

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 841.538 hectares of forest land for non-forest purpose under Forest Conservation Act. 1980 for the proposed Parsa Open Cast Mine (5MTPA) in favour of M/s. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), in Surguja and Surajpur Districts in the State of Chhattisgarh.

The State Government of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. F-5-17/2018/10-2 dated 02.05.2018 was submitted the above mentioned proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The facts related to the proposal as contained in the State Government's letter dated 02.05.2018 are given below in the form of fact sheet.

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 841.538 hectares of forest land for non-forest purpose under Forest Conservation Act. 1980 for the proposed Parsa Open Cast Mine (5MTPA) in favour of M/s. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited(RRVUNL), in Surguja and Surajpur Districts in the State of Chhattisgarh
2.	Location (i) State (ii) District	Chhattishgarh Surguja and Surajpur
3.	Particulars of Forests: (i) Name of Forest Division and Forest area involved. (ii) Legal status/Sy.No. (iii) Map	Surguja Forest Division and Surajpur Forest Division Surguja – 614.219 ha. Surajpur – 227.319 ha Total – 841. 538 ha Surguja – Protected (370.455 ha.) and Revenue Forest (243.764 ha.) Surajpur – Reserved (137.231 ha.), Protected (48.318 ha) and Revenue Forest (41.77 ha) forest boundary map – pg. 598/c Forest Cover Map – pg. 601-605/c
4.	Topography of the area	
5.	(i) Geology (ii) Vulnerability to erosion	- Surguja - The area is sensitive from the point of view of erosion. Surajpur – Not vulnerable to erosion
6.	Density of Vegetation	Surajpur: Density – 0.5 Surguja: Density – 0.5
7.	Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class-wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed).	Surajpur – A total No. of 26133 trees are enumerated to be removed. The girth class-wise list is given and may kindly be seen at Pg.177-229/c . Surguja – A total No. of 69325 trees are enumerated to be removed. The girth class-wise list is given and may kindly be seen at Pg.177-229/c .

8.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. (if so, details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed).	<p>Surajpur: No</p> <p>Surguja: The applied area is not a conventional elephant corridor, but the presence of elephants has often been recorded. Near to proposed area in 02 days 04 people killed. The way the elephant returned from the same route and it is close to the area of Bears in Korba and presence of Sloth Bear also recorded.</p>												
9.	Whether any RET species of flora and fauna are found in the area. If so details thereof	<p>Surajpur :- No</p> <p>Surguja:- The area is the Sal forest area, which is the specified forest produce and the state tree.</p>												
10.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	<p>Surajpur :- with in the boundary of forest area.</p> <p>Surguja:- proposed area of forest land is adjacent to boundary .</p>												
11.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.	<p>Surajpur: No</p> <p>Surguja: the proposed area is near to Ramgad's hill .</p>												
12.	Whether any work of in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	No												
13.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project, if no recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	<p>Surajpur: -</p> <p>Surguja: As per demand</p>												
14.	Whether clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is required?	Not seen												
15.	Compensatory Afforestation													
	(i) Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for CA, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patches.	<p>The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 1684.66 ha. of double degraded forest land in Korea district of Chhattisgarh. and the irrigated CA scheme is attached. The DCF, Korea Forest Division has certified that the land identified for raising CA is free from encroachment and encumbrances and is suitable from management view point. Khasra – wise details of CA with suitability certificates are as under:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="772 1727 1492 2038"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="772 1727 866 1832">s. No.</th> <th data-bbox="866 1727 1015 1832">Khasra No.</th> <th data-bbox="1015 1727 1214 1832">Proposed Area</th> <th data-bbox="1214 1727 1492 1832">Pg. no.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="772 1832 866 1937">1.</td> <td data-bbox="866 1832 1015 1937">05</td> <td data-bbox="1015 1832 1214 1937">15.490 ha</td> <td data-bbox="1214 1832 1492 1937">(Pg.- 1953-1972/c)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="772 1937 866 2038">2.</td> <td data-bbox="866 1937 1015 2038">06</td> <td data-bbox="1015 1937 1214 2038">22.530 ha</td> <td data-bbox="1214 1937 1492 2038">(Pg.- 1973-1992/c)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	s. No.	Khasra No.	Proposed Area	Pg. no.	1.	05	15.490 ha	(Pg.- 1953-1972/c)	2.	06	22.530 ha	(Pg.- 1973-1992/c)
s. No.	Khasra No.		Proposed Area	Pg. no.										
1.	05		15.490 ha	(Pg.- 1953-1972/c)										
2.	06		22.530 ha	(Pg.- 1973-1992/c)										
	(ii) Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for CA and adjoining forest boundaries.													
	(iii) Detailed CA scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.													
	(iv) Certificate from the competent authority regarding suitability of the area identified for CA and from management point of view.													

