

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.

**Sub: 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 Coalfields Limited (SECL) for diversion of 174.925 ha (Originally proposed area 206.638 ha) of forest land for Deepika Expansion Open Cast Mining Project in Korba District, in the State of Chhattisgarh (Online Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/1452/2006)– regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh letter no. Bhu-Praband/Khanij/102/2706 dated 07.12.2023 on above subject forwarding additional information as sought vide this Ministry's letter dated 08.02.2023 and to say that after examination of additional information following shortcomings were revealed:

- i. In compliance to point no. vi, the State Government has informed that out of 413.276 ha area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation, CA can be taken up only in 105 ha. 308.276 ha is not available for CA and the same will be carried under ACA. However, details of ACA viz. KML file, Site suitability certificate, SOI map, DGPS map and revenue papers is required to be submitted.
- ii. Complete details of the funds deposited by the User Agency into CAMPA account under different phases in prescribed proforma is required to be submitted.
- iii. Compliance of the conditions stipulated in all previous Stage-II approvals related to Deepika OCP is required to be submitted.
- iv. As the instant proposal is for expansion and accordingly mining plan has been revised. The State Government/ User Agency shall ensure that there is no change in the land use of the earlier approved forest area. Change in land use, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry. A comparative detail of the land use plan approved and that in the revised mining plan shall be submitted.
- v. Whether the UA has deposited NPV for entire forest land located in the lease area is not clear. Details of the same is required to be submitted.
- vi. The State has now requested that 22.35 ha area for which FRA certificate has not been provided be excluded from the Stage-II approval. As per letter dated 28.09.2021 of the State Govt., this area is part of the safety zone which is an integral part of the mining lease. As per guidelines issued by the Ministry from time to time, the forest area within the safety zone can not be left out of the forest diversion. The State shall therefore submit the FRA certificate for the entire area

along with necessary supporting documents.

- vii. Further, it has been informed that an area of 9.383 ha has been diverted in favour of NTPC. The kml file of the 22.35 ha and 9.383 ha diverted in favour of NTPC shall be submitted.
- viii. The exclusion of the 9.383 ha area diverted in favour of NTPC may have lead to change in the overall landuse plan of the proposed area. However, no details in this regard have been submitted as to how the different components will be accommodated in the reduced area. A detailed map along with the KML file indicating the various components shall be submitted.

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 Regional Officer (Central), Regional Office, Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division.