

**Reminder**

**F. No. 8-3/2019-FC**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 1100 03.

**Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

To,  
Regional Officer,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
Kolkata

**Sub: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.**

Madam,

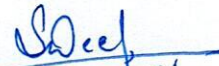
I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 12.04.2021 wherein the Ministry, after examining the above subject proposal and Site Inspection Report (SIR) done by the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, requested the Government of West Bengal to review the proposal and CA sites with the help of DSS tool and submit their response on the points raised in referred letter. Now, the reply from State Govt. has been received from Govt of West Bengal vide their letter No.8133/L&T/2M-1334/2017 dated 01.02.2022 and available on PARIVESH.

In the endorsement of Ministry's letter dated 12.04.2021 ( **copy enclosed** ), Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Kolkata was requested to visit the site proposed for diversion as certain Non-forestry activity/ mining in the proposed Forest land has been noticed on the eastern boundary of Gourangdih 'C' Coal block. It was requested that a detailed report, on the visit of IRO to the site, is submitted for further action. However, the report as sought has not yet been received.

In view of above, IRO, Kolkata is again requested to furnish their report at the earliest for further consideration of the proposal.

**Encl.as above**

Yours faithfully,



**(Sandeep Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 1100 03.

**Dated: 12th April, 2021**

To,

The Principal Secretary,  
Government of West Bengal,  
Kolkata-700 098

**Sub: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 307-For/O/L/10T-01/2019 dated 03.03.2021 furnishing their response on Ministry's letter of even number dated 15.07.2019 towards instant proposal. The compliance report has been examined in consultation with DSS Cell of this Division of the Ministry and it is noted that still complete information has not submitted by the State government for further processing of the proposal for appropriate decision at Ministry level. It is further requested to submit complete report /information on following points.

1. From the perusal and analysis of the KML files submitted by the State Government it is observed that some Non-forestry activity/ mining in the proposed Forest land has been noticed on the eastern boundary of Gourangdih 'C' Coal block. It is also observed through DSS tool that many forest patches specifically in the Gourangdih 'C' Coal block boundary in the proposed area of diversion has not been included. In this regard, Maps are enclosed for your ready reference [**Annexure-I (a to d)**].

2. Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 15.07.2019 has requested to revise the proposed CA sites proposed on Plot Nos. 281, 1580, 306 & 358 which are falling on the Forest compartment boundaries instead of non-forest Govt. land as mentioned in the proposal and the encroachment in the form of agricultural land is also observed through Google earth Imagery dated 4/1/2019 in the proposed CA patches bearing Plot Nos. 253, 1863, 73, 48, 1840 & 1841". In its compliance the state government has not changed the CA sites. The discrepancies in proposed CA are reiterated as under:

a. Survey No/Khata No. 525, 306, 358, 3, 281 1580 and 1300 are falling in the Forest compartment.

- b. Survey No/Khata No. 1152 is having some Settlements.
- c. Survey No/Khata No. 561 (8.21 Ha) is having pre- plantation work.

**The copies of relevant Maps are enclosed for your ready reference [Annexure-II (a to e)].**

3.It is reported by the Govt. of West Bengal that *"there is no Mine adjacent to the Gourangdih 'ABC' Coal Project"* whereas the IRO, Bhubaneswar in the Site Inspection Report reported that *"on the eastern most side Gourangdih-'C' shares boundary with Gourangdih-'D' block, allocated to Eastern Coalfields Ltd"*. Thus, these contradictory information need clarification from the State Govt. and Integrated Regional Office for appropriate decision.

4. The conditional transfer of CA land in favour of Forest Department as approved by the Govt. of West Bengal vide their Memos No.1136-GE(M)/2L-358/17 dated 29.03.2018, No.1137-GE(M)/2L-13/18 dated 29.03.2018 and No.2232-GE(M)/2L-358/17 dated 22.06.2018 is not acceptable in accordance with provisions of FCA,1980 and guidelines thereof, as the equivalent non-forest land for compensatory afforestation has to be transferred and notified as RF/PF before Stage II approval.

5. The copy of minutes of the meeting wherein R&R plan approved is not given. Thus, the status of R& R plan is not clear.

In view of above, Govt. of West Bengal is requested to kindly review the proposal and CA sites with the help of DSS tool and submit with detailed clarification/information/documents on the points indicated above for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

**Encl.as above.**

**Sd/-**

**(Sandeep Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
3. Dy. Director General (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata-**with a request to kindly see the observation of the Ministry as mentioned above and visit the site proposed for diversion and thereafter submit detailed report for further action.**

4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard file.