		3.	04	27.380 ha	Pg.- 1993 - 2011/c
		4.	13	45.870 ha	(Pg.- 2012-2031 /c
		5.	08	14.440 ha	(Pg.2032 – 2051/c)
		6.	10	21.570 ha	Pg. 2052-2071/c
		7.	31	71.090 ha	Pg. 2072-2092/c
		8.	15	86.070 ha	Pg. 2093 – 2111/c
		9.	05	34.460 ha	Pg. 2112-2131/c
		10.	04	18.110ha	Pg. 2132-2151/c
		11.	04	20.530ha	Pg. 2152-2171/c
		12.	08	12.420 ha	Pg. 2172-2191/c
		13.	10	24.200 ha	Pg. 2192-2211/c
		14.	09	12.940 ha	Pg. 2212-2231/c
		15.	11	29.670 ha	Pg. 2232-2251/c
		16.	43	123.400 ha	Pg. 2252-2272/c
		17.	05	23.630 ha	Pg. 2273-2292/c
		18.	08	20.470 ha	Pg. 2293-2312/c
		19.	22	74.980 ha	Pg. 2318-2337/c
		20.	07	12.110 ha	Pg. 2338 – 2357/c

		21.	09	10.010 ha	Pg. 2358-2377/c
		22.	03	11.570 ha	Pg. 2378-2397/c
		23.	14	10.770 ha	Pg. 2398-2418/c
		24.	09	10.010 ha	Pg. 2419-2438/c
		25.	08	10.210 ha	Pg. 2439-2458/c
		26.	20	26.480 ha	Pg. 2459-2479/c
		27.	08	10.00 ha	Pg. 2480-2500/c
		28.	01	12.500 ha	Pg. 2501-2521/c
		29.	24	92.850 ha	Pg. 2522-2541/c
		30.	08	25.290 ha	Pg. 2542-2561/c
		31.	05	11.630 ha	Pg. 2562-2581/c
		32.	03	10.720 ha	Pg. 2582-2600/c
		33.	05	11.090 ha	Pg. 2601-2621/c
		34.	28	18.860 ha	Pg. 2621-2641/c
		35.	54	54.320 ha	Pg. 2642-2661/c
		36.	14	23.770 ha	Pg. 2662-2679/c
		37.	02	20.00 ha	Pg. 2680-2699/c
		38.	02	10.750 ha	Pg. 2705 -2724/c

