



भारत सरकार/Government of India
पर्यावरण वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
उप कार्यालय (क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, चेन्नई)/ Sub Office (Regional Office, Chennai)
Aranya Bhavan, 3rd floor, Saifabad, Hyderabad-500004, Telangana
E-mail: iro.hyderabad-mefcc@gov.in
Tel: 040- 29390053

No. FC/IRO-HYD/SIR-01/2022/870

Date: 06.12.2023

To

The Inspector General of Forests,
ROHQ Division,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change,
Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003.

(Kind attention: Dr. Dheeraj Mittal, AIGF)

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 162.45 ha of forest land in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial Forest Division in Mancherial District for grant of Mining Lease for Srirampur Open Cast-II Expansion Project in Jaipur Mandal, Mancherial District in favour of M/s SCCL, Srirampur Area Mancherial District. (Online Proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/29918/2017) - reg.

Ref: Ministry's Letter No. 8-06/2019-FC, Dated 10.11.2023.

Sir,

With reference to Ministry's letter cited above, please find enclosed herewith the site inspection report of 162.457 ha of Non Forest Land identified for Compensatory Afforestation in the above mentioned project proposal of M/s SCCL along with enclosures for kind information and necessary action please.

This issues with the approval of DDGF (Central), RO, Chennai.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

(Dr. G. Trinadh Kumar), IFS
Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

The PS to DDGF (Central) for kind information of DDGF (Central), RO, Chennai.



Site inspection report of 162.457 Ha Non-Forest Land identified for Compensatory Afforestation for the proposal for diversion of 162.45 ha forest land in Indaram RF, Mancherial Range of Mancherial Forest Division for grant of ML for Srirampur Open Cast-II Expansion Project in Jaipur Mandal, Mancherial District in favour of M/s SCCL, Srirampur Area (Online Proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/29918/2017).

In pursuance of MoEF&CC Letter No. 8-06/2019-FC dated 24/04/2023 and 10.11.2023, the Non-Forest Land (NFL) proposed for CA purpose ad-measuring 162.457 ha situated at Singapur and Thallapalli villages of Naspur Mandal, Mancherial District was inspected by the undersigned along with DFO, Mancherial District, FDO, Mancherial and General Manager, Srirampur mines of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited on 24.11.23.

The Non-Forest Land identified for C.A. purpose is part of a rehabilitated dump belonging to M/s SCCL. The dump was created with 3 decks of about 30 m height each. Thus, the top of the dump is about 90m from the ground level. Major portion of the dump is found to be planted with various tree species such as *Pongamia pinnata*, *Hardwickia binate*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Terminalia spp.*, *Inga dulce*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Syzizium cumini*, *Holoptelia integrifolia*, *Arjun*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Albizia* species, *Ficus*, *Casia siamea*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Eucalyptus*, Bamboo, *Saccharum* grass, *Glyricidia* etc.

The NFL proposed for CA purpose is not demarcated on the field with pillars, only flags were fixed during site inspection. Hence, the area shall be properly demarcated on the field before transfer of this land parcel to the State Forest Department. We have reached the NFL at **Point No 5** on the top of the dump by vehicle through the coal mine. From this point, perambulated the dump area. The top portion of the dump was planted during 2020-21 and the saplings are surviving. From the end of the top deck (+90m Elevation from ground level), the plantation raised on the slope and lower decks was observed and noticed that the crown is fairly formed over this area and the dump as well as the planted species have stabilized/ established reasonably well.

During the course of interaction with the DFO and the representatives of M/s SCCL, it was given to understand that the dump was formed between the year 2009 and 2018 and plantations have been carried out since 2009-10 onwards. The older plantations in the area are found to be established well with crown density varying between 0.2 to 0.4. In the plantation taken up in about 20 ha area recently on the top of the dump (marked on the enclosed map), it is noticed that about 70% of the saplings planted have survived, however, the growth is very much stunted. Species like *Hardwickia*, *Eucalyptus*, Bambo are found to

grow well on these dumps. Sachharum grass planted on the dumps is found to establish very well. Due to steep slope, gully formation and soil erosion is noticed at some places. The entire area of the dump could not be perambulated due to steep slopes and inaccessibility issues.

Along the boundary on the Godavari River within the identified NFL land, there exists 2 High Tension Lines with towers (marked on the enclosed map). The area covered by these High-Tension Lines measured on the KML files submitted by the State Forest Department is worked out to be about 10 ha (approx.).

The area between the survey points 14 to 20 is prone to encroachment as the area is plain and the adjacent area is under cultivation of agricultural crops. A burial ground / crematorium is noticed just outside the boundary of the NFL land towards the Godavari river side. *Therefore, the entire boundary should be secured by constructing a permanent compound wall /see through wall using chain link fencing.*

The NFL land is accessible through the existing mine on the eastern side which leads to the top of the dump. There is a public road on the western/ SW side of the NFL land which goes to the bottom of the dump near to Godavari River. The User agency shall provide uninterrupted access to the Forest Department through the mine to approach the C.A. land for its future maintenance and management.

