st order seasonal streams are present in both forest and non-forest areas within the project area. The drainage pattern of the area is mostly dendritic in nature and are connected to major nadi i.e. Khudhi. Khudhi nadi flows from the west to the east within the lease but outside the excavation zone and hence not altered by ongoing mining. All the nadas and drainages ultimately join the master drainage of the Jamunia River finally merging into Suvarnarekha River, which lies outside the project area.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

The C-B analysis for the proposal has been done in accordance to the ministry's guideline dated 1/8/2017 issued for purpose.

- Total estimated cost due to diversion of Forest: Rs. 15494.355 Lakhs
- Total estimated benefits due to project: Rs. 949293.99 Lakhs
- **Cost to Benefit Ratio:** 1 : 61.27

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/ State Government.

As provided in the online application.

15. Dy. Director General of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

Provided separately.

16. Utility of the project.

The project is for continuation of good quality Coking Coal mining, and hence vital to supplement the energy needs of the country.

17. (a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:

Not informed any.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not seen any.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

No. The forest land under proposed diversion for the Muraidih Coal mines is already in mining uses and does not form part of any notified unique ecosystem, such as a National Park, wildlife sanctuary or biodiversity hotspot.

18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

No protected area was reported to be located within a 10 km radius. The Topchanchi and Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuaries are situated beyond 10 km from the lease boundary.

19. Any other information relating to the project:

The area has been under extensive mining use since even before the nationalization of coal happened. Extensive coal seam distribution has led to both opencast and underground mining in the region. The entire area, therefore needs to be considered as opencast mining for all mandatory requirements like NPV, CA, Wildlife management measures, Soil-moisture conservation measures etc. There is one previous forest diversion approval granted vide 6/9/1997 for 7.6 ha forest land in the extant project. During the inspection, the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in that approval was assessed through the information provided by the DFO and the user agency. It was informed that 7.6 ha of Non-Forest Land (comprised of two patches) was provided in the villages of Mahuda and Muralidih in Topchachi Range in the same Forest Division. The land was notified as Protected Forest vide the then Bihar Government's order dated 17/7/1997. Rest of the conditions are being complied as the mining is still continuing in the region.

20. Recommendation of inspecting officer:

Considering the fact that this region is widely known for its fine quality coking coal- an energy source that country imports, and coal mining is happening here even since colonial era with still having a mineable reserve of about 45MT, the proposal may be considered for recommendation if the state government and user agency abide by the following mandatory conditions:

- The user agency shall pay penal NPV for entire broken up forest land i.e. (133.69-21.47=) 112.22 ha for continuing mining in the lease without forest prior approval under V(S&S)A 1980 and despite getting the lease extended post 1980.
- The forest area of 21.47ha in the lease that is out of excavation zone and shall not be used by user agency shall be kept under management of forest department.
- The CA scheme shall be revised to include additional CA DFL of around 25-30 ha to appropriately compensate for the medium dense patches within the identified CA land.
- The user agency shall bear the cost of Specific Wildlife Management Plan as well as Soil-Moisture conservation plan preparation and execution throughout the project period till the land is surrendered back to state forest department to ensure minimum possible impact of further mining on Flora, Fauna and Water bodies in the vicinity.

- The safety zone shall be demarcated and maintained by the User Agency in accordance with applicable norms.
- A comprehensive catchment area treatment plan must be carefully developed and effectively implemented, prioritizing water conservation, ecological restoration, and post-mining reclamation efforts to significantly mitigate the environmental impacts of open-cast mining.
- There are several villages/ settlements located within the lease but outside the excavation zone. User agency shall continuously monitor the effect of mining on these habitation areas by undertaking continuous study of subsidence as well as blasting apart from recording environmental indices like AQI, EQI etc. to check the possible health hazards. An annual report compiling the above shall be submitted to the concerned DFO.

The report is hereby being submitted for further needful.



Shashi Shankar
DIGF, RO Ranchi

Recommendation of Dy Director General of Forests, Ranchi for Proposal

No. FP/JH/MIN/44804/2020

This proposal seeks the diversion of 133.69 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for coke-grade coal mining at the Muraidih Colliery in the Dhanbad Forest Division, Jharkhand.

Shri Shashi Shankar, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Regional Office, Ranchi, conducted the site inspection. The undersigned concurs with the findings recorded in the Site Inspection Report.

Based on the recommendation of the State Government and considering the site-specific nature of the project, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions, in addition to the standard conditions applicable to similar projects:

1. The User Agency shall deposit the penal Net Present Value (NPV) for the entire broken-up forest land, i.e. 112.22 hectares (133.69 ha minus 21.47 ha), for continuing mining operations within the lease area without prior forest approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, notwithstanding the lease extension granted after 1980.
2. The forest area of 21.47 hectares within the lease, located outside the excavation zone and not proposed for use by the User Agency, shall remain under the management of the Forest Department.
3. The User Agency shall revise the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme to include an additional 25-30 hectares of degraded forest land to compensate for the medium-density patches identified within the CA

land.

4. The User Agency shall bear the cost of preparing and implementing a specific Wildlife Management Plan, a comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plan, and a Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan for the entire project period.
5. The User Agency shall demarcate and maintain a safety zone in accordance with applicable norms.
6. The User Agency shall continuously monitor the impact of mining and subsidence and submit annual monitoring reports to the State Forest Department.



(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)
DDGF(Central)