		39.	04	30.460 ha	Pg. 2725-2744/c
		40.	29	258.720 ha	Pg. 2745-2765/c
		41.	03	14.680 ha	Pg. 2766-2785/c
		42.	04	12.270 ha	Pg. 2786 – 2805/c
		43.	04	51.640 ha	Pg. 2806-2825/c
		44.	02	13.290 ha	Pg. 2826-2845/c
		45.	03	10.010 ha	Pg. 2846-2863/c
		46.	02	15.860 ha	Pg. 2864-2883/c
		47.	05	22.870 ha	Pg. 2884-2904/c
		48.	06	35.50 ha	Pg. 2904-2923/c
		49.	02	37.780 ha	Pg. 2924-2948/c
		50.	05	22.430 ha	Pg. 2949-2969/c
		51.	06	54.270 ha	Pg. 2970-2983/c
		52.	03	12.690 ha	Pg. 2984-3003/c
	(v) Total financial outlay for CA Scheme	Total financial outlay for the compensatory afforestation scheme is Rs. 1,01,11,69,995.00/-.			
16.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan	Not applicable			
17.	Rehabilitation of Ousteas a) No of families involved b) Category of families c) Details of rehabilitation plan	<p><u>In part-I, it is mentioned that 411 No. of families involved which includes 368 No. SC/ST families</u></p> <p><u>R&R plan is given and the same may kindly be seen at pg. 5290-5406/c. But it is not clear wheather R&R plan has been approved by the competent authority.</u></p>			

18.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	The complete compliance on Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been given as detailed below: Surguja: FRA Certificate: 614.219 ha.(Pg. 361/c) Surjpur: FRA Certificate: 227.319 ha.(Pg. 464 /c) It is also mentioned in the certificates that obtaining consents from gram shabhas under section 3 (2) of the FRA for proposed area are not applicable.
19.	Total Cost of the Project	1960.00 Crores
20.	Employment Potential	About 768 person will get the employment.
21.	Cost benefit Analysis	The cost benefit analysis as given may kindly be seen at pg.232-238/c. The cost benefit ratio is- 10.31
22.	Recommendations: i. DFO ii. CCF iii. Nodal Officer/PCCF iv SG	Surajpur-Pg.318-331/c with SIR Sarguja-Pg.312-315/c with SIR Pg.335/c Pg.337/c Pg.338/c
23.	District Profile (i) Total Geographical area of the district (ii) Total Forest area/Divisional Forest area (iii) Total area diverted since 1980 (iv) Total CA stipulated since 1980 a. Forest land including penal CA b. Non Forest Land` (v) Progress of compensatory Afforestation. (a) Forest land including penal compensatory Afforestation (b) Non-forest land	Surajpur-5181.588 Sq KM Sarguja-4043.299 Sq. Km. Surajpur- 1761.931Sq. Km. Sarguja-144015.367 ha Surajpur- 338.08 sq. km. Sarguja-2599.555 ha Surajpur- Nil Sarguja- Nil Surajpur- 3708.702 ha Sarguja-.3982.505 ha Surajpur- 67.167 ha Sarguja- Nil

3. Site Inspection Report: The Site Inspection Report (SIR) for this proposal was carried out by Sh. CharanJeet Singh, Scientist–C, Regional Office, Nagpur. The SIR (Pg. **6740-6768/c**) is reproduced below:

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

Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forests, Protected Forest land and Revenue Forests land. The total area of the mining lease is 1252.447 ha comprising of 841 .538 ha of forest land and 410.909 ha of non-forest land as per detail given below:

S. No.	Name of division	Area involved and legal status forest land (Ha)				Revenue/Private Land (Ha)			Grand Total (Ha)
		Protected forests	Reserved Forests	Revenue Forests	Total	Revenue Land	Private Land	Total	
1.	Surguja	370.455	0.0	243.764	614.764	40.005	250.518	290.523	904.742
2.	Surajpur	48.318	137.231	41.77	227.319	5.538	114.848	120.386	347.705
	Total	418.773	137.231	285.534	841.538	45.543	365.366	410.909	1252.447

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

Purpose wise breakup of the forest land is given as under:

