

F. No. 8-21/2015-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 1st October, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Sub: Diversion of 277.15 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Central Coalfield Limited for Rajrappa Open Cast Mine in Bokaro Forest Division in Bokaro District in the State of Jharkhand –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter no. Van Bhumi-21/2013/2715/V.P. dated 19.07.2019 on the above subject forwarding additional information, as sought by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 6.12.2018 and to inform that examination of said information in the Ministry revealed following:

- (i) With regards to requirement of the area for the infrastructure, the State Government has informed that area required for the same is 41.61 ha. There seems discrepancy in the area mentioned under infrastructure as per the revised component wise breakup provided by the State Government. It mentions the total area under the infrastructure as 74.42 ha, comprising of 36.20 ha of tenancy land, 1.74 of forest land, 22.51 ha of Jungle Jhari land and 13.97 ha of Gair Mumkin land. Figure of 41.61 ha does not match with the revised component wise breakup provided by the State Government.
- (ii) Details pertaining to the possession of the reclaimed 24.71 ha by the State Forest Department has not been submitted along with the compliance. Further, as the land is proposed for CA, corresponding details viz. scheme for plantation or SMC works, as may be applicable, KML/shape files, etc. also needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- (iii) As regards to NPV, it is informed that an amount of Rs. 98,4256,385/- has been deposited by the User Agency for an area of 1353.44 ha. However, the State Government did not clarify whether the NPV has been realized in respect of entire forest land or otherwise. Further, as per detail furnished in the PCCF's letter dated (Pg 21/N), total forest area (out of total project area of 3300.53) has been reported to be 1298.39 ha while NPV has been deposited in respect of 1353.44 ha of forest land. Discrepancy in the detail of forest area needs to be rectified by the State Government.
- (iv) As per the extant guidelines of the ministry and various rulings of the Courts, proposal for entire forest land involved in the mining lease should have been submitted by the User Agency for seeking prior approval of the Central Government. So far, the user Agency has obtained approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for 510.12 ha out of the total reported forest area of 1298.39 ha, while approval in respect of remaining forest land of 788.27 ha, including 277.15 (being dealt under the extant proposal) is yet to be obtained by the User Agency. Status of progress made in submission of proposals in respect of balance area of 510.12 ha may be intimated by the State Government.

- (v) Examination of the Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan, revealed that SMC Plan has been submitted only in respect of Block-II of the project. The Mining project of the User Agency has five Mining Blocks viz. I, II&III, II Extension, IV, II and I&IV. To ensure efficacy of the various provisions proposed for minimizing the adverse impact of mining on Damodar River, comprehensive SMC Plan should be prepared for the entire Mining project covering all blocks.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government of Jharkhand to submit information, as per the above observation, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,



(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell (Forest Conservation Division).
6. Guard File.



(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)