

F. No. 8-18/2024-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated:08-02-2026

To,

The Principle Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

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 515.32 ha of forest land for Banhardi Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s. Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in Latehar District in Jharkhand (Online No. FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021)- regarding.

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Mizoram letter No. Van Bhumi-29/2024-3474/V.P. dated 30.08.2024 (received on Parivesh 1.0 portal on 02.09.2024) on the above-mentioned subject seeking approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this regard it is informed that the matter was discussed in the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 22.01.2026. The detailed minutes of the said AC meeting are uploaded at parivesh.nic.in. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi and Nodal Officer from Government of Jharkhand, the Committee 'deferred' the proposal for diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land for Banhardi Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s. Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in Latehar District in Jharkhand for want of following information:

- i. The user agency has proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land, out of which 307.20 ha is earmarked for overburden dumping. Since overburden dumping is a non site-specific activity, the State Government is required to re-cast and rationalize the area proposed for overburden dumping. The user agency in consultation with the State Govt. shall explore the Non-forest land nearby for such activity.
- ii. Initially, mining is proposed to commence over an area of 727.24 ha, comprising 94.25 ha of forest land and 632.99 ha of non-forest land, for a mining period of 30 years, as per the approved mining plan. In this context, clarification is required as to why the instant proposal cannot be re-cast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha only.
- iii. The State Govt. shall submit details of 94.82 ha of forest land for

Undisturbed/Mining Rights for under-ground (UG) mining. A component wise map, KML file, subsidence prediction report in this regard may also be submitted.

- iv. The State Govt. has revised the CA sites after the site inspection has been carried out by the Regional office, Ranchi of the Ministry. Therefore, the RO, Ranchi shall carry out the site inspection of the newly proposed CA sites and will submit its recommendation.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Raja Ram Singh)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi
2. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Ranchi.
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.
5. The User Agency.