

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi- 110003.  
**Dated:09-10-2024**

To

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Chhattisgarh,  
Raipur.

**Sub: Proposal for dropping the application of diversion of additional 4.20 ha (in additional to already diverted 123.56 ha as a part of 502.00 ha) for surface use of forest land for Rajnagar OCP Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s SECL in Manendragarh Forest Division of Korea district of Chhattisgarh-regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. F 5-09/2007/10-2 dated 06.08.2024 on above subject submitting a letter for dropping the application of diversion of additional 4.20 ha (in additional to already diverted 123.56 ha as a part of 502.00 ha) and to say that after examination of the said letter in the Ministry, following is observed:

- i. After consideration of the proposal in FAC meeting held on 26.07.2018, the Ministry vide letter dated 04.09.2018 requested the State Government to submit certain information, which is still awaited. The same needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- ii. Reason for withdrawal of the proposal after 16 years of Stage-1 approval is not mentioned in State Government letter dated 06.08.2024. The reasoned justification for the same needs to be submitted.
- iii. It is mentioned in the letter by the state that DFO, Manendragarh Forest Division has inspected the area for which Stage- I approval was issued and observed no mining/construction activity in the area, hence letter for dropping the proposal is submitted. However, copy of site inspection done by DFO, Manendragarh Forest Division is not submitted along with the letter. The same needs to be submitted.
- iv. Further, DFO, Manendragarh Forest Division in his letter dated 01.03.2024 to CCF, Surguja Circle has mentioned that no mining/construction activity is observed in the area, however, encroachment from general public is observed wherein certain structures like kachha and pakka houses and a brick kiln was found constructed in the area. Action taken by the State

Government to evacuate encroachment from the area and present status of the land needs to be submitted.

- v. The proposal for the diversion of 502 ha forest land pertaining to the same mine has been accorded Stage-1 approval vide letter dated 10.01.2008. However, till date the complete Compliance report of the Stage-1 approval has not been submitted. The justification for the same needs submission.
- vi. The State shall verify and intimate the details of violation if any along with the action taken report in the matter.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to furnish information as indicated above for further consideration of proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully

**Sd/-**

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. Sub-Office at Raipur, MoEF&CC.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Deptt., Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC.
5. User Agency.