

File No.: 8-41/2017-FC(Vol.)  
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: 01-04-2026

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Chhattisgarh  
Raipur.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited for non-forestry use of additional 94.293 ha revenue forest land of Gevra OC expansion project of Coal Mining in Korba District of Chhattisgarh (Online proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/41389/2019).- reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter dated 09.01.2026 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. In compliance of the condition no. 2 (a) & (c) of the Stage-I approval, the UA has submitted that the Accredited Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) has been identified for raising the CA and the process of notification of the same as per PF/RF under the Indian Forest Act is under process. As per document submitted, the ACA claimed is in the name of SECL. Hence, as per para 2.2 (ii) of the Consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended in 2024 & 2025, in case of ACA land owned by the Government agencies, such land shall be notified without transferring and mutating their ownership. Further, the relevant documents / certificates / maps / KML file etc. for the proposed ACA has not been submitted by the State Government. Hence, the ACA land shall be notified as PF and a copy of same needs to be provided before final approval.
- ii. In compliance of the condition no. 2 (b) of the Stage-I approval, the CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. However, the payment details with respect to CA is not found paid on the portal.
- iii. As per the condition no. 2(f), the User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100

- meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF&CC before Stage-II Clearance. However, the State Government has not submitted the plan for plantation and SMC activities along with financial outlay to the Ministry.
- iv. As per the condition no. 2(g), the 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF. The details in this regard has not been submitted by the State Govt.
  - v. As per the condition no. 5 of the Stage-I, the State Govt. was requested to ensure the preparation of R&R plan and its implementation shall be done in accordance with the provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR, 2013) and the R&R plan will be shown to Ministry at the time of the compliance of the Stage-1. The UA has not submitted the R&R plan. However, the State Govt. has submitted the R&R status as on March, 2024.
  - vi. In compliance of the condition no. 6 of the Stage-I approval, the DFO vide its letter dated 31.05.2024 has raised the demand of ₹62557552/- for the plantation of the sal trees for redevelopment of Sal forest in the region. However, the said amount is not found on the PARIVESH portal. The details in this regard shall be submitted by the State Govt.
  - vii. As per condition no. 7 of the Stage-I approval, the Mined out forest areas which are already reclaimed by the User Agency, shall be handed over back to the State Forest Department for management and control. The UA shall prepare a land surrender schedule for surrender of the mined out and biologically reclaimed forest land. In this regard, the UA has submitted an undertaking. However, the land surrender schedule has not been submitted by the State Govt.
  - viii. In compliance of the condition no. 9 of the Stage-I approval, the undertaking has not been submitted by the User Agency.
  - ix. In compliance of the condition no. 11 of the Stage-I approval, the KML file of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area has not been found uploaded on the portal.
  - x. In compliance of the condition no. 12 of the Stage-I approval, the State Govt. was asked to prepare the soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, plan for planting adequate drought hardy plant species and showing of seeds, plan for construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated materials, plan to stabilize the OB dump. The State Govt. has submitted the Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, Wildlife Conservation Plan and Drainage and Water Conservation Plan. However, the plan for planting adequate drought hardy plant species and showing of seeds, plan for construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated materials, plan to stabilize the OB dump is not submitted by the State Govt.
  - xi. In compliance of the condition no. 15 of the Stage-I approval, the User Agency was asked to submit a verified list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. Further, the User Agency was asked to regularly undertake de silting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies as per a detailed approved

plan. The State Govt. submitted a letter of acceptance of de-silting work granted to M/s Anad Enterprises. However, the list of such water bodies along with the detailed approved plan is not submitted by the State Govt.

- xii. In compliance of the condition no. 22 of the Stage-I approval, user agency and the State Forest Department shall create and maintain from funds to be provided by the user agency alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project as per the plan duly approved by the PCCF (WL)/CWLW. In this regard, the State Govt. submitted that an amount of ₹100892517/- has been deposited. However, the same is not found paid on the PARIVESH portal.
- xiii. In compliance of the condition no. 23 of the Stage-I approval, the Undertaking submitted by the User Agency against this condition no. does not pertain to this condition. The User Agency has not submitted the undertaking in this regard.
- xiv. In compliance of the condition no. 28 of the Stage-I approval, the UA shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. In response to this, the UA has submitted the land reclamation status as on 01.07.2024. However, the User Agency has not submitted the undertaking with respect to this condition along with the concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan.

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/-  
(Deepika Chaudhary)  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

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