

F. No. 8-3/2019-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 1100 03.
Dated: 15 July, 2019

To,

The Principal Secretary,
Government of West Bengal,
Kolkata-700 098

Sub: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

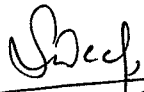
Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 84-For/0/L/10T-01/2019 dated 14.01.2019 submitted the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal has been examined in consultation with Regional Office, Bhubaneswer. After examination, the following observations are made:

- (i) The State Govt. has not provided the complete KML boundary of Project area of instant mine alongwith sharing boundaries of adjacent mines.
- (ii) CA sites has been proposed in large no. of patches i.e. 30 patches. Moreover, out of 30 patches of proposed CA, 23 patches are less than 5 Ha in size, which are not permissible in accordance with Ministry's guidelines dated 22.05.2019 as the said guidelines states that "Isolated patches having area less than 5 ha are difficult to manage as forests. Hence, no non-forest land, having area less than 5 ha area shall be accepted for CA purpose". It is also observed that CA patches bearing Plot Nos. 281, 1580, 306 & 358 are falling on the Forest compartment boundaries instead of non-forest Govt. land as mentioned in the proposal. Also encroachment in form of agricultural land is showing through Google earth Imagery dated 4/1/2019 in the proposed CA patches bearing Plot Nos. 253, 1863, 73, 48, 1840 & 1841.

As above, the CA sites proposed may be revised and submit it with their suitability certificate and shape file.

- (iii) It is mentioned in SIR done by Regional Office that part of the area contains natural forest and another part contains plantations. Soil is alluvial and prone to erosion. Plantations mostly contain Acacia species. The Acacia species has got



15.7.19

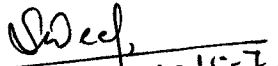
naturalized with very good natural regeneration. But the enumeration of most of the acacia trees, sapling and regeneration in Gourangdih-Block A of proposed diversion is not taken into account for which needs clarification.

(iv) Cost benefit ratio as per Ministry's guidelines not provided.

(v) Status of R&R plan.

In view of above, it is proposed to obtain clarification/ information/documents on points as indicated above. If agreed to, DFA is placed below.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
3. Dy. Director General (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
4. User agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.

O/C