



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ Regional Office

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संख्या: FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021/207

दिनांक: 16.04.2026

सेवा में,

उप वन महानिरीक्षक, एफ०सी० प्रभाग
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, अलीगंज,
जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110003

विषय :-Site inspection Report for newly proposed CA sites: towards the proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land for Banhardi coal mining project in favour of M/s Patrattu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in Latehar District in Jharkhand-reg.

संदर्भ:- आपका पत्र संख्या 8-18/2024-FC दिनांक 09.02.2024.

महाशय,

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत श्रीमान के संदर्भित पत्र के आलोक में परियोजना से संबंधित वांछित नए प्रस्तावित CA स्थल निरीक्षण क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय राँची द्वारा 23.02.2026 को किया जाकर तैयार प्रतिवेदन को विभागाध्यक्ष के अनुमोदनोपरांत संलग्न प्रेषित किया जाता है।

अनु : यथोक्त

विश्वासभाजन


(शशि शंकर)
उप वन महानिरीक्षक

Newly proposed CA Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Ranchi for proposal no. FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021

The Head Office (HO) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is processing a forest land diversion proposal on the PARIVESH 1.0 portal bearing Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021, which seeks diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land for the Banhardih Coal (Mining) Block in Latehar District, Jharkhand, in favour of M/s Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (PVUNL).

Earlier, the proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 22.01.2026. After detailed deliberations, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought certain additional information. One of the key requirements pertained to the revised Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites.

The State Government subsequently revised the CA sites following the site inspection conducted by the Regional Office, Ranchi of the Ministry on 09-10 December 2024. Accordingly, it was directed that the Regional Office, Ranchi should undertake a fresh inspection of the newly proposed CA sites and submit its recommendations.

In compliance with the directions of the Ministry conveyed vide letter dated 09.02.2026, this Regional Office at Ranchi undertook the site inspection of the revised Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites.

Accordingly, a team from the Regional Office, Ranchi visited the Degraded Forest Land (DFL) identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and conducted the present site inspection for preparation of the Site Inspection Report (SIR).

Details of the visit

Particulars	Details
Name of the Inspecting Officer	Sh. Anand Prakash, Technical Officer (F), along with Sr. Technical Associate, DSS
Date of Visit	23rd February 2026
Officials of State Govt. Present during inspection	Sh. Prawesh Agarwal, DFO, Latehar; Sh. Anand Kumar Mahato, RFO, Latehar Forest Division; Sh. Mangal Singh, Forest Guard, Latehar Forest Division; Sh. Santosh Oraon, Forest Guard, Latehar Forest Division; Sh. Aalok Tigga, Forest Guard, Latehar Forest Division; Sh. Ramkishor Pathak, LDC, Latehar Forest Division; Sh. Anil Kumar Vishwakarma, Surveyor, Latehar Forest Division; and others

Particulars	Details
Official of Project Proponent present during inspection visit	Sh. Aseem Misra, AGM (Mining), PVUNL; Sh. Subodh John Puri, Sr. Manager (Civil), PVUNL

Details about Compensatory Afforestation (CA):

Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 322.92 ha of newly/ additionally identified Degraded Forest Land (DFL) in Latehar Forest Division/ District. The entire CA land is spread across six villages.

During the site visit, the inspecting team inquired into the suitability of the identified DFL from the forest management perspective. In response, the representative of the Divisional Forest Officer informed that the proposed DFL is generally suitable for acceptance and is already under the management and control of the State Forest Department.

The findings of the CA DFL areas, based on physical inspection as well as examination of GIS-DSS outputs and satellite data analysis, are highlighted below:

(a) Table 1: CA land information

Sl. No.	Name	Total Area (ha)	Patch-wise Area	Observations / Remarks	Area found suitable for Plantation
1	Balubhang	50.947	Patch 1 – 3.933	Nil	5 ha (Approx.)
			Patch 2 – 1.857	Nil	
			Patch 3 – 27.641	Around 46 ha of the area is supporting good vegetation and may not require any additional plantation. Hence not suitable for plantation owing to MDF nature.	
			Patch 4 – 17.516	Nil	
2	Bara	35.302	—	Nil	35 ha (Approx.)
3	Jabra	19.412	—	Wetlands and old plantation works have been observed within the CA land; however, the area is devoid of any significant vegetation.	19 ha

Sl. No.	Name	Total Area (ha)	Patch-wise Area	Observations / Remarks	Area found suitable for Plantation
4	Maranloiya	83.100	Patch 1 – 81.861	Agricultural land and kachha/pakka structures have been observed within the CA land.* Island-like agricultural fields have also been observed within the CA area, which are not part of the proposed CA land. Access road to those lands is not available.	83 ha
			Patch 2 – 1.239	Agricultural lands have been observed within the CA land.*	
5	Siram	82.659	Patch 1 – 26.567	Nil	83 ha
			Patch 2 – 56.092	Agricultural land and kachha/pakka structures have been observed within the CA land.*	
6	Tasatwar	48.162	Patch 1 – 8.431	Agricultural lands have been observed within the CA land.*	38 ha (Approx.)
			Patch 2 – 39.730	Wetland and agricultural lands have been observed within the CA land.	
	Total	319.582			263 ha

* The DFO assured that such encroachments shall be evicted before initiating CA.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

Most of the CA patches are covered by jhari/bushes and agricultural land and are largely devoid of any significant vegetation; therefore, these areas are considered suitable for plantation. However, only the Balubhang CA land contains dense vegetation patches that may not require any additional CA planting. This area has a vegetation/canopy density of 0.4 or above (MDF), covering approximately 46 ha out of the gross 51 ha. The remaining CA patches have a canopy density of less than 0.4.