Soil Moisture Conservation works are not noticed within the proposed NFL land during site inspection. To facilitate better establishment of the saplings planted on the top of the dump in the past few years, *a pond/ water body may be created in about 1.0 ha area to store the water which can be useful for irrigating the saplings planted and also for drinking needs of wild animals which may visit this area in due course of time.* The blanks within the NFL area may be planted to improve the tree cover.

Growth of Prosopis is noticed within the NFL land especially in the level/plain land near to Godavari River side. The same may be removed and suitable forestry species may be planted therein.

Overall, the dump and the plantations are fairly stabilized. However, gully formation and soil erosion are also noticed along with slopes at some places.




Additional Submissions:

1. M/s SCCL is adopting dumping of overburden in 3 decks of 30 m height each which is highly prone to gully formation and soil erosion. There is a need to standardize the deck height (may be 10-15 m height) so as to give better stability to the dumps and also to facilitate better afforestation, SMC measures etc. on these dumps. A suitable condition may be imposed in this regard.
2. There are several coal mines operating in the region both in Forest and Non-Forest lands. However, there is no continuous/ long term monitoring of the impact of the mining on the flora and WL in and around the adjoining area. Therefore, M/s SCCL may engage one Scientific Officer or Technical Officer qualified in the field of Forestry / WL/ Agriculture to monitor the impact of mining on the adjoining forest areas with special emphasis on the conservation of flora and WL in the area.
3. A committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Wildlife Warden may be constituted to review the impact of the mining on the flora and fauna in the region based on the data generated from the continuous/long term monitoring proposed above, and suggest appropriate mitigation measures to be taken. Expenditure on such monitoring and mitigation measures may be borne by the user agency till the life of the mine in the region.
4. Palatable grass/ fodder plants and wild fruit bearing trees may be planted wherever possible in the area for the benefit of herbivores and frugivores.

A map indicating existing transmission lines, burial ground & agricultural activity along the boundary and recently afforested patch on the top of the dump is enclosed for reference.

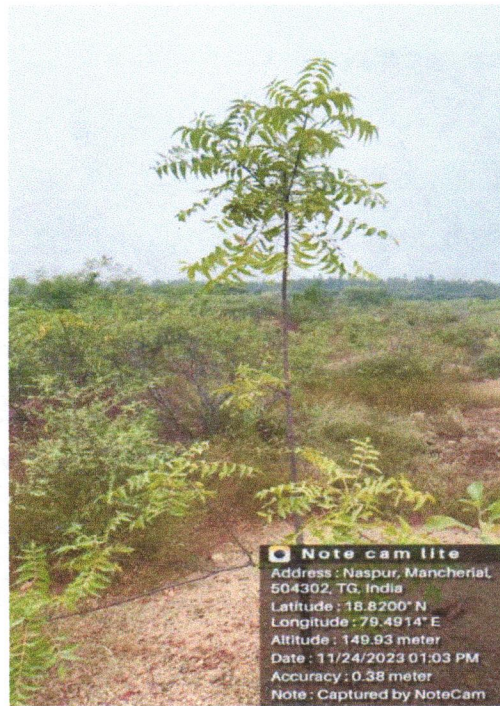
Photographs taken during field inspection are enclosed.


(Dr G. Trinadh Kumar), IFS
Inspector General of Forests (Central)

06/12/2023

Top portion of the dump (deck 3 at +90m elevation from the ground): Plantation taken up during 2020-21

