

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: October, 2023

To,

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

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 65.52 ha of forest land for expansion of Surda Copper Underground Mine project in favour of M/s Hindustan Copper Limited in Singhbhum District, Jharkhand State (Online No. 8-64/1993-FC Vol.)– regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-15/2023-3696-A/V.P. dated 29.09.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that after examination of said proposal revealed the following:

- i. The Ministry vide its letter no. 8-64/1993-FC dated 15.05.1998 has granted Stage-II approval for renewal of Mosabeni mining lease over 189.74 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. Hindustan Copper Ltd. In this regard, the State Govt. shall submit the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage-II approval dated 15.05.1998.
- ii. The component wise breakup of proposed forest land has not been correctly mentioned in online Part-I and same needs submission.
- iii. Against the detail of past proposals in the Online Part-1, the user agency has mentioned the details as Nill, whereas the present proposal is linked to a mining lease wherein approval for diversion of forest land has been accorded by the Ministry. The same needs correction.
- iv. The KML file for earlier diverted 189.74 ha of forest land along with KML file of Compensatory Afforestation land shall be furnished.
- v. As reported the proposed project is within an area of 388.68 ha, comprising of 149.03 ha of forest land. Out of 149.03 ha of forest land, already diverted forest land is 83.51 ha & a balance of 65.52 ha is under consideration for diversion. However, the Ministry vide letter no. 8-64/1993-FC dated 15.05.1998 has granted Stage-II approval for renewal of 189.74 ha of forest land. This needs clarification.
- vi. From the information submitted by the state it is apparent that the Surda mine is a part of a bigger mining lease in the name of Mosabeni, wherein approval under FCA,1980 has been accorded by the Ministry for renewal of permission for 189.74 ha of forest land vide letter dated 15.05.1998. Whereas, the present proposal has been submitted as an expansion of Surda mine only. A detailed justification in this regard shall be submitted along with a kml file for the entire Mosabeni mine.

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- vii. The State Govt shall ensure that the area details in the approved mining plan are commensurate with the proposal and a comparative analysis of the same shall be submitted.
- viii. The details of total lease area and total forest land involved in the entire lease area shall be intimated. Details of forest land wherein the approval for the diversion of forest land has already been obtained and the details of balance forest land, if any, shall also be intimated.
- ix. The State Government shall submit the details of the validity of the entire mining lease along with detailed chronology of approvals of the mining lease.
- x. The justification for not including the the 65.52 ha forest area in the earlier diversion proposal when the area was actually apart of the same mining lease shall be submitted.
- xi. The user agency in online Part-I has mentioned that 149.03 ha forest land is located within the Mine lease. However, as per the DSS analysis, of the KML file submitted the total 163.23 ha forest land is located within the Mine lease boundary. The same needs to be revisited by the state.
- xii. The user agency in online Part-I has mentioned that the Non-Forest land involved in the present proposal as Nil whereas superimposing the Mining lease boundary on the DSS portal revealed that the present proposal has the involvement of Non-Forest area. This needs clarification.
- xiii. Satellite imagery shows the presence of settlements, Road and Agriculture fields within the proposed forest land for diversion. This needs clarification.
- xiv. The CF, Jamshedputr in its site inspection report has reported that the area is part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve and also Schedule-I species have been reported in the area. Therefore, the comments of CWLW, Jharkhand needs to be furnished. Further, comments may also be furnished on the adequacy of mitigation measures like Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan or Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management proposed for the area.
- xv. Cost benefit Ratio has been estimated as 1:9644.77 which is exorbitantly high. The analysis may be revisited by the user agency by applying appropriate economic tools to accurately estimate the various parameters and detailed analysis thereof may be submitted as per the format prescribed in the FCA, 1980 Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019 keeping in view the revised rates of NPV dated 06.01.2022.
- xvi. Details of mineral evacuation plan, transportation and involvement of forest land, if any, shall be intimated.

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

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 27-10-2023 10:11:11

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.