

File No: 8-85/2005-FCVol. (E- 233771)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi- 110003  
Dated: 30-03-2026

To

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

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 53.142 ha forest land in compartment No PF-261, Waidhan Range of Singrauli Forest Division for Khadia Expansion Open Cast Coal Mine Project by M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) under Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/149270/2021) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter dated 11.02.2026 on the above mentioned subject and to say that after examination of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, the following shortcomings have been revealed:

- i. A plan for the restoration/reclamation of various mines in the landscape areas is to be prepared for execution by the user agency in consultation with the state forest department, as per S-I condition no (iv). The State Government has only submitted an undertaking in this regard. Hence, the State Govt shall submit a plan for the restoration/reclamation of various mines in the landscape areas for execution by the user agency in consultation with the state forest department
- ii. In compliance with Condition No. (xvi) of the Stage-I approval, the User Agency is required to prepare and submit a schedule for surrender of the mined-out and reclaimed forest land, in accordance with the approved mining plan, prior to grant of final approval under the Adhiniyam for diversion of the said forest land. In this regard, the User Agency has submitted only an undertaking and has not furnished the requisite schedule. Accordingly, the State Government shall submit the same.
- iii. As per Condition No. (xxv) of the Stage-I approval, the User Agency is required to submit a comprehensive soil conservation scheme, at project cost and in consultation with the State Forest Department, to the Regional Office along with the in-principle approval. However, only an undertaking has been submitted and the requisite scheme has not been furnished. The User Agency has stated that mining will be carried out as per the approved Mining Plan, wherein topsoil management is included at project cost. Further, the proposed 53.142 ha forest land is surrounded by already diverted forest land for Bina OCP and Dudhichua OCP of M/s NCL, which also have approved Mining Plans incorporating topsoil management. The State Government shall furnish its comments in this regard

2. Accordingly, the State Government is requested to submit the information/clarification as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry

Yours sincerely,

*Sd/-*  
(Raj Ram Singh)  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF–cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.