

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 13th October, 2022

To
The Regional Officer,
Integrated Regional Office,
MoEF&CC, Lucknow.

Sub: Diversion of 115.874 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. for proposed diversion of forest land at village Kota in Tehsil Robertsganj, District Sonbhadra for JP Super cement plant & it's township (a unit of Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. Sector 128, Noida) in District Sonbhadra, State Uttar Pradesh- reg.

Madam/Sir,

Kindly refer to the Integrated Regional Office, MoEFCC, Lucknow letter no. 8A/UP/09/117/2019/FC/119 dated 29.06.2022 on the above mentioned subject.

In this regard, it is informed that the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), in its meeting held on 27th January, 2021 directed that the 26 ha of water body is also required to be excluded from the CA area. However the IRO, Lucknow vide their above referred letter dated 29.06.2022 has submitted that *out of proposed total gross area of 118.850 ha. NFL, 23 ha area comes under water body as per DSS report.* This indicates that the area of the water body has not been excluded from the proposed CA area as per decision of the FAC.

Further as per DFO, Kaimur Wildlife division, Mirzapur letter no. 2407/33-1 dated 07.05.2022 it has been informed that:

- a. An area of 35.00 ha non forest land is available for CA Plantation.
- b. An area of 22.215 ha comes under water body which may be suitable for forest and wildlife management.
- c. The process of displacement of 03 kutchha houses located on the proposed CA area is going on which will be completed soon so that the land will be dispute free.
- d. Affidavit proceedings are going on by the JPS Associates from the villagers for not growing crops on the above proposed land. Due to which the land will be dispute free.

In view of the above, it is clear that the proposed CA land is not free from encumbrances/disputes.

Moreover, it is still not clear as to how much area is having good tree growth and how much area is unsuitable on account of buildings/infrastructure or other encumbrances.

As per the report received, only 35.000 ha of non forest land is available for CA Plantation, therefore there is shortfall of 80.874 ha (115.874 -35.00) non forest land for raising CA Plantation.

There is also no proposal for land for penal CA.

The State Government may therefore be requested to do the needful and provide suitable land for raising of CA and Penal CA as stipulated in the conditions of Stage-1 approval.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- ii. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- iii. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- iv. User Agency;
- v. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.