The detailed forest cover information of the CA land is as follows:

Table 2: Forest cover information of the CA land (Area in Ha.)

FCM	Not Suitable for Plantation – Water	Not Suitable for Plantation – VDF (Tree Cover: >70%)	Not Suitable for Plantation – MDF (Tree Cover: 40–70%)	Suitable for Plantation – Open Forest (Tree Cover: 10–40%)	Suitable for Plantation – Scrub (Tree Cover: <10%)	Suitable for Plantation – Non-Forest (Tree Cover: 0%)	Total Area (ha)
Balubhang	0.00	0.00	46.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	51.00
Bara	1.00	0.00	0.00	34.00	0.00	1.00	36.00
Jabra	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	18.00	19.00
Maranloiya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83.00	83.00
Siram	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.00	0.00	45.00	83.00
Tasatwar	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	0.00	24.00	48.00
Total Area (ha)	1.00	0.00	46.00	99.00	0.00	174.00	320.00
	47.00			273.00			

Due to variations in projection and resolution of the image data, there is a slight difference between the area calculated by the software (319.582 ha) and the area determined by DSS (320.00 ha).

The CA land area estimated using DSS is 319.582 ha (approximately 320 ha). The forest cover assessment of the CA area reveals that the corresponding area falling under MDF, Open Forest, Non-Forest, and Water categories is 46.00 ha, 99.00 ha, 174.00 ha, and 1.00 ha, respectively. Accordingly, the area found suitable for plantation works out to 273.00 ha.

As evident from the data, both numerical and pictographic, many of the identified CA patches exhibit signs of human activity, such as agricultural fields, kachha/pakka structures, and remnant pasture land, indicating encroachment. The DFO assured the visiting team that the entire CA land would be made encumbrance-free before commencement of CA activities.

During the site inspection, it was further observed that approximately 10 ha of existing and ongoing plantation work is present in the Tasatwar CA patches. In this regard, the concerned DFO stated that the Tasatwar CA patches had been included in the list inadvertently. He further informed that the boundaries of the proposed CA site would be revised so as to include additional area in its immediate vicinity.

The visiting team accepted the proposal for inclusion of adjacent areas in the CA site so as to compensate for the shortfall arising from exclusion of the existing plantation area.



Photo 1: Tasatwar CA (CA overlaps with another plantation area)



Photo 2: Bara CA land (Sal regeneration)

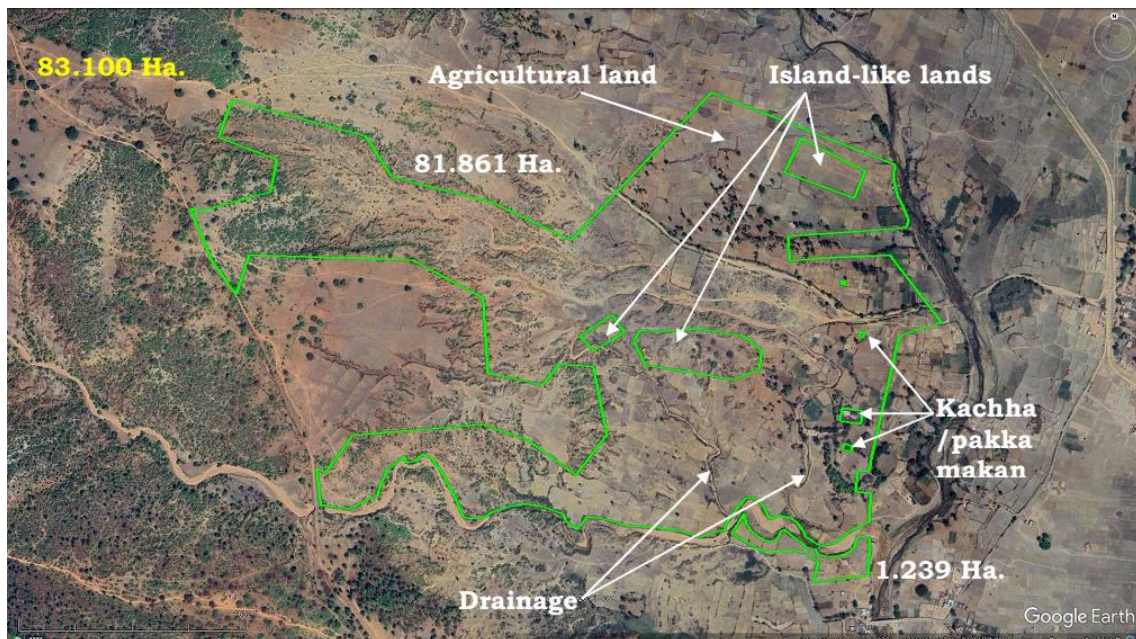
(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:

During the site inspection, encroachments were observed in the CA patches in the form of agricultural land and kachha/pakka structures. The geospatial analysis of satellite imagery also confirmed the presence of such encroachments. Further, DSS analysis identified encroachments at various locations. The details in this regard are provided in **CA-Table 1**.