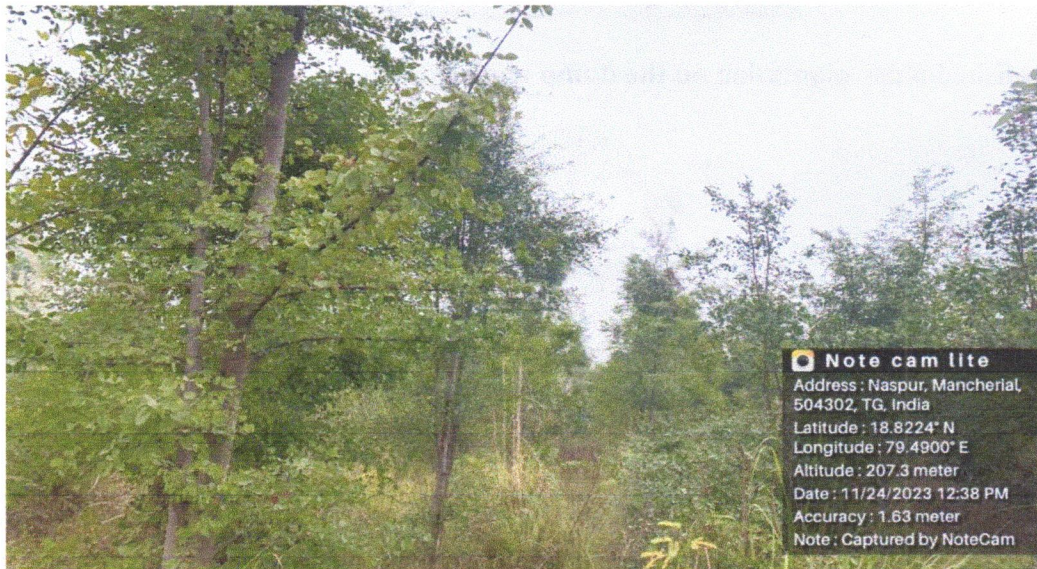




Established older plantation on the dump and slopes



[Handwritten signature]



The NFL area near the High-Tension lines (Prosopis growth)



[Handwritten signature]

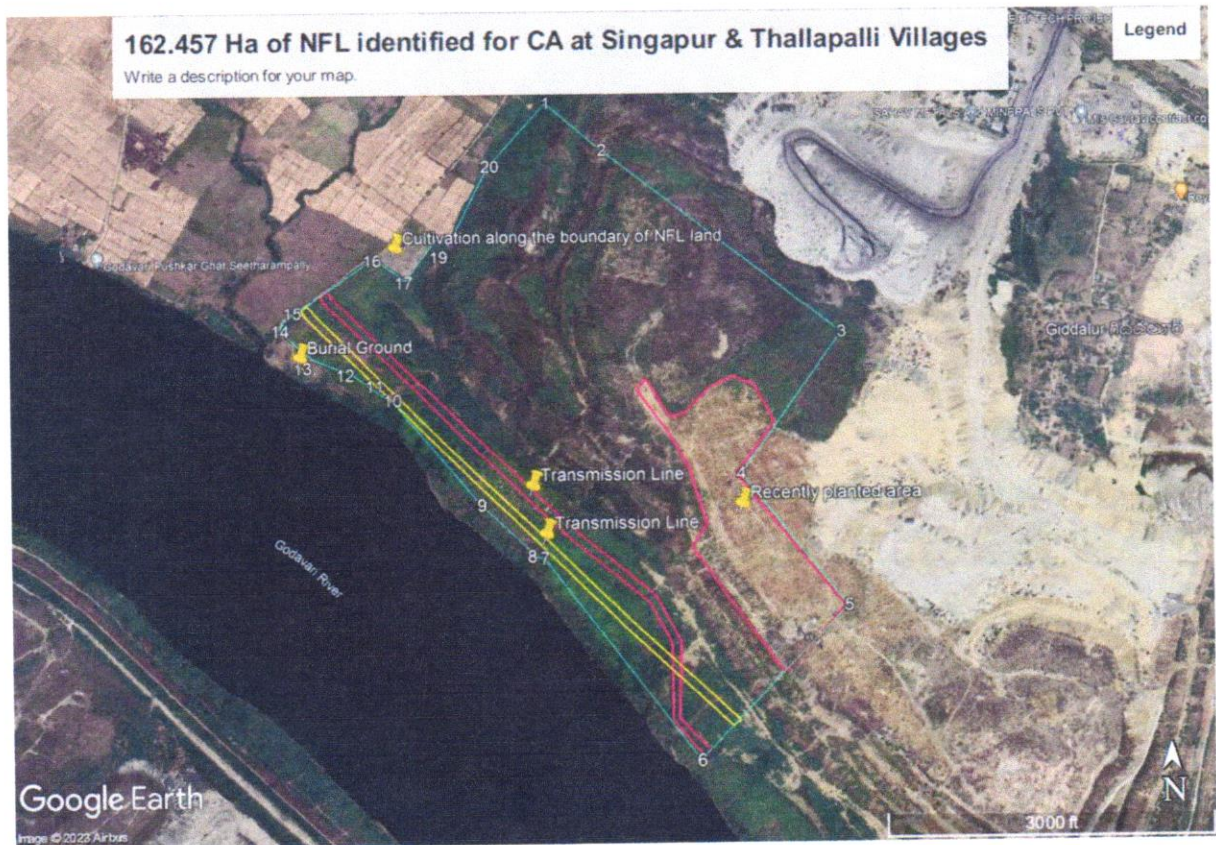
Agricultural fields abutting the identified NFL land



View of River Godavari and vegetation from the top of dump



Map showing the boundary of NFL, Transmission lines, recent afforestation activity, burial ground & agricultural activity along the boundary etc



[Handwritten signature]