

File No.: 8-11/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 10-11-2025

To

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

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 219.8 ha Forest land for Gondulpara Coal Mine project of M/s ADANI ENTERPRISES LTD under Hazaribag District of Jharkhand State (Proposal No FP/JH/MIN/139492/2021)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Jharkhand letter No. Van Bhumi-04/2024-3575 dated 15.10.2025 on the above mentioned subject. In this context, the proposal has been examined in the Ministry. The observations of the Ministry on the proposal are as follows:-

1. As per the Para 7.8 of the Chapter-7 given in the Consolidated Handbook of Guidelines and Clarification issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules-2023, a justification behind opening new mining lease in the region shall be submitted along with a brief profile of the lessee/company, giving details of their existing mining leases in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land that are exhausted minerals etc. The State Government is requested to submit the justification accordingly.
2. As per the vesting order issued by the Ministry of Coal vide its letter dated 08.03.2021, the Ministry of Coal has allotted 185.94 acres (75.247 ha) of land under CBA whereas the project area reported in the proposal is 513.18 ha (219.8 ha forest + 293.38 ha Non-Forest land). This State Govt. shall submit the clarification regarding this variation along with supporting documents.
3. The State shall ensure that the proposed land use is commensurate with the mining plan. A comparative analysis of the land use as per proposal vis-à-vis the mining plan shall be submitted.
4. In the land use details at the end of mine life, it has been mentioned that

159.12 ha area will be kept as void. Keeping in view the huge quantity of Over Burden proposed to be generated, the state shall give the justification to not backfill the mined out area at the end of mine life.

5. Out of the total 219.8 ha of forest land involved, an area of 65.23 ha has been earmarked for an external overburden (OB) dump located outside the mine block, and 24.59 ha has been earmarked for an OB dump within the mine block. The State Government shall provide a detailed justification for the proposed use of forest land for a non-site-specific activity such as the external OB dump. Considering the presence of villages and non-forest land in the vicinity of the mining lease area, the State Government shall also clarify why the OB dumping cannot be carried out on nearby non-forest land, instead of diverting additional forest land for this purpose.
6. A forest area of 10.12 ha has been proposed to be utilized for the construction of roads and associated infrastructure. The State Government shall provide a detailed breakup of this area, indicating the specific area proposed for roads and the area proposed for various infrastructure components, along with a description of the type and purpose of each infrastructure facility. Further, since these are non-site-specific activities, the State Government shall also clarify why such facilities cannot be located on nearby non-forest land.
7. In the Part-II of the application form on the PARIVESH portal, it has been reported that the rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the proposed forest land for diversion. The State Govt. shall submit the details in this regard alongwith effect of mining on these species.
8. The state has informed that the proposed area is rich in wildlife and movement of elephants has been observed in the proposed area and its vicinity. Further, it has been mentioned that to mitigate the negative impact of mining on residents and migrating wildlife, it is imperative to develop and effectively implement a Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan. Keeping above in view the comments of the CWLW shall be submitted.
9. The Badmahi river passes through the mining block area. In this regard the comments/ NoC from the Water Resource Department shall be submitted.
10. As per Part-II of the application form total 220.255 ha Non-Forest land (NFL) has been proposed for CA whereas the Nodal officer, Govt. of Jharkhand in his covering letter has mentioned that 228.55 ha NFL has been proposed for CA in the instant proposal. This variation needs clarification along with correct details and complete CA scheme, KML files and site suitability certificates for the compensatory afforestation sites.
11. Details of coal evacuation plan and how the requirement of electricity and water will be met needs clarification and the involvement of forest land, if any, shall also be intimated.
12. As per the DSS analysis, the following has been observed;

- a. The user agency has not uploaded the KML file for the forest land for which diversion is sought. The same shall be uploaded.
- b. The KML files/ Maps indicating different components of the project, including those proposed to be undertaken on non-forest land shall be submitted/ uploaded.
- c. The satellite imagery shows the presence of Brick Klins, Agriculture land, Settlements, Roads etc in the instant project boundary. The State Govt. shall give a detailed justification for each of the above mentioned non-forestry activities within the proposed area.
- d. Some of the proposed CA patches in villages namely Raghunathpur, Durup, Rajabasa, Medhari, and RORAD are falling within the forest compartment boundary as per the DSS analysis. The state shall ensure to provide non forest land for raising compensatory afforestation.
- e. In the patches proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA), located in village Littimara, it has been observed that a transmission line passes through the proposed area. The State Government shall provide a clear justification for selecting this site for CA despite the presence of the transmission line, and clarify whether the entire area is suitable and available for undertaking compensatory afforestation activities.
- f. Agricultural activities are visible in CA patches in village Sundari, Bagdiha & Tamba-II. Further, Settlements and Agriculture land are there in the CA patches in village Raghunathpur, Rupuskunari and Giri. This needs clarification.
- g. Several of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) patches are less than 5 ha in area and are isolated in nature, which do not conform to the applicable guidelines. The State Government shall therefore identify and propose CA in patches of appropriate size and suitability as per applicable guidelines. The requisite details of the revised CA areas including the Maps, kml files, CA schemes and suitability certificates shall be submitted.

Accordingly it is requested to submit the information/details as above for the further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-
(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, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;

4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.