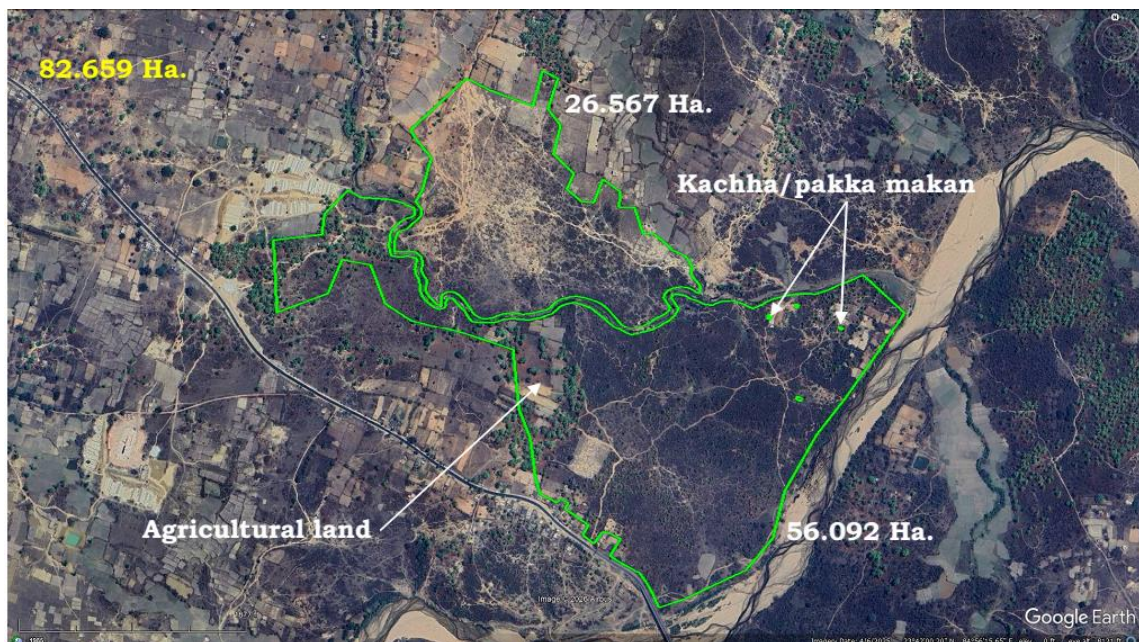
The encroachments in the form of kachha/pakka structures were specifically observed within the CA land of Maranloiya and Siram. It was also observed that these areas had been excluded from the KML. The visiting team sought clarification from the DFO as to whether such

exclusion could result in the encroachment becoming perpetual in nature. In response, the DFO assured that the encroachment-affected forest areas would also be brought within the ambit of CA and that the encroachments would be removed. The visiting team specifically advised that no encroached forest land should be excluded from the CA area, as such exclusion may lead to the illicit occupation becoming permanent.

Further, pocket/island-like lands in the form of agricultural fields were observed within the Maranloiya and Balubhang CA areas, which do not form part of the proposed CA land. It was noted that no dedicated access road to these lands is available. In this regard, the DFO submitted that such non-forest patches, surrounded by forest land on all sides, are a common feature in Jharkhand, and that landowners generally access their agricultural fields through the surrounding forest area without causing harm to forest flora and fauna.



Maranloiya CA land



Siram CA land

(d) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view:

The CA land is not important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view.

(e) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

There are 6 CA site/village with 12 discrete CA polygon/patches has been observed, details are presented in table 1:

Recommendation of inspecting officer:

The total revised Compensatory Afforestation (CA) requirement for the instant proposal is **322.92 ha**. Out of this, an area of **263 ha** has been assessed and found suitable for plantation based on site inspection and other relevant considerations. The remaining area has been found unsuitable on account of existing encumbrances, such as encroachments, dense vegetation, and ongoing plantation works.

Accordingly, there is a shortfall of approximately **60 ha** of suitable CA land. It is, therefore, necessary that the State government may identify additional suitable land to meet the balance CA requirement, preferably in contiguous patches so as to ensure better management, protection, and long-term viability of the plantation.

Kachha and pakka structures, along with agricultural fields, have been observed within the CA lands of Maranloiya, Siram, and certain other locations. The DFO has assured that such encroachments shall be removed prior to or during implementation of the plantation activities.

Anand Prakash
16/4/26

Anand Prakash
Technical Officer (Forestry)

CA Site Inspection Photographs





