

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 1st March, 2023

To,
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of Land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in district Jharsuguda in Odisha, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0142-2021-20500/ FE&CC dated 24.11.2021 and letter no. 9084/9F (MG)-372/2021 dated 29.04.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 23.02.2023. The detailed minutes of the FAC meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The FAC decided to defer the proposal and desired following information from the State Government:

- i. The proposal wise KML file of the 541.622 ha forest area which has been already diverted shall be submitted by the State government.
- ii. With respect to the monitoring of the conditions stipulated in the approval granted for 12.70 ha of forest land, the monitoring report submitted by IRO mentions that, action has been initiated by the State authorities in 2004 but updated status has not been provided. The updated status in this regard shall be provided by the State government.
- iii. With regards to monitoring of the conditions regarding the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP), it is mentioned that Plan has been prepared and corresponding financial budget has been deposited by the user agency in to the account of CAMPA during 2011-2012. However, status of implementation of the WLMP and expenditure incurred thereon has not been given. The State government shall provide the detail in this regard.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information/documents, as indicated above, as per recommendation of FAC, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Integrated Regional Office at Bhubaneswar.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.