

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Date: As per e-Sign

To,

The Dy. DGF (Central),
Regional Office,
MoEF&CC, 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 807.917 ha (instead of 785.49 ha) forest land out of which 804.367 ha forest land in RF-389, 390, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 296, 319, 320, 391, 392 & PF-316, 317 of Forest Range Waidhan/ Sarai East and 3.55 ha Revenue forest in various Khasra's for Open Cast Bandha Coal Mine Project in favour of M/s EMIL Mines & Mineral Resources Limited under Singrauli Forest Division, Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/144129/2021) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/841/2023/10-11/1710 dated 27.04.2023 forwarding a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 (1) (ii) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and to say that the said proposal was placed before the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 07.06.2024. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. After detailed deliberation on the matter, the Committee deferred the proposal and asked the Regional Office Bhopal to examine the matter and submit the following information:

- i. The Regional Office has informed that the tree enumeration has been done by sampling method which may not give clear picture of actual no. of trees proposed to be felled. The guidelines issued by the Ministry do permit enumeration by sampling in areas over 10 ha, However, RO Bhopal shall re-examine the matter and ensure that the sampling is adequate and the number of trees arrived at is a true representation of the area.
- ii. The correct component wise KML files have not been submitted because the proposed land use details of the area are not matching with the KML file. The correct component wise KML file of the proposed diversion area shall be obtained by the Regional Office and submitted along with comments.
- iii. The Regional Office has informed in the SIR that the 31.94 ha in RF-291, cultivation was in practice and a small population was also found to be staying in their individual houses built there. In the forest stock map, the same area was marked as "ENCR". The exact status of the said land was under process of determination, jointly by the Forest and Revenue

departments. The Regional Office Bhopal shall get the exact status of the said 31.94 ha area confirmed and inform whether the same has been included in the area proposed for diversion or not.

- iv. The proposal has been submitted for open cast mining, however it has been informed that the areas where external dump is proposed, the depth of Coal seams are more than 280 meters which are proposed to be extracted by underground method of mining. Further, the areas where extraction of Coal is proposed to be taken up by open cast mining method, only two seams would be worked and the extraction of Coal in other deeper seams would be by underground method of mining as in forest. In this regard the Regional Office shall confirm the details and extent of the area which is to be worked by underground mining and the area where open cast mining will be carried out. A detailed land use map commensurate with the mining plan and the diversion proposal indicating underground mining and open cast mining areas shall be obtained and submitted along with comments.
- v. The Committee also took a note that out of 807.917 ha proposed land, an external dump has been proposed over 183.75 ha forest land which covers approximately 22.74% area of the proposed forest land. The Regional Office shall examine the matter and submit its comments.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.