

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Alignaj, Jorbagh Road,  
**New Delhi - 110003**

**Dated: 22nd January, 2021**

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),

Government of Chhattisgarh,

Naya Raipur

**Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of diversion of 112.385 ha of Revenue forest land for Gevra Open Cst Mine (OCM) in Katghora Forest Range, District-Korba Chhattisgarh in favour of SECL, Chhattisgarh -reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-12/2017/10-2 dated 25.11.2020 on the above subject forwarding a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval dated 29.07.2017 and to say that examination of the said compliance report in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. As per CA scheme submitted along with the proposal, financial provision of Rs. 12,33,18,482/- were estimated for raising CA and another Rs. 6,02,80,244/- for 83 ha of degraded forest land while Rs. 18,55,03,805/- have now been reported to be realized from the user agency. It cannot be ascertained from the report whether compensatory levies realized for raising CA include additional cost of 25% of CA estimate. The State Government therefore needs to clarify the same. In case additional cost of 25% has not been realized, the same may be realized and deposited into the account of CAMPA. SMC scheme, if any, prepared, in compliance to this condition also needs to be intimated by the State.
- ii. As per examination of the alternate land of 83 ha of degraded forest land using Google Satellite Imagery, Patch-5 has been observed with encroachment while Patch-4 was observed with per-plantation operations. The State Government therefore needs to re-confirm the suitability of 83 ha of degraded forest land for raising CA.
- iii. Compliance of condition no (xii) has been reported in the form of undertaking only. CAT Plan prepared by the CGCOST, stated to be submitted has not been received along with compliance. A comprehensive CAT Plan, in compliance to said condition needs to be submitted along with financial provisions for the implementation of its provisions and status of their

deposition into the account of CAMPA.

- iv. Condition no. (xiii) has not been complied with. Compliance of the condition needs to be submitted by the State indicating the progress made so far by the user agency , supported with documentary evidences, to assess the impact of intervention undertaken by the SECL on protection and conservation of wildlife in the area.
- v. Detail of the degraded forest area, 1.5 times the area of safety zone, has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted along with supporting detail such as afforestation plan, KML/Shape files, suitability certificate from the DCF concerned.
- vi. Detailed report in compliance to condition no. (xxxiv) of the Stage-I approval on settlement of rights proposed to be implemented in respect of identified in respect of 41 right holders in the proposed area has not been intimated by the State.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit the information on shortcomings, as indicated above, for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(Sandeep Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

**Copy to:**

- 1. The PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Naya Raipur
- 2. The Nodal officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Naya Raipur
- 3. The Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Naya Raipur.
- 4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division
- 5. User Agency
- 6. Guard File