S. No.	Particulars of project components	Forest land (Ha)	Non-Forest Land	Total
1.	Mining Quarry area	804.362	318.94	1123.302
2.	Safety Zone	6.073	0.0	6.073
3.	External Dump	10.174	53.910	64.084
4.	Road	0.090	2.280	2.370
5.	Nallah Diversion	9.213	5.588	14.801
6.	CHP Belt/Coal Washery	3.716	9.870	13.586
7.	Infrastructure (Sub-Station/Electricity Line)	5.043	8.185	13.228
8.	Settling Pond	0.010	2.250	2.260
9.	Top Soil Storage area	1.798	0.802	2.600
10.	Rationalization area	1.059	9.084	10.143
	Total	841.538	410.909	1252.447

From the examination of the components wise break up of forest land, following was observed during the inspection:

- (i) It was observed that the PP has proposed a coal washery in their lease area. It is also worth mentioning here that the User Agency has already set up a coal washery of 10 MT capacity for their Parsa East and Kete Basan (PEKB) Coal Block. Proposal for the enhancement of capacity 10 MTPA to 15 MTPA is currently under consideration of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi. **On being asked regarding exploring the possibility of the utilizing the existing washery, the representatives of the User Agency have informed that currently, the PEKB mine is operating at an annual capacity of 10 MTPA and after obtaining the environment clearance to enhance the production capacity of the mine from 10 MTPA to 15 MTPA, existing coal washery will become fully saturated and may not be utilized for the coal to mined out from Parsa Coal Block.** The User Agency has further informed that using the existing coal washery will results into additional transportation over a distance of approximately 5.0 km to transport coal from the pit head of Parsa Coal block to coal washery of PEKB coal block resulting into environment pollution and additional infrastructure.
- (ii) The rationalization area or non-mineralization area has been included in the proposal to accommodate for the unforeseen infrastructure which may be required in future on account of construction of roads, dumps, green belt development, etc.
- (iii) Settling pond has been proposed to arrest the silt from flowing into the natural resources.
- (iv) A local perennial nallah (Shali nallah) observed to be flowing in the lease area of the User Agency. The said

local Nallah originates from the contiguous PEKB Coal Block and traverse through the north - eastern part of the Parsa Coal Block. Shali Nallah meets with another local nallah which originated from the Parsa Coal Block near to the north eastern boundary of the coal block. The Shali nallah ultimately falls into the Atom River, after taking a course of approximately 3 kms outside the coal block. The nearest distance of Atom river from the boundary of the Parsa Coal Block is approximately, 2.0 km. The PP has proposed diversion of Shali nala along the boundary of the eastern and Northern Boundary of the Parsa Coal Block. **The PP has informed that a study on the feasibility of diverting the Shali nallah has been undertaken by the Water Resource Department. However, finding of the study could not be made available by the User Agency during the inspection.** A plan showing the proposed diversion of nallah is enclosed at Annexure-1 (Pg.6751/c).

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

No administrative or residential buildings have been proposed to be constructed in the forest area being sought for diversion . However, infrastructure such construction of CHP belt, coal washery, sub-station have been proposed to be constructed in the area.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates.

Rs. 1,960 crores

5. Wildlife

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

With respect to the faunal diversion, species like elephant, sloth bear, hyena, leopard, jackal and wild boar have been reported in the region by the State Forest Department based on the data maintained by them on hand stray movement of the elephants in the area. The DCF has also mentioned that area proposed for diversion does not form the part of any Elephant Corridor. It was also informed recently stray movements of elephants were noticed in the Ghatbarra area which is near to the mining lease boundary of the User Agency. It was informed during the inspection that stray movements of the elephants are not frequent in the area. Further, discussion held with **the DFO revealed stray movements of an elephant was noticed in the area during January to February in the area from Korba forests.**

The User Agency has informed that a biodiversity assessment Study has been assigned to the ICFRE, Dehradun. Proposal for undertaking the said study is yet to be received from the ICFRE.

