

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: November, 2023

To,

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

Subject: Diversion of 206.826 ha forest land in the Forest compartment No PF-400, 401, 409, 410, 413, 414 & 422 of Damua Range under West Chhindwara Forest Division for the Tandsi Under-ground Coal Mining Project by M/s Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/ 44238/2020) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/833/2022/10- 11/3123 dated 13.07.2023 forwarding a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposal was placed before the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 14.11.2023. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. After detailed deliberation on the matter, the Committee deferred the proposal for non-forest use of 206.826 ha forest land for the Tandsi Under-ground Coal Mining Project for want of following information:

- i. A detailed chronology indicating the history of mining lease and its renewals along with the detail of approvals accorded under FCA, 1980 for the entire lease area with consolidated picture of Tandsi-I, Tandsi-II and Tandsi-III and the adjoining mines referred by CWLW shall be submitted.
- ii. The distance of proposed forest area from Satpura Tiger Reserve is 6.18 km. The area has a recorded presence of Tigers as elaborated in the SIR of DFO concerned. Further, the execution of the project may lead to habitat fragmentation and cause obstruction in the corridor. Therefore, before proceeding further in the instant matter it is essential to carry out a detailed study of the possible impacts of the project on the Biodiversity and Wildlife. A detailed study involving Wildlife institute of India, Dehradun shall be submitted along with the specific recommendation of the CWLW and the State Govt.
- iii. The PCCF (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter dated 07.01.2023 has mentioned that the proposed area is falling in Pench Satpura Wildlife Corridor and needs approval from NBWL. In this regard the State Govt. shall take necessary action as per rules to seek the requisite recommendations of NBWL.
- iv. High resolution satellite imagery shows the presence of road and plantation work in the forest land proposed for diversion. The State Govt. shall examine the same in detail and submit a detailed report in this regard.
- v. Tambiya River and its tributary are flowing through the forest land proposed for diversion. In this regard the comments of the Water Resource

Department of the State/State Government on the effect of underground mining on ground water recharge, river flow and measures to protect river subsidence due to under-ground mining shall be submitted. The details of study carried out, if any in this regard shall also be submitted.

In view of the above, the Government of Madhya Pradesh is requested to furnish the information as above for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 27-11-2023 20:21:16

Reason: Approved

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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