

Agenda No. 2

File No. 8-01/2016-FC

Sub.: Proposal for diversion of 134.424 hectares of forest land for Jadugauda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in Village Ichra, Mechua under Jamshedpur Forest Division in Under Ground Mining for 100.681 hectares and 33.743 hectares for Open Cast Tilaitand, Tehsil Dhalbhumgarh, District East Singhbhum Jharkhand by M/s. Uranium Corporation of India Limited.-Regarding,,

1. The State Government of Jharkhand, Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, vide his letter No. Van Bhoomi – 21/2015/362 V. P. Ranchi dated 22nd January, 2016 submitted a fresh through Online proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 134.424 hectares of forest land for Jadugauda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in Village Ichra, Mechua under Jamshedpur Forest Division in Under Ground Mining for 100.681 hectares and 33.743 hectares for Open Cast Tilaitand, Tehsil Dhalbhumgarh, District East Singhbhum Jharkhand by M/s. Uranium Corporation of India Limited.
2. Details given in the said proposal are as below:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 134.424 hectares of forest land for Jadugauda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in Village Ichra, Mechua under Jamshedpur Forest Division in Under Ground Mining for 100.681 hectares and 33.743 hectares for Open Cast Tilaitand, Tehsil Dhalbhumgarh, District East Singhbhum Jharkhand by M/s. Uranium Corporation of India Limited.
2	Location:	
	State	Jharkhand.
	District	East Singhbhum.
3.	Particular of Forests	
i	Name of Forest Division	Jamshedpur Forest Division.
ii	Area of Forest land for Diversion	134.424 hectares.
iii	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserve Forest Land = 92.444 ha. <u>Protected Forest Land= 41.98 ha.</u> Total Forest Land = 134.424 ha.
iv	Density of Vegetation	0.6
v	Species-wise (scientific names and diameter class wise enumeration of trees (to	<i>Shorea robusta, Anogeissus latifolia, Diospyros melanoxylon, Pterocarpus marsupium, Bombax ceiba, Gmelina orborea, Madhuca Indica, Terminillia</i>

	be enclosed) in case of irrigation / hydel project enumeration at FRL, FRL – 2 meter and FRL – 4 also be enclosed.	<i>tomentosa, Cassia Fistula etc.</i>
4.	Brief note on Vulnerability of the forest area to erosion	Not reported.
5	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest	Not reported.
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	The proposed area under this division does not come under any National Park, Wild Life Sanctuary, but it is a part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.
7.	Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	Not reported.
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	Not reported.
9.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	Not reported.
10.	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/ No). If yes, details of the same	Yes,

<p>i</p> <p>ii</p> <p>iii</p>	<p>including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still under progress.</p>	<p>17 years.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Jamshedpur vide his letter No. 1618 dated 17.10.2014 stated that UCIL has operated the mines even after the expiry of mining lease i.e. from 16.10.1997, is violation of under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and directed UCIL to stop all the non forestry works on forest land. The Divisional Forest Officer, Jamshedpur in compliance to above mentioned letter directed UCIL to stop mining activities on forest land.</p> <p>The MoEF & CC vide its letter No. F. No. 8-49/1997-FC dated 24.07.1997 accorded first stage clearance to UCIL and was accorded second stage clearance vide its letter No. F. No. 8-49/1997-FC dated 20.04.1998.</p> <p>The MoEF & CC vide its letter No. F. No. 8-49/1997-FC dated 21.03.1997 (pg.48/c) has given Temporary Working Permission for 9 months on already broken up area from 24.07.1997 to 23.03.1998. As per the available records, UCIL had mining lease from 16.10.1967 to 15.10.1987. The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India Ministry of Steel & Mines, Department of Mines vide its letter number. 2/57/88-M-IV dated 05.04.1989 granted first renewal of Mining lease from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.1997. At present UCIL has been granted mining lease from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.2007 as first renewal & for 20 years from 09.12.2014 to 08.12.2034 vide Government of Jharkhand, Department of Mines & Geology letter No. 2146 dated 07.10.2014 with conditions.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:</p>	
<p>(i)</p>	<p>Details of non forest area/degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.</p>	<p>Not reported.</p>

