

File No.: 8-119/2011-FC (E- 224270)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 13-02-2026

To

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

Sub.: 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 255.177 ha of forest land for underground coal mining of Maori Coal Block in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Ltd. in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/1049/2011) – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter dated 06.01.2026 on the above mentioned subject and to say that after examination of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, the following shortcomings have been revealed:

- i. In compliance of the condition no. (iii) (a) The DFO, Chhindwara has raised a demand of ₹156,717,098/- towards NPV, calculated based on canopy density of 0.4 under Eco Class III and considering a subsidence report indicating 15 mm/m to 20 mm/m, i.e., at 50% of normal rates. However, at the time of submission of the proposal, the canopy density of the area was reported to vary from 0.1 to 0.5. Accordingly, the State Government is required to submit detailed calculations of NPV based on the canopy density and Eco Class as furnished prior to grant of Stage-I approval. Further, the State Government shall submit the subsidence prediction report along with its clear recommendations regarding calculation of NPV, in accordance with the consolidated guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. As per Condition No. (vii) of the Stage-I approval, the User Agency is required to prepare a detailed plan for the life of the project, in accordance with the approved mining plan, clearly linking the progress of mining with the felling of trees. It is stipulated that felling of trees shall be undertaken only when absolutely necessary and in a phase-wise manner in areas due for mining as per the mining plan. However, the detailed life-of-project plan linking mining progress with tree felling has not been submitted by the State Government. Further, the undertaking stating that tree felling shall be carried out only when absolutely necessary and in a phase-wise manner, as per the mining plan, has also not been found enclosed with the State Government's letter. Accordingly, the same is required to be submitted by the State Government.
- iii. As per Condition No. (viii) of the Stage-I approval, the User Agency is required to prepare a schedule for surrender of mined-out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with the approved mining plan and submit the same, along with an undertaking to surrender such land as per the schedule,

to MoEF&CC prior to grant of final approval under the Adhinyam for diversion of the said forest land. The User Agency has submitted the undertaking in this regard. However, the schedule for surrender of the mined-out and reclaimed forest land has not yet been submitted by the State Government.

2 . Accordingly, the State Government is requested to submit the information/clarification as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Raja Ram Singh)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF–cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.