

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

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

**Dated: January, 2024**

To

**The Principal Secretary (Forests)**

Government of Chhattisgarh  
Raipur.

**S u b : Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited for non-forestry use for renewal of diversion of 33.84 ha of broken up forest land (out of total 424.429 ha of forest land in lease area) in respect of Deepika Expansion open cast mining project in favour of M/a SECL in Korba District of Chhattisgarh (Online Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/1461/2006)– regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh letter no. Bhu-Praband/Khanij/244/2704 dated 07.12.2023 on above subject forwarding additional information as sought vide this Ministry's letter dated 06.03.2023 and to say that after examination of additional information following shortcomings were revealed:

- i. As per the conditions of Stage-I approval, the Compensatory Afforestation is to be done on non-forest land. Further, as per communications submitted with the reply, the state of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the non forest land earlier identified for CA against the instant project has been used for the Compensatory Afforestation in case of other projects. Keeping this in view the State/User agency is required to provide suitable Non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation as stipulated in the Stage-1 approval.
- ii. The suitable non-forest land so identified for CA is also required to be notified as RF/PF as per conditions stipulated in the Stage-1 approval.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to furnish information/documents, as indicated above, to the Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

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

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Nodal officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.

3. The DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Nagpur, Maharashtra
4. The IGF (Central), MoEF&CC, Sub-office, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Division.