

File No.: 8-08/2006-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

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

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest & Climate Change,
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Raipur.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) for non-forestry use for renewal of diversion of 33.84 ha broken up forest land (out of total 424.429 ha. of forest land in lease area) in respect of Deepika Expansion open cast mining Project in favour of M/a SECL in Korba District, of Chhattisgarh (Online Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/1461/2006)- reg.

Madam/Sir,

Please refer to Government of Chhattisgarh letter no. F 5-45/2006/10-2 dated 04.02.2025 on the above mentioned subject. In this context, the compliance report submitted by the State Government has been examined in the Ministry and following have been observed:-

1. The condition at S.No. (i) of the Ministry's letter dated 18.10.2024 stipulates that the State Government shall ensure that CA will be carried over 33.84 ha reclaimed non-forest land. The non-forest land identified to carry out CA shall be notified as RF/PF under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act before the Stage-II/ Final approval. The state has to take steps for compliance accordingly.
2. The State has mentioned that the funds deposited for CA be adjusted against ACA. In this regard, as per the stipulated condition, the funds are required to be deposited for the CA and there was no proposal for adjustment against ACA. The same needs to be examined and needful be done accordingly.
3. With reference to compliance of condition at S.No.(ii), the User Agency has submitted the Undertaking. In this regard, the State Government shall ensure that the area is handed over free of all encumbrances by the user agency and the roads/paths being used by the user agency in proposed CA area shall be closed.

4. With reference to compliance of condition at S.No.(iii), a land surrender plan/schedule for handing over the forest area where mining has already been done and the land is not being used for mining or any other purpose has not been submitted, which is required to be done.
5. With reference to compliance of condition at S.No.(iv), the calculation of NPV has been made in the demand note raised by DFO, Katghora as per old rate of NPV for the year 2020-21. Further, calculation of penalty of 5 times of NPV has also not been included in Demand Note by DFO. Further, concerned DFO has considered the 33.840 hectare area as open forest for the year in 2020-21 and same area has been bifurcated in open (25.240 ha) and dense forest (8.600 ha) from 2021-22 onwards. The State Government shall examine and do the needful as per rules/guidelines on the matter.

In view of the above, it is requested to furnish the above information/compliance for further processing the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.
3. The sub-office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Raipur.
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.