The User Agency has further informed that Biodiversity Assessment Study will be completed in two years

As per the discussion held with the Divisional Forest Officer, during earlier visit to the site on 13.09.2017, it was gathered that there are no notified corridors of the elephants in the State. However, movements of elephants in Chhattisgarh occur from Jharkhand and Odisha regularly along their existing corridors. The DFO, Surguja informed that elephants migrate to Chhattisgarh from Jharkhand and Odisha and the movements mainly occurs in Surguja, Korba, Jashpur, Raigarh and Korea Districts. It was also informed that no mapping of the corridors of the elephant's movements has been done so far. It was further elaborated during the discussion with the officials/staff of the Forest Department that based on the reporting of elephants movements in the area, following three tentative migratory routes are undertaken by the elephants:

Route-I

Elephants enter the State of Chhattisgarh from Jharkhand in the North in Jashpur District, pass through the forest areas and reaches to Tamor Pingla and Samersot Wildlife Sanctuary in Balrampur and Surajpur District, respectively. From these two sanctuaries stray movement of elephants occurs in nearby forest area like Mainpat.

Route-II

Elephants enter Chhattisgarh from Odisha in the east in Raigarh District take route through the forests of Dharamjaigarh and reaches to Korba. The dense forests of Lemru in Korba serve as temporary habitat of elephants. During the course of their temporary stay the elephants make stray movements to the nearby forest areas.

Route-III

Elephants enter Chhattisgarh from Odisha in the east in Raigarh District, traverse through the forests of Dharamjaigarh, Pathalgaon/Jaspur, Sitapur, Lakhanpur/Surguja and then reaches to Tamar Pingla WLS in Surajpur District.

- (v) It was further revealed during discussion that area in question does not form the migratory route/corridor of any wild animals particularly, elephant. The officials/staff of the Forest Department further adverting to the record pertaining to the human-wildlife conflicts revealed that during the last period of 4 years and current year, intensity of human-wildlife conflicts, in respect of leopard has been reported high in Forest Ranges of Lundra, Sitapur, Ambikapur, and Udaipur. A list containing detail of human-wildlife conflicts is enclosed as **Annexure-II(Pg.67562/c)**.

It was further informed that during the course of their movements along the above corridors, stray movements of elephants occurs to the nearby forest areas and during such movements, human-wildlife conflicts occurs. It was further reported that no regular movements of elephants has been reported in the Parsa Coal Block, PEKB and Kete Coal Block. The nearest stray movement of the elephants was recorded in Patkura village and Ghatbarra area which are located a distance of approximately 20 Km and 4 km, respectively from the mine of the User Agency.

Further, Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Field Director (Elephant Reserve) Surguja Forest Circle Ambikapur vide his letter no. 1651 dated 24.08.2016 has inter-alia informed that area proposed for diversion does not form the part of notified elephant corridor. However, currently, there are movements of elephants in the Forest Divisions and accordingly consent is accorded subject to following:

- (i) The necessary measures like construction of natural trail, corridor management and arrangement of elephant's lights in the fields and houses in the nearby villages shall be under taken in the proposed corridor in consultation with the concerned Divisional Forest Officer at the cost of User Agency.

6. Vegetation:

Forest type of the area includes moist peninsular Low Level Sal Forest Southern Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest and Dry peninsular Sal Forest. During the inspection it was observed that vegetation density of the forest area cover varies from 0.4 to 0.7. Though the DCF concerned in Part-II have reported density as 0.5 and CCF, Ambikapur in his inspection report has reported density as 0.5 to 0.6 yet few patches, especially in Surajpur Forest Division were observed with relatively higher density up to 0.7. Major vegetation composition of the area is *Shorea robusta*, *Terminatia tomentosa*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Bauhinia spp.*, *Ficus, spp.*, *Dalbergia tatifolia*, *Hotoptelia interifolia*, *Gmetina arborea*, *Hardwickia binnata*, *Lagestromia parviflora*, *Tectona grantis*, *Terminalia spp.* and other miscellaneous species.

- i. Details of total number of trees to be felled is given as under:

Above 60 cm girth - 65,416

Below 60 cm girth - 30,042

Total 95,458

ii. Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area.

