

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: March, 2024

To

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

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Prakash Industries Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 515.581 ha (201.806 ha for Underground mining) of forest land for Coal mining in Bhaskarpara Coal block under Surajpur District in the State of Chhattisgarh (Online Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/149564/2021)-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh letter No. F 5-01/2023/10-2 dated 14.03.2024 forwarding the compliance report of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 21.08.2023. After examination of the compliance report in the Ministry following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. DFO, Balrampur has submitted suitability certificate for 3.010 ha. However, as per DSS analysis of the KML file, a part of this area is within the boundary of forest. The State shall ensure that the area proposed for CA is non forest land(NFL) and not overlapping with the forest land and correct KML file of the area proposed for CA shall be submitted.
- ii. The area of the one of the NFL patches proposed for CA as above is 3.010 ha which is less than 5 ha whereas as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry, the isolated patches having area less than 5 ha are difficult to manage as forests. Hence, no non-forest land, having area less than 5 ha area shall be accepted for CA purpose. However, land parcels, if contiguous to RF/PF, can be accepted for CA irrespective of their sizes, subject to their

suitability for CA. In this regard the State Govt shall ensure the suitability of the NFL for CA as per guidelines.

- iii. Keeping in view the condition No. 3 of Stage- I approval, once the suitability of the non-forest land for CA is ascertained, the proposed NFL shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval. The State Government shall take necessary action accordingly and provide the copy of notification before the Stage-II approval..
- iv. The User Agency has not uploaded KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area in the E-Green watch portal. In this regard, the State Government is requested to kindly uploaded the KML files on the Green watch portal and submit the GPS ID to this Ministry.

In view of above, the State Govt. is requested to submit the above information to this Ministry at the earliest, for further consider of the proposal for Stage-II approval.

Yours faithfully,

Sd-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Dy. Director General, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Raipur
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC.