

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

**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 1st March, 2023**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.**

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 201.079 ha of forest land for Tawa -II underground coal mining in favour M/s Western Coal Fields Limited, Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/24598/2017) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. received online on dated 21.12.2022 on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval dated 14.05.2018 and to say that on examination of the said information the following has been observed:

- i. The proposal for diversion of 90.00 ha forest land for Sobhapur mine in favour of M/s WCL was discussed in FAC meeting held on 27.12.2011 wherein it has been found that the entire area of the forest land proposed for diversion (90.00 ha) is already being utilized by the user agency M/s WCL for colony (60.84 ha), office & mine openings (20.316 ha), road/pathways (4.362 ha), electric line (2.095 ha) and belt plant etc. (2.38 ha). In this regard, the Ministry vide letter no. 8-102/2004-FC dated 30.01.2012 issued Stage-I approval with one of the specific condition as (2 (ix) "State Government shall realize funds for creation and maintenance of the Penal Compensatory Afforestation over the degraded forest land five times in extent to the forest land used in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (i.e. $90 \times 5 = 450$ ha)". The State Government has not submitted the complete compliance of the conditions stipulated in Stage-I approval and the Ministry vide letter no. 8-102/2004-FC dated 18.12.2019 has sought the complete compliance of the Stage-1 approval which is still awaited from the State Government..
- ii. Keeping above in view, there is no reason to relax the payment of compensatory levies along with 12 % interest as per condition no. (vii) of Stage-I approval in the instant case.

Accordingly, the State Government is again requested to comply with the condition no. (vii) of Stage-1 approval.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 02-03-2023 17:22:40

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;

8-52-2017-FC

I/39189/2023

3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.