

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

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

Dated: 02nd March, 2023

To,

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

S u b : Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 238.373 ha of forest land in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited for Baroud Expansion Open cast Coal Mining proect (3 MT) in Raigarh District of Chhattisgarh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letterNo. 5-33/2005/10-2 dated 3.12.2019 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and letter no. 5-33/2005/10-2 dated 5.04.2021, letter no. 5-33/2005/10-2 dated 3.01.2022, letter No. 5-33/2005/10-2 dated 10.11.2022 and letter No. 5-33/2005/10-2 dated 11.01.2023 forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry and to say that the above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 23.02.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting held on 23.02.2023 is uploaded on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The AC, after going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by CWLW and Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Chhattisgarh, directed to seek clarification/justification on the contradictions with reference to the report submitted earlier by the State government in view of the submissions and suggestions made by the CWLW, Govt. of Chhattisgarh during the meeting along with the below mentioned documents/information from State Government:

- i. The State shall provide complete compliance report with respect to the earlier diverted areas which includes 19.001 ha approved vide letter no. 8C/21/2003-FCW/577 dt 02.02.2004 and the area of 123.899 ha approved vide letter no. 8-102/2005-FC dt 13.12.2006.
- ii. State Govt. shall provide the details of the CA for the earlier diversions along with the status of the plantations and their success percentages.
- iii. KML files of the earlier diverted areas and the identified CA lands.
- iv. Clear recommendation of the CWLW, Govt. of Chhattisgarh regarding reported movement of wildlife specially elephants in the area with mitigation measures as suggested by CWLW during the AC meeting and with regard to the instant proposal.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the required clarification/justification along with information/documents, as indicated above, as per recommendation of AC, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), State Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Raipur.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi