

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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: As per E-Sign**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.654 ha Revenue forest land in Khasra No 13/1, 14/1 & 826 of Village Beliya and Atariya, Keshwahi Forest Range of South Shahdol Forest Division for Rampur Batura OCP in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) under the Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/18959/2016)- regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the Addl. PCCF (Land Management) Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/18959/2016/5172 dated 08.10.2024 received in the Ministry on dated 22.11.2024 on the above cited subject. In this regard, the following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. The recommendation of the State Government in the Part-V as well as recommendation of the Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in Part-IV form as per prescribed format shall be uploaded online.
- ii. The Ministry vide letter No. 8-33/2015-FC dated 16.07.2019 has approved a proposal for diversion of 76.840 ha forest land for Batura OCP of M/s SECL. Therefore, it needs clarification whether the present proposal is extension of previous proposal or otherwise. If the instant proposal is an extension of past approval, in that case, the compliance report on the conditions stipulated in the final approval accorded vide Ministry's letter dated 16.07.2019 needs submission duly certified by the Regional Office as per Para 7.8 (e) of consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- iii. The complete KML file of 76.840 ha approved forest land along with the KML file of CA land which was then approved by the Ministry vide its letter No 8-33/2015-FC dated 16.07.2019 needs submission.
- iv. The minutes of the Project Screening Committee held in the State shall be uploaded online.
- v. In online Part-I it has been mentioned under component wise breakup that an area of 4.654 ha forest land will be utilized for Surface Right whereas the APCCF & Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter no. F-

1/FP/MP/MIN/18959/2016/5172 dated 08.10.2024 has mentioned that an area of 4.654 ha forest land will be utilized for Mining Work. Further, the components of the area proposed does not commensurate with the approved mining plan. The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposal is in conformity with the approved mining plan and submit the revised mining plan/proposal accordingly.

- vi. The KML files indicating the different components of the projects have not been submitted and the same have not been mentioned in Part-I of the proposal. The same needs to be submitted/ uploaded conspicuously depicting the various projects component vis-à-vis total lease area in accordance to mining plan.
- vii. Details of coal evacuation plan and how the requirement of electricity and water will be met by the user agency to run project and its components shall be submitted. The detail of additional forest area required for the purpose (if any) shall also be submitted.
- viii. It has been reported the project does not involves rehabilitation of people whereas the Project report submitted by the user agency with the proposal envisage that total 1870 project affected families are to be rehabilitated from 7 villages. Therefore, a copy of approved R&R plan along with the details of number of families going to affected due to instant project shall be uploaded online.
- ix. In online Part-II it has been reported that total 152 number of trees exist within the proposed forest land which found in variance with respect to the crop density 0.4 as mentioned in the proposal. This needs justification and method of data collection related to number of trees present in the area shall also be elaborated.
- x. It has informed that the project involves 730.263 ha Non-Forest land and 4.654 ha Revenue forest land thus comprises total area of 734.917 ha whereas the user agency in online Part-I has submitted that the instant proposal involves 1794.382 ha Non-Forest land and 4.654 ha Forest land and accordingly 1799.036 ha total area involved in the Project. This variation needs clarification.
- xi. The details of reclamation/ post mining land use of the proposed forest land has not been given in the project report. The same needs submission.
- xii. It has been reported that the Katna nala (South-Eastern part) and Jamuna Nala (Western part) passes through the proposed quarry. Therefore, the State shall submit the detail of mitigation measures in this regard along with the NoC/permission from the concerned department. It may also be clarified whether the forest land is required for Nala diversion or otherwise.
- xiii. The project report submitted by the user agency envisage that total 112.94 ha forest land involved in the proposal whereas the instant proposal has been submitted for forest land diversion of 4.654 ha forest land. This needs justification.
- xiv. The user agency has informed that till 1.04.2017 an area of 171.59 Ha of land has already being acquired and the project involves total 1915.59 ha land. The same needs clarification and justification behind submission of forest diversion proposal in piecemeal.
- xv. DSS analysis revealed that the software calculated KML file area of the Mine Lease/ Project area has been found 1539.887 ha instead 1794.382 ha as mentioned in online Part-I. Therefore, the correct & complete KML file of the project boundary shall be uploaded online.
- xvi. As per the DSS analysis, an area of 60.554 ha Protected forest land which is

also located in the project area of 1539.887 ha has not been included in the instant proposal. This needs clarification.

- xvii. The satellite imagery shows the presence of Agriculture land within the proposed 4.658 ha revenue forest land for diversion and the presence of Agriculture land, Nallah, Settlements, Brick kiln etc. within the project boundary/ mining lease. This same needs clarification.
- xviii. DSS analysis revealed that the part of CA land is falling outside the forest compartment boundary. Therefore, the correctness of the CA KML file needs to be re-assess and the correct KML file of CA shall be uploaded online.
- xix. In online Part-II, the details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion has been reported as Nil whereas the State Govt. in their covering letter informed that प्रस्तावित राजस्व वनभूमि में मुख्य रूप से वन्यप्राणी चीतल, जंगली, सुअर, लोमड़ी, सियार एवं बन्दर यदा-कदा पाये जाते हैं। Therefore, keeping in view very large area is involved in the project which may have negative impact in the surrounding landscape. The comments of the CWLW, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh needs to be obtained and it may also be also be clarified whether the instant project requires any Wildlife management plan or otherwise.

Accordingly, it is requested that the information on shortcomings, as indicated above, may be submitted for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.