(ii)	Map showing non forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	Not reported.
(iii)	Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including species to be planted implementing agency time schedule, cost structure etc.	Not reported.
(iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme.	Not reported. Only submitted the undertaking by the project proponent. (Pg. 198/c).
(v)	Cost Benefit Analysis	More than 5000 including indirectly benefited. (Pg. 193/c).
(vi)	Employment Potential	1036 (Pg. 193/c).
(vii)	Phased Reclamation Plan	The Reclamation Plan of Jaduguda Mines is available at (Pg.199-210/c).
(viii)	Certified from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory Afforestation and from management point of view (to be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest).	Not reported.
12.	Details of Following Maps:-	
i	Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion.	The DGPS map is available at (Pg. 189/c). With soft copy CD.
ii	Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA.	Not Enclosed.
iii	Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion.	The toposheet Map is available at (Pg. 188/c).
iv	Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area identified for CA.	Not reported.
v	Land use plan.	The land use plan Map is available at (Pg. 190/c).

vi	Forest Cover map.	Not reported.
13.	Site Inspection report of The DCF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in col.7 (xi), (xii) 8 and 9 above.	The Site Inspection Report Inspect by the Divisional Forest Officer, Jamshedpur Forest Division and the same is available at (Pg. 228/c) .
14.	Whether the project requires environment clearance,	Yes, the environment clearance has already been obtained by the user agency vide Ministry's letter No. J11015/710/2007-IA.II (M) dated 06.05.2011 of MoEF, Govt. of India, copy of which is enclosed at page 63-72/c .
15.	Documentary evidence in support of settlement of rights in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted enclosed.	<p>The District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner, Purvi Singhbhum, Jamshedpur, Government of Jharkhand has issued FRA certificate dated 03.03.2015 (Pg. 73/c) for diversion of 134.424 hectares certifying the information in respect of all clauses of the MoEF's advisory dated 5.07.2013 i.e. diversion of forest land the for facilities managed by the Government and safeguarding the rights of Primitive Tribal Group and Pre-Agricultural Communities as required under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, discussion on the proposal in meeting of concerned Gram Sabha (s) maintaining the prescribed quorum, etc. The concerned Gram Sabha (s) of Following Village under below:-</p> <p>(i) Village Ichra in Musabani Circle in Ghatsila Sub-Division.</p> <p>(ii) Village Bhatin, Mechuan Potka Circle in Dhalbhum Sub-Division.</p> <p>Documentary evidences in support of settlements of rights under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 may kindly be seen at (Pg.213-224/c).</p>
16.	Copy of Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan for the project enclosed?	Not applicable.
17.	Division / District Profile:-	
(i)	Geographical area of the district	353300 Ha.
(ii)	Forest Area of the district	101242 Ha.
(iii)	Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of	1079.6534 ha (18 cases)

	cases.	
(iv)	<p>Total Compensatory Afforestation stipulated in the district /division since 1980 on</p> <p>(a) Forest land including penal compensatory Afforestation</p> <p>(b) Non-forest land</p>	<p>994.416 Ha.</p> <p>355.50 Ha.</p>
(v)	<p>Progress of compensatory Afforestation as on 30.06.2015.</p> <p>(a) Forest land including penal compensatory Afforestation</p> <p>(b) Non-forest land</p>	<p>262.00 Ha.</p> <p>Nil.</p>
18.	Recommendation	
	DFO	<p>The recent proposal is for the renewal of forest diversion for mining. This proposal does not involve any further cutting of trees. This project is for mining of Uranium ores, it will also provide employment opportunities to the local people. The UCIL has operated the mines previously in 154.464 ha of forest land i.e. 100.681 ha underground mining and 53.783 ha surface area but not this time the user agency has applied for renewal of underground 100.681 ha & surface area of 33.743 ha. The user agency has submitted an undertaking regarding of rest surface area i.e. 20.04 ha regarding 20.04 ha of forest land doesnot come under the mining lease, the previous diversion vide letter F. No. 8-49/1997-FC dated 20.04.1998 still holds good & does'not need any renewal as submitted by user agency. It is of the oldest & deepest uranium mines of UCIL. This mine is strategically important also as it caters the need of country's nuclear plant. Thus the proposal for renewal may be considered.(Pg.40-41/c).</p>
	CCF	<p>This project for Uranium, Corporatin of India Limited, is an on-going project. Proposal consists of for renewal of 100.681 ha of forest land for underground mining and 33.743 ha for surface infrastructure developments.</p>

		This proposal is concerned with the extraction of strategic mineral which is of national importance. Hence renewal for 134.42 ha of forest land may be considered, Recommended. (Pg. 42-44/c).
	Nodal Officer & Addl. PCCF	Recommended. (Pg. 23/c).
	State Government	Recommended. (Pg. 2/c).

