

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.  
Dated: 26 October, 2020  
27/10

To,

The Deputy Director General (Central)  
Integrated Regional Office,  
Bhubaneswar.

**Subj: D.O. letter from Sh. Pankaj Kumar Bansal, Chairman & Managing Director, TANGEDCO & TNEB Ltd. regarding TANGEDCO- Chandrabila coal block**

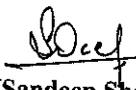
Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of representation dated 30.09.2020 as received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Bansal, Chairman & Managing Director, TANGEDCO & TNEB Ltd regarding a proposal for prospecting in the Chandrabila Coal Block of Angul district in Odisha.

In this regard, the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar is requested to furnish the comments and specific recommendation on the referred representation to this office for further action.

Yours faithfully,

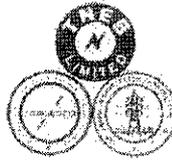
Encl.as above.

  
(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

27-10-2020, 11:

**Kaj Kumar Bansal, I.A.S.,**  
 Chairman & Managing Director /  
 TANGEDCO & TNEB Ltd., and  
 Chairman, TANTRANSKO



Off. : 044 - 2852 1300  
 Fax : 044 - 2854 4528  
 E-mail : chairman@tnebnet.org

D.O. Lr.No.CE/M/Mines/EE1/A1/F.Chandrabila CB/D. 158 /2020, DT. 30.09.2020

Dear Sir,

Sub: TANGEDCO – Chandrabila Coal Block – Issuance of forest clearance for prospecting in the forest area of the block – reg.

- Ref: 1. D.O. Letter dated 12.08.2020 from CMD/TANGEDCO to the Secretary (EF & CC)/MoEF & CC  
 2. Letter under File No.8-4/2015FC, dated.12.09.2020 from AIGF/MoEF & CC to CMD/TANGEDCO.

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I wish to bring to your kind notice that the reference to the letter dated 12.09.2020 from the Additional Inspector General of Forests/MoEF & CC advising TANGEDCO to examine the applicability of the guidelines issued MoEF & CC on 16.07.2020 regarding the procedure for consideration of developmental projects within 10 km of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary, it is informed that the Chandrabila Coal Block, in which the Forest Clearance is requested for prospecting is not situated within 10 Km of any National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary. Further, no part of the Chandrabila coal block falls in the areas linking one protected area/tiger reserve with another protected area/tiger reserve. Hence, the need for getting clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life as per the condition stipulated in Section 38 O (1)(g) of the amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act,1972, issued on 03.09.2006, does not arise.

In this regard, it is also informed that the Special Secretary (F&E)/Odisha had already communicated the recommendation of the State Government of Odisha to allow prospecting exercise in the forest land stating that it will have no significant disturbance to wildlife habitat in the area, in the letter dated 16.05.2018 addressed to the Assistant Inspector General of Forest/MoEF& CC.

But, the proposal for issuing Forest Clearance for prospecting in the Chandrabila Coal Block had been placed before the REC, Bhubaneswar, as per the guidelines issued by the MoEF& CC on 24.12.2018, since the vegetation density in the forest area of the block had been reported to be 0.4 by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

The REC, Bhubaneswar did not approve the proposal stating that the dense forest area in which prospecting is proposed to be done is close to the Simlipal-Satkosia tiger corridor and it will affect the adjacent lush green virgin forest.

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In this regard, it is informed that the boundary of the Chandrabila Coal Block is reported to be 7.29 Km away from the Simlipal-Satkosia tiger corridor and is surrounded by many other coal blocks of Coal India Limited and other operators. Some of the coal blocks, which are nearer to the Simlipal-Satkosia tiger corridor than Chandrabila coal block, are already in operation and some of the other nearby coal blocks are included in the list of coal blocks to be auctioned by the MoC.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment, Government of Odisha has also been requested to arrange for placing the proposal for reconsideration of the REC.

Hence, it is requested that the proposal for issuing Forest Clearance for prospecting in the forest area of the Chandrabila coal block may be arranged to be reconsidered and approved by the REC.

*Kind Regards*

Yours sincerely,

*P*  
29/9/2020  
(Pankaj Kumar Bansal) 1/2

To  
Shri. Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, IAS,  
Secretary (EF & CC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
Government of India,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,  
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 001.

