

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: January, 2024**

To,

**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)**

Government of Odisha  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 15.701 ha of revenue forest land in the villages of Dulanga, Ghumudasan and Manoharpur under Hemgiri Tahasil of Sundargarh District for Coal Mining in Manoharpur Coal Mine Project by M/s Odisha Coal and Power Ltd (OCPL) under DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division - regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter no. 23526/9F (MG)- 64/2019 dated 02.12.2023, uploaded on web portal on 20.01.2024 on above subject forwarding a report of compliance of conditions stipulated in 'in-principle' approval dated 20.10.2021 and to say that after examination of the said compliance report in the Ministry, the following compliances/documents are required:

- i. KML files corresponding to SMC treatment areas and area covered under the Wildlife Management Plan needs to be uploaded on the e-Green Watch portal on the e-Green watch portal.
- ii. Copies of Notification furnished in compliance to condition no. A(2) of the 'in-principle' approval are illegible. Therefore, the State Government needs to furnish the clear and legible copies of the notification of non-forest land identified as CA in lieu of diversion of 276.655 ha of forest land for information and record of the Ministry.
- iii. In compliance to condition no. A(5) and A(6) of the 'in-principle' approval, the State Government has reported that stipulated scheme and plans are already approved in compliance of approval dated 20.08.2014 granted over 276.655 ha of forest land and are being/will be implemented. Current status of progress made by the user agency towards the implementation of such schemes along with year wise details of the funds utilized for the implementation of the said schemes may be furnished by the State.
- iv. No certificate, in compliance to condition no. A(8) of the 'in-principle' approval, has been submitted by the State. The same may be submitted by the State.
- v. In compliance to condition no. A(9) regarding compliance of Forest Rights Act, 2006, the documentary evidences in support of settlement of rights viz.

consent of Gram Sabha (s)/Palli Sabha(s), consultation and meetings of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee have not been submitted along with the compliance the same needs to be submitted by the State. Further, in view of the fact that claims of 13 right holders over 3.893 ha of forest land is sub-judice in the Hon'ble High Court of the Odisha, the State Government may inform the updated status of the matter.

- vi. Undertaking in compliance to condition no. B 7 (iv) of the 'In-principle' approval, copy of undertaking obtained from the user agency has not been submitted along with the compliance report.

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

Yours faithfully,

**(Amit Anand)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forest

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar at MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.