3. The State Government of Jharkhand, Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, vide its letter dated 03.03.2016 submitted following additional information pertaining to the proposal:
 - (i) The Penal Compensator Afforestation of the forest land proposed to be diverted has been time to time paid by the user agency as per conditions to State Government. The user agency has been submitted undertaking to make payment of the same. **(Pg.225/c).**
 - (ii) NPV and Additional NPV of the forest land proposed to be diverted have been time to time paid by the user agency as per conditions to State Government. The user agency has been submitted undertaking to make payment of the same. **(Pg.226/c).**
4. The forest land proposed to be diverted has been inspected by Shri A. N. Sharan, Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional office (Eastern Central Zone), Ranchi. Additional information furnished in the inspection report submitted by the Regional Office (Eastern Central Zone), Ranchi vide their letter dated 27.04.2016 are as below:
 - i. The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 06.04.2016 in the presence Divisional Forest Officer, Jamshedpur, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Jamshedpur, user agency represented by Manoj Kumar DGM(Mine), R.K.Mishra Chief Supdt (Env Engg), Sridhar Babu Addl Supdt(geology), Rajesh Prasad Supdt (mech), V.K.Mishra Asst Supdt (Survey) Manas Ghosh, Mine Manager, Srinu Badhavat Asst Supdt (mine).
 - ii. The proposal envisages renewal of diversion of 134.424 ha of forest land for Jaduguda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in favour of M/s Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. The UCIL has operated the mines previously in 154.464 ha of forest land including 100.681 ha underground mining and 53.783 ha surface area. Now the user agency has applied for renewal of underground mining 100.681 ha and surface area of 33.743 ha. The Ministry had granted approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter No.8-49/97-FC dated 20.04.1998. As per DFO, the user agency has submitted an undertaking that the rest surface area i.e. 20.04 ha forest land doesn't come under the mining lease and the previous approval issued vide letter No.F.No.8-49/97-FC dated 20.04.1998 still holds good and doesn't need any renewal.

5. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The legal status of the forest land is Protected Forests and Reserve forests.

S. No	Division	Forest land(Ha)	Legal status
1.	Jamshedpur	92.44	Reserved Forest
2.	Jamshedpur	41.98	Protected Forest

6. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.

Component	Forest land for underground use (Ha)	Forest land for surface use(Ha)	Village
Sewage Treatment plant		1.773	Ichra
Waste disposal area		17.06	Bhatin and Mechua
Surface mining facilities		14.91	Ichra,Bhatin and Mechua
Underground Mining activities	100.681		Ichra,Bhatin and Mechua
TOTAL	100.681	33.743	

7. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof;

Not reported.

8. Total cost of the project at present rates:

As reported by project authorities total operating cost is 90.00 crores per annum.

9. Wildlife:

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

No rare/endangered species of fauna are found in the area. Proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, and Biosphere/Tiger Reserve, but it is a part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.

10. Vegetation

The area proposed for diversion seems to be a very thickly forested. General topography is undulating to rugged with low ridges and valleys. The density of vegetation appears to be more than 0.6, however since this is an underground project and there will be no disturbance to the existing flora and fauna.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled.

Nil, since this is an underground mining renewal project no trees are proposed for felling.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Since this proposal is an underground mining renewal project there will no affect on the general eco-system of the area.

11. Compensatory Afforestation:

Since this is an underground mining renewal proposal CA details are not available.

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

No information is available in records.

(b) Whether land for compensatory Afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

No information is available in records

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

Not reported.

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

No information is available in records.

(e) Map with details:

No information is available in records.

(f) Total financial outlay:

No information is available in records.

12. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

As per the information available in the proposal, before the date of expiry of original Lease i.e. 15.10.87, UCIL submitted application for renewal of lease for next 20 years(1987 to 2007).The ministry of Steel and Mines, Department of Mines G.O.I conveyed its approval for renewal of Mining lease for 10 years i.e. from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.1997 vide its letter no.2157/88-M-IV Dated 25.4.1989.The above renewal of 10 years did make the UCIL automatically entitled to get benefit of renewal of the said mining lease for a further period of years i.e. from 16.10.97 up to 15.10.2007,as clarified and conveyed by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines, memo no. 4/108/2005-M I V dated. 21.11.2005 (Copy enclosed).

