

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 1100 03.

**Dated: 14th October, 2020**

To,

Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Orissa,  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha of RF in Chhendipada & Kankurupal Reserved Forest and 140.180 ha of Village Forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL).**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Odisha's letter No. 10F (Con)123/19-229/F&E dated 04.01.2020 submitted the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal has been examined by Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 21.09.2020. The detail minutes of the meeting is available in [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).

2. After detailed examination and deliberations on the proposal with DDG Regional Office Odisha, Nodal Officer Odisha and representatives of user agency, FAC deferred the proposal seeking following information:

- i. the State Government has recommended the CA over degraded forest land equivalent to double the area proposed for diversion. The CA is proposed in Reserved Forests. At present this dispensation is available for proposals of Government of India and Central PSUs user agencies only. Ministry vide para 2.4(i) of comprehensive guideline dated 28.3.2019 has allowed CA over forest land not under management and/or administrative control of the State/UT Forest department and on which the provisions of FC Act, 1980 are applicable. State Government of Odisha shall explore option of finding degraded forest area outside the notified forests, in the category of area mentioned in para 2.4(i) of comprehensive guidelines.
- ii. A coal washery has been proposed over the forest area portion in the project area. State Government shall explore the possibility of establishing the coal washery, which is a non-site specific use, on non-forest area. The alternatives explored may be submitted.
- iii. It was noted that as per land use plan, 40.060 ha forest land is proposed to be used for establishment of washery and service building. It is to be recalled that a coal washery's requirement of water is quite substantial. In addition, there is substantial outflow of wastewater from the washery. State Government should examine on the impact of large water withdrawal from forest area for the proposed washery, as well as the waste water and dust from the washery, on the flora and fauna of the locality. Establishing

such unit requires adoption of precautionary principle. All mitigation measures that are essential to minimise the impact of the proposed washery shall be listed if ashery could not be located outside forest land.

- iv. Movement of elephant has been reported in northern and southern part of lease area. It is also and reported that the proposed Similipal-Satkosia Tiger Corridor is about 8.12 Km on the north side of the proposed project. Mining in the area is likely to cause Human-animal conflict in the area. Comments in this regard shall be sought from NTCA and Project Elephant Division of MoEF&CC with regard to wild life management plan with appropriate mitigation measures for the entire area.
- v. From the perusal of land use it is learnt that 98.057 ha forest land has been earmarked for structures including drainage, roads, transmission lines, etc. This need detailed elaboration and justification.
- vi. Safety zone shall be clearly earmarked in the proposal.
- vii. There is discrepancy in the number of trees enumerated to be felled. As per DFO report, it is 1,06,536, whereas RCCF reported 1,06,209, and the SIR of Regional office reported 1,05,092 trees. The exact figure may be submitted.

In view of above, the State Govt. is requested to kindly send the information on the points indicated in para (2) above (except para-2-iv) for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Member Secretary, NTCA, MoEF&CC, New Delhi: **with a request to send their comments on the observation of FAC at para 2(iv) above.**
3. The Inspector General of Forest (Project Elephant), MoEF&CC, New Delhi: **with a request to send their comments on the observation of FAC at para 2(iv) above.**
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
5. The Deputy Director General (Central), IRO, Bhubaneswar.
6. User Agency
7. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
8. Guard File.