

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: February, 2023

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Raipur.

Sub: Diversion of 206.638 ha of forest land for Deepika Expansion Open Cast Mining Project of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) in Korba District, Chhattisgarh – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Government letter no. F 5-40/2005/10-2 dated 28.09.2021 (received in Ministry by email dated 13.01.2023) on above subject submitting compliance in response to Ministry's letter dated 22.04.2010 and subsequent reminder dated 02.09.2011 and 18.11.2014 and to say that after examination of compliance report, the following information/documents are need for further perusal of the instant proposal.

- i. State Government is requested to submitted the complete compliance of FRA, 2006 certificate for entire area including supporting documents as per this Ministry's guidelines.
- ii. The State Govt. has submitted the Compliance report in response to this Ministry's letter dt 22.04.2010 after a lapse of 10 years. Therefore the State govt. may provide a valid and cogent justification exorbitant delay in submission of complete compliance report beyond stipulated period of 5 years.
- iii. Ministry vide its guideline dated 6.01.2022 read with 28.03.2022 has revised the rates to NPV. The new rates are applicable in the instant proposal. In this regard, State Government is requested to realize the differential amount of NPV, liable in light of aforementioned guidelines from the user agency and the detail of the same may be intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. Considering the revised NPV rates, the C:B ratio may also require revised consideration, accordingly comments/revised C:B ratio may be submitted.
- v. Almost a period of 15 years has been elapsed since the Stage-I approval was granted to project. During the intervening period project parameters submitted while granting 'in-principle' approval might have changed, therefore updated status of various project parameters such as change in the number of project affected trees, vegetation density, area proposed for diversion, scope of the project, etc. may be intimated along with other such updated information which the

State Government considers necessary to be informed to the Ministry.

- vi. The State Govt. is requested to submit the KML files of the area proposed for diversion and the area identified for CA land along with the safety zone and 1.5 times plantation area.
- vii. The State Govt. is requested to offer its comments whether the Safety Zone is accordance with Chapter 7, para 7.9 of this Ministry's Comprehensive Guidelines issued in 2019.
- viii. The State Govt. is requested to comment whether the CA plantation will be possible in the forest area identified (i.e. 413.276 ha) wrt the old CA Scheme submitted earlier and whether there is need for change of CA Scheme. Further, whether the CA plantations, plantation in lie of Safety Zone area and penal CA plantations have been done during this intervening period, the same may be clarified.
- ix. The PCCF, Chhattisgarh in his earlier letter dated 10.11.2009 has requested for the final approval with the condition that the user agency will deposit the CA@ Rs.72,435/- instead of Rs.65.284/- deposited earlier. It is not clear that the revised rates as proposed by the PCCF were realized or not. In this regard, the State Government may kindly offer its comments.
- x. The State Government is requested to submit the updated status of the approved mining plan and validity of mining lease wrt the instant proposal.
- xi. Details of non-forestry activity, if any, carried out by the user agency in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 needs to be intimated and in case the violation is been committed, detailed action taken report on the violation of FC Act, 1980 may also be intimated by the State Govt.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to submit above mentioned documents/justification//information for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Raipur.
3. The Nodal Officer(FCA), Forest Deptt., Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC

