

File No.: 8-12/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

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

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: 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 564.9 ha Forest land for Rajbar E & D Coal Mine in Auranga Coalfield allotted to M/s Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL), Government of Jharkhand Undertaking for power generation under Latehar District of Jharkhand State (Online Proposal No: FP/JH/MIN/48598/2020).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Jharkhand letter No. Van Bhumi-34/2025-4089 dated 28.11.2025 on the above mentioned subject. In this context, the proposal has been examined in the Ministry. The observations of the Ministry on the proposal are as follows:-

- i. The instant proposal is for more than 100 Ha. Accordingly, the State Government is requested to submit the Site Inspection Report of the Nodal Officer as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. It has been reported in the Mining plan that, based on the 71 co-ordinate points given in the certified plan of CMPDI, the block area has been firmed up to 1487 ha, which is coal bearing whereas the user agency in their letter dated 02.08.2018 to the Deputy Commissioner, Latehar has informed that 'during planning a coal mine over 1487 ha area of the block; 17 ha of land under meanders of Sukri River and 150 ha of area in the metamorphic high zone was excluded from mining area and proposed to be mined using UG technology at later stage. Thus 1320 ha of mine area was firmed up for coal winning. Therefore, it needs clarification whether the MoC has allowed to exclude this 17 ha Coal bearing area from the original allocation along with supporting documents, KML file etc.
- iii. It has been reported in the mining plan that, during the last decade of mine life, opencast mining would be carried out over North-Western region, where Seam I & II are not workable because of thinning & inconsistent deposit. The underground mining would be carried out in North area, where OC mining would have been

completed before 41 year of mine life. Thus exhaustion of underground mine reserve in North area would take place as a coterminous operation of the OC mining in North-West. Whereas, in the instant proposal, the mine is proposed to be worked out through Open-cast technology . This variation in the facts needs submission. Furthermore, the 3-D subsidence prediction model for the Underground mining shall be submitted by the State Government.

- iv. In the post mining land-use, out of 1351 ha area, 280 ha area has been proposed to be kept as Excavated Void and thereafter, 269 ha area will be filled with water whereas the CF, Medininagar in their recommendation has mentioned that the mined out area should be rehabilitate properly. Thus, recommendation made in the mining plan is found in variance to the recommendation made by the CF, Medininagar. The State shall offer their comments in this regard .
- v. Details of coal evacuation plan and how the requirement of electricity and water will be met needs clarification and the involvement of forest land, if any, shall also be intimated.
- vi. In the part-I of the proposal, some Non-site specific activities like CHP with Coal Storage area (12.7 ha) and Township (3.97 ha) have been proposed over the forest land. Therefore, the same needs to be shifted over the Non-Forest land nearby and revised details needs to be updated in Part-I of the Proposal.
- vii. The proposed forest land is having the presence of schedule-I species such as Elephant, Jackal, Wild Boar, Barking Deer, Hyena, Porcupine, Mongoose, Indian Python, Common Krait, Russell's Viper, Common Sand Boa, Indian Chameleon, Indian Peafowl, Owls, Bulbul, Sunbirds, Baya, Black Dronge, Quails etc. Further reported in the SIR carried out by the CF, Medininagar that there has been a rise in man-animal conflicts in surrounding areas. Therefore, the comments of the CWLW, Govt. of Jharkhand shall be submitted along with the status of Wildlife management plan may also be intimated.
- viii. As reported, the instant mining project is located in adjacent to the Sukri River and after implementation of the proposed project few streams will get compromised in entirety or partially and the entire fragile ecosystem would be affected by water crisis a few years down the line. Therefore, the copy of NoC from the Water Resource Department, Govt of Jharkhand needs submission along with the copy of approved CAT plan.
- ix. The State Govt. in their recommendation has mentioned that the Soil & Moisture Conservation (SMC) Plan is necessary to mitigate the effect and protect the soil.

However, the instant proposal is for open cast coal mining for 48 years. Hence, it needs clarification, how the SMC plan will be implemented by the State in the proposed forest land. The comments along with mitigation plan in this regard needs submission.

- x. The DFO, Latehar in their recommendation has mentioned that, the forest area of proposed mining site is very rich in terms of floral and faunal biodiversity with an ecologically significant gene-pool. Therefore, a sincere effort is needed to preserve the germplasm of the area by conducting a thorough biodiversity and ethno botanical study. The State shall offer their comments in this regard keeping in view to the landscape is likely to experience Four mega coal projects (Upcoming mines at Banhardi-1.5 km & Chakla Coal Mines-12 km; and operational mines at Sikni-4.5 km & Tubed-6.5 km) are close to this proposed mining site.
- xi. As per the DSS analysis, the following is reported;
 - a) Calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 563.964 Ha (software calculated) instead of 564.90 ha as per the online proposal. Therefore, correct KML file of the proposed forest land shall be uploaded/ submitted.
 - b) The KML files/ Maps indicating different components of the project, including those proposed to be undertaken on non-forest land shall be submitted/ uploaded.
 - c) The user agency has uploaded the KML file of Mining lease boundary and its total area is found 1348.774 ha instead of 1351 ha. Therefore, correct KML file of the mining lease shall be submitted.
 - d) Part of CA patches KML file namely Chama and Kalyanpur are overlapping with each other. Therefore, correction in the KML file needs to be carried out.
- xii. The State in the Part-II form reported that the proposed forest land is having the canopy density of 0.4 to 0.5. Further the area very rich in terms of floral and faunal biodiversity. However, only 68509 number of trees reported in the instant diversion proposal. The factual details in this regard needs submission.
- xiii. It has been reported that the Area propose for diversion lies in Coppice with Standard and Rehabilitation cum Plantation working circle. Therefore, the details of work carried out as per the working plan shall be submitted.
- xiv. As per the details submitted with the proposal, the coal block was allotted in the year 2015. Therefore, it needs clarification whether the allotment of Coal block in favour of present user agency is still valid as on date along with supporting documents.

After receipt of the above information, the proposal will be further examined in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Prashant Rajagopal)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.