

F. No. 8-35/2019-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003.
Dated: 23rd December, 2019

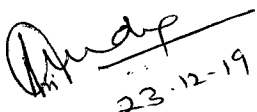
To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Raipur.

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 238.373 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Southeastern Coalfield Limited (SECL) for Baroud Expansion Opencast Coal Mining Project (3 MT) in Raigarh District of Chhattisgarh

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-33/2005/10-2 dated 3.12.2019 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Examination of said proposal in the ministry revealed following

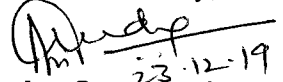
- (i) Proposal was submitted by the User Agency in the year 2012. Time of approximately 7 years elapsed to reach the proposal for prior approval of the Central Government. There is an exorbitant delay in the processing of proposal. Comments/justification for such extraordinary delay needs submission from the State Government.
- (ii) Correct KML/Shape files of the areas proposed for diversion, CA land, as well as land earmarked for safety zone and land proposed for afforestation over 1.5 time the area of safety zone have not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted.
- (iii) Total additional land requirement for the project has been reported to be 825.753 which include 238.373 ha of forest land. Area acquired earlier is reported to be 363.580 ha, thereby totaling the project area to be 1189.33 ha (363.580 +825.753). Total project area reported to be is 1111.40 ha by the State Government, while Revised Cost Estimate submitted along with the proposal mentioned total areas as 1159.953 ha (pg 2 of chapter-2 of RCE). Discrepancies in the area statement may be rectified and correct figure shall be submitted to the Ministry.
- (iv) Component wise breakup of forest land involved in the extant proposal as well as area under the project and status of prior approvals, obtained in the past, have not been provided in the proposal. The same needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- (v) Given the vegetation density of 0.4 and forest area of 238.373 ha proposed for diversion, number of project affected trees i.e. 15,242 appears to have been estimated on lower side. Moreover, abstract of tree enumeration has not been submitted with the proposal. The State Government may re-validate the tree enumeration and abstract detail of the same needs to be submitted to the MoEF&CC.


23.12.19

- (vi) Site suitability certificates of CA land have been verified by the Sub-DFO, the same needs to be certified by the DCF concerned. As per the Inspection report dated 25.04.2018, certain areas identified for CA in Dongari Chitapur were found under encroachment. Suitability of this site may also be re-visited by the DCF concerned.
- (vii) To address the issue of Wildlife in the proposed area including schedule-I species, the State Government has proposed preparation of a Wildlife Management Plan, however, comments of the PCCF (Wildlife), Chhattisgarh on the issue related to wildlife in the area may also be obtained and submitted to the Ministry.
- (viii) Copy R&R plan has not been submitted rather Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy of Coal India Limited has been submitted. Project specific approved R&R plan needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- (ix) Detail of reclamation, if any done, over the mined out area and status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the final approval has not been submitted along with the proposal.
- (x) Copy of approved Mining Plan has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted by the State Government.

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

Yours faithfully,



(Brijendra Swaroop)

Dy Inspection General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur
3. The Nodal Officer FCA), O/o of the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Section, MoEF, New Delhi
6. Guard File