

File No.: 8-145/2006FC (E-89235)

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 15-10-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Madhya Pradesh
Bhopal.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 502 ha of forest land for renewal of lease for Rajnagar RO Underground Coal Mining Project in Anup-Nagar District of Madhya Pradesh in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited and also diversion of 123.56 ha forest land (a part of 502.00 ha) for surface use for the same project – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to say that as per the decision taken in the meeting held on 12.09.2025 under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Forests (FC), the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh is requested to examine the submissions made by the user agency and give their specific recommendations in this regard. The states shall also verify and provide the complete details including the status of compliance of conditions of Stage-1 approval along with, the details of NPV payment made, the change in the areas proposed for CA/Penal CA, if any, the detail of the area under mining and surface infrastructure and their present status, the extent of forest land under non-forestry use at the time of Stage-1 approval and the area used thereafter.

2. Further, on examination of the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter dated 25.07.2025, the following shortfalls have been observed:

- i. With regard to the compliance of condition 2(i) (regarding CA) and 2(iv) (regarding PCA) of Stage-I approval dated 10.01.2008, It has been observed that the State Government has not submitted the KML files of the land identified for Compensatory Afforestation and Penal Compensatory Afforestation. The same needs to be submitted.
- ii. With regard to the condition no 2 (ii) and 2 (iii) of Stage-1 approval and as per rule no. 9 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2025, the Non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation has to be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest department before final/Stage-II approval. The needful in this regard shall be done.

- iii. In compliance to condition No. 2(xiv) of the Stage-I, the State Government is requested to furnish the Action Taken Report on the violation of the VSESA, 1980 .
- iv. The User Agency i.e. SECL made the payment of ₹350/- crores to the CEC with reference to such similar proposals and thereafter, the CEC transferred this amount to the NA CAMPA. Out of this, it is not clear how much amount out of ₹350/- crores is for this instant project. Accordingly, the State Government is requested to provide the breakup of the amount paid for this instant proposal and for other proposals out of said ₹350/- crores/-.

3. Accordingly, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Encl: as above

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF–cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.