

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 Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for the non-forest use of 455.1108 ha of forest land for Pachwara South Coal Block project in favour of M/s Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd. (NUPPL), District Dumka, Jharkhand (Online No. P/JH/MIN/59823/2020) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-19/2022-3464 V.P. dated 29.11.2022 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 20.10.2023. 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 want of following information:

- i. The components of the area proposed are not commensurate with the approved mining plan. The State shall ensure that the proposal is in conformity with the approved mining plan and submit the revised mining plan/proposal accordingly.
- ii. The forest area proposed for diversion is situated within the Elephant Migration route. The State govt. was asked to submit the detail of the existing and proposed elephant corridors in the landscape which has not been provided. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.
- iii. Out of the total proposed forest land an area of 10.313 ha forest land is earmarked for infrastructure which is a non-site-specific activity. Therefore, the State Govt. shall explore the possibility to shift the 10.313 ha infrastructure development to non-forest land and revise the requirement of forest land accordingly.
- iv. The details of the special purpose vehicle created for the purpose of conveyor belt and requirement of additional forest land for the transportation of the coal shall be submitted along with a KML file showing the proposed route and involvement of forest land.
- v. The Compensatory Afforestation areas shall be revisited and the State shall ensure that the same are free from encroachments and all encumbrances.

Smaller patches with an area of less than 5 ha will not be appropriate for management and therefore the same needs revision. Therefore, in such cases revised CA patches along with revised CA Scheme and other details shall be submitted.

- vi. The correct KML file indicating the different components of the project including those proposed to be taken on non-forest land shall be submitted.
- vii. With regard to current status of progress of the settlement proceedings after notification under section 4 of the IFA, the State Government has informed that the section 4 notification is of the year 1944 and status of settlement proceedings is not available with the State Government. In this regard, the State shall submit a copy of the notification as asked by the Ministry earlier.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by
Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 09-11-2023 17:39:35

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 (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.