As a follow up action order for renewal of Mining lease has now been issued by the Department of Mines & Geology, Jharkhand vide its letter no. 2146 dated. 07.10.2014, both for first renewal for 20 years from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.2007 and 2nd renewal also for a period of 20 years, but not starting from 16.10.2007, rather counting it from the date of execution of 2nd lease deed and declaring the mining period from 16.10.2007 till the date of execution of lease deed unlawful.

However during Site Inspection, the User Agency has submitted a copy of the letter No.B.M.-06-1030/90/2577/M dated 7.12.2015 of Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Jharkhand vide which UCIL has been granted mining lease of 20 years from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.2007 as first renewal and 20 years from 16.10.2007 to 15.10.2027 as second renewal.

- 13. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:**

This is an old mining project. So no rehabilitation is not required.

- 14. Reclamation plan:**

Submitted by the user agency and the same is enclosed.

- 15. Details on catchment and command area under the project:**

Not applicable.

- 16. Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:**

Not applicable.

- 17. Cost benefits analysis of project.**

Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has the sole responsibility of mining and processing of the Uranium ore in India.

The data related to production and reserve of uranium is classified information under section 18 of atomic energy act, 1962 and rule 11 of atomic energy rules 1984 (working of the mines, minerals and handing of prescribes substances). However the unclassified data has been furnished as per the Performa.

Parameters for evaluation of benefit not withstanding loss of Forest:

S. No	Parameters	Benefit per annum
1	Increase in Productivity attributable to the specific project Uranium ore	Data is classified as per atomic energy act
2	Benefit to economy from uranium mining.	Data is classified as per atomic energy act
3	No at population benefited	More than 5000 including indirectly benefited
4	Employment potential	1036
5	Cost of acquisition of facilities on non Forest land wherever feasible	Nil
6	Loss of (a) agriculture (b) animal husbandry production due to diversion of forest land	Nil

7	Cost of rehabilitating the displaced person as different from amount from compensation amounts given for displacement	Nil
8	Cost of supply of free fuel wood to workers residing in or near Forest area during the period and construction	Operation in the mining lease has been started in 1967. Alternative fuel like LPG is being supplied though Co-operative stores UCIL has provided subsidized electricity to its employees.

18. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government.

Recommended by the PCCF / State Government.

19. Addl. PCCF (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land.

Annexed separately.

20. Utility of the project:

Uranium is the basic raw material for operating nuclear reactors, uranium produced from the mine is sent to Nuclear Fuel Complex Hyderabad where it is further processed to cater the countries various nuclear programs.

21. Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:

Data unavailable.

(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

Not reported.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

Not reported.

22. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

Proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park. Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere/Tiger Reserve.

23. Any other information relating to the project:

During the site inspection it was observed that no work has been started by the user agency and the whole area was demarcated on the ground. The GPS coordinates of some of the points were selected randomly and were verified on the ground by handheld GPS instruments and found to be in order. The user agency shall have to take all possible precautions for protection of environment and control of pollution while operating in the area.

24. Recommendation of the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Central Zone, Ranchi has recommended grant of approval under the FC Act for diversion of the forest land for the following reasons:

- i. The instant proposal is for renewal of diversion of 134.424 ha of forest land for Jaduguda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in favour of M/s Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. In East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.
- ii. On perusal of records and Site Inspection Report of DCF the following observations are made:

(a) The legal status of the forest land is 92.44 ha of Reserved Forest and 41.98 ha Protected Forests.

(b) The item-wise break-up of the forest land is as follows:

S. No.	Land details	Area (Ha)
1.	Sewage Treatment Plant	1.773
2.	Waste Disposal Area	17.06
3.	Surface Mining Facilities	14.91
4.	Underground Mining Activities	100.681
	Total	134.424

- iii. The density of vegetation has been reported to be 0.6, however it is an underground project and there will be no disturbance to the existing flora and fauna.
 - iv. No tree is proposed to be felled, since it is an underground mining project.
 - v. The Ministry had granted approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter No. 8-49/97-FC dated 20.04.1998.
 - vi. Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has the sole responsibility of mining and processing of the Uranium ore in India.
 - vii. Uranium is the basic raw material for operating nuclear reactors etc.
 - viii. Keeping in view of the above facts it is recommended that the proposal may be considered for approval with standard conditions.
- 25.** It is proposed that the proposal along with site inspection report received from the Regional Office (Eastern Central Zone), Ranchi may be placed before the FAC in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held on 03.05.2016 for its examination and appropriate recommendations.
