



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भोपाल/ REGIONAL OFFICE, BHOPAL

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File No. 8-196/1984-FC (vol.) / 341

Dated : 08 /11/2024.

To,

Additional Director General of Forests (FC)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Diversion of 36.734 ha of Reserved Forest land of Forest Survey No. RF-833, 834 Forest Range-Budhar, Division-Shahdol South for Bangwar Underground Coal Mining in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State.(Online proposal No. - FP/MP/MIN/29264/2017)-reg.


Ref: MoEF&CC, New Delhi Letter No. 8-196/1984-FC (Vol.)dated 16/08/2024.

Sir,

With respect to the subject and reference cited above, the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Bhopal in respect of diversion of 36.734 ha of Reserved Forest land in Forest Survey No. RF-833 & RF-834, Forest Range-Budhar, Division-Shahdol South for Bangwar Underground Coal Mining in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Encl : As above.


(Ashok Kumar Sinha)
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

Shri Suneet Bhardwaj, AIGF, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, Aliganj, New Delhi.

Field Inspection Report of A.K. Sinha, IFS, DDGF (C), RO Bhopal

Ref : GoI, MoEF&CC (FC Division), letter No. 8-196/1984-FC (Vol.), Dated- 16 August, 2024.

Date of Inspection: 28/10/2024

Officers present at the time of inspection:-

- (i) A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
- (ii) Shri P Srikrishna - AGM, Sohagpur area, SECL
- (iii) Shri Sanjay Singh - Sub Area Manager, SECL
- (iv) Shri A K Saxena - Nodal Officer Forest, SECL
- (v) Shri Manas Dutta - Survey Officer, SECL
- (vi) Shri Pankaj Gautam - Nodal Officer Environment, SECL
- (vii) Shri D R Purre - Mines Manager Bangwar, SECL
- (viii) Shri Md. Salim Khan - FRO, Budhar Range
- (ix) Shri Kamla Prasad - Forester
- (x) Mrs. Jyoti Lariya - FBO

Title of the Project:		Diversion of 36.734 ha of Reserved Forest land of Forest Survey No. RF-833, 834 Forest Range- Budhar, Division- Shahdol South for Bangwar Underground Coal Mining in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State. (Online proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/29264/2017)																							
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Reserved Forest: 36.734 ha																							
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	The proposed area for underground Coal Mining in Shahdol District is as follows:																							
		<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th>Component</th><th>Name of Forest Division</th><th>Range</th><th>Forest Compartment no.</th><th>Area (ha)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td rowspan="2">1</td><td rowspan="2">Underground Coal Mining</td><td rowspan="2">South Shahdol</td><td rowspan="2">Budhar</td><td>RF-833</td><td>21.321</td></tr><tr><td>RF-834</td><td>15.413</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Total</td><td>36.734</td></tr></tbody></table>	No.	Component	Name of Forest Division	Range	Forest Compartment no.	Area (ha)	1	Underground Coal Mining	South Shahdol	Budhar	RF-833	21.321	RF-834	15.413	Total					36.734			
No.	Component	Name of Forest Division	Range	Forest Compartment no.	Area (ha)																				
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				RF-834	15.413																				
Total					36.734																				

3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:	No
4.	Total cost of the Project at present rates:	-
5.	Wildlife:	Wild Pigs, Jackals, Foxes, Monkeys, Occasional movement of spotted deer, occasional seasonal migration of smaller herds (3 to 5 nos.) of Elephants, etc.
6.	Vegetation:	<p>Eco Class-IV a and Crown Density is 0.4 to 0.5 the main species present at field are as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Shorea robusta</i> ii. <i>Madhuca indica</i> iii. <i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i> iv. <i>Cassia fistula</i> v. <i>Schleichera oleosa</i> vi. <i>Butea monosperma</i> vii. <i>Diasporus melanoxylon</i> viii. <i>Bombax ceiba</i> ix. <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> x. <i>Ficus benghalensis</i> xi. <i>Terminalia chebula</i> xii. <i>Terminalia bellarica</i> xiii. <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i> xiv. <i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i> xv. <i>Dalbergia paniculata</i> xvi. <i>Buchanania lanzan</i> xvii. <i>Syzygium cumini</i> xviii. <i>Lantana camara</i> xix. <i>Misc. Species</i>

7.	Background note on the proposal:	The proposed diversion area is adjacent to the already diverted 513.296 ha area in favour of SECL. In the diverted 513.296 ha area, in 315.354 ha area underground mining of Coal is already in progress. The annual production of the existing mine is 6.5 lakh tonne. About 35.00 lakh tonne Coal is estimated reserve in the proposed 36.734 ha area and the same is proposed to be extracted by underground method of mining.
8.	Compensatory Afforestation:	Not Applicable
9.	Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action Taken against the concerned officials:	No
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:	No
11.	Reclamation Plan: (If applicable, submit details and Financial allocation:	-
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Not applicable.
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:1.04
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	The proposal is recommended by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & State Government in Part-IV & Part-V.

15.	Utility of the Project:	The coal extracted is of Thermal Quality and the same will be utilized in Thermal Power Plants, Fertilizer Plants and other Industries. It will cater to the increasing demand of power and would also provide employment to the local people.
16.	Whether land being diverted has any socio cultural/ religious value:	No.
17.	Situation w.r.t. Any P.A.	Proposed area is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls in any Tiger Corridor. It is situated at a distance of about 49.00 km from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and 58.00 km from Achanakmar Tiger Reserve.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	-
19.	Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer	

INSPECTION OF THE PROPOSED DIVERSION AREA

Division: Sahdol South; Range- Budhar; Circle – Shahdol; Beat – Dhanpuri; Compartment No.- RF -833 &834; Area- 36.734 Ha

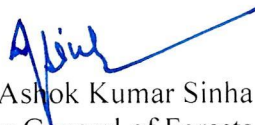
The proposed area for diversion was found to be properly demarcated on the ground by erecting small pillars. The total no. of pillars erected were 13. The area was found to have very good Sal forest. The terrain is mostly a flat ground with gently sloping towards north east direction and draining in to a small seasonal stream. The Soil is red loamy with considerable depth. There was not much sign of erosion except small portion in the northern side of the proposed area. There is no river/ stream passing through the area. It was further observed that the area is subjected to heavy grazing by local cattle. The area was very much infested by weed like Lantana camara. The vegetation and Wild animals found in the area are as enlisted in column no. 06 & 05 respectively. There were excellent regeneration of Sal found in the area but due to heavy biotic pressure, the young seedlings are getting either trampled or browsed. **Therefore, to rejuvenate the existing forest in the proposed diversion area, fencing with chain link fence, execution of some suitable SMC works, removal of Lantana and gap plating as per requirement,**

shall be taken up by the forest department at the cost of the User Agency.

As per discussions with the SECL officials, it was informed that as the mining is by underground method and there is no requirement of any surface rights, no disturbance would be caused to the standing forest in the proposed diversion area. There may be a little subsidence of the floor of the forest after extraction of the Coal, the cracks developed would be immediately closed with earth and no damage would be caused to the standing crop of the forest. The immediate treatment of the cracks would prevent any possibility of underground fires in future. The extracted coal would be salvaged from underground by the existing system of winning the coal in the existing mine and taken out on surface through the existing mine opening.

As the proposed diversion area will have only underground method of mining without any surface rights, there is no applicability of any CA as per the existing rules.

20	Recommendations of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:	The project is recommended for approval subject to the observations made above.
21.	Regional Head shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	Since, it is a site specific project, no alternative is feasible.


Ashok Kumar Sinha
Dy. Director General of Forests
Regional Office, Bhopal

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