The area proposed for diversion has and mixed forests with miscellaneous species including sal with fairly good vegetation density. Felling of large number of trees i.e. 95,458 will definitely have adverse impact on the ecosystem. However, the representative of the User Agency during the inspection informed that all project affected trees will not be felled simultaneously. Felling will be undertaken in a phased manner. The User Agency has informed that approximately 871 trees falling in non-mineralized area will be kept intact and will not be felled. The User agency has further informed that efforts will also be made to transplant the trees falling in the girth category of below 60 cm. It was informed that nearly 13,783 trees of below 60 cm girth category will be transplanted during the mining operations.

7. Background note on the proposal.

The User Agency has three coal blocks allotted in its favour in Hasdeo-Arand Coal field as per detail given below:

S. No.	Name of Coal Block	Forest Area (Ha)	Non-forest land (Ha)	Total Area (H)
1.	Parsa	841.538	410.909	1252.447
2.	Parsa East and Kete Basan	1898.328	812.706	2711.034
3.	Kete Extension	1745.883	16.956	1762.839
	Total	4485.749	1240.571	5726.32

(vi) The Parsa coal block is located in the north central part of the Hasdo-Arand Coalfield in Udaipur and Premnagar Tehsil, Surguja and Surajpur Districts of Chhattisgarh State. Hasdeo-Arand coalfield is one of the major coalfields of the central India located in the upper reaches of Mhanad1 Valley Master Gondwana Basin. It is spread over an area of approximately 1200 sq km. Major part of the coalfield is still virgin with huge resources of power grade coal. There are 18 coal block in Hasdeo-Arand Coal fields. Out of the 18 coal blocks, currently, mining operations are being carried out in 2 coal blocks namely Parsa East and Kete Basan and Chotia coal blocks while proposal in respect of other 4 coal blocks are under consideration in the State/Central Government level. Detail of coal blocks situated in the Hasdeo-Arand Coal field and status of grant of forest clearance thereof is enclosed at **Annexure-III (Pg.6754/c)**.

The Parsa Coal Block was earlier allotted to M/s Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (CSPGCL) and Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan (5 MTPA) was approved by Ministry of Coal vide Letter No.-13016/90/2006-C A-I (Part) on 19th May, 2014. However, Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 24th September 2014 de-allocated coal blocks including Parsa Coal Block. Subsequently, in accordance with the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014, the Ministry of Coal, GOI vide its letters dated 18th December 2014 and 18th February 2015 earmarked coal blocks for allotment and invited applications from the Government Companies. The User Agency applied to Nominated Authority of Ministry of Coal, GOI for allotment of Parsa Coal Block for captive use in its thermal Plants located in the State of Rajasthan. Subsequently, Ministry of Coal, Government of India on 24.03.2015 allotted Parsa Coal Block to the User Agency in accordance to Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 & Coal Mines (Special Provision) Rules, 2014 and executed the allotment agreement.

The Parsa coal block is contiguous to Parsa East and Kele Basan (PEKB) and Tara coal blocks. Parsa Coal Block is located in six villages, namely Salhi, Hariharpur, Ghatbara, Fatepur under Udayapur Tahasil of Surguja district and Janardanpur, village of Premnagar Tahasil of Surajpur district. The block is rectangular in shape and extends about 3.10 km along the strike direction (NW-SE) and about 4.3 km along the dip direction (SW).

Total geological reserves estimated for stands at 256.40 MT while mineable reserves estimated by opencast mining stands at 200.41 MT. Mining plan was approved for production capacity of 5 MTPA.

8. Compensatory afforestation:-

Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over **Revenue Forest land, double in extent to the forest land** being diverted, in Korea District in the State of Chhattisgarh.

i. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not.

The DCF, Korea Forest Division has certified that the land identified for raising CA is free from encroachment and encumbrances and is suitable from management view point. CA sites could not be verified as the land for CA has been identified in 16 patches sites and the CA sites were located in Korea District located at far away from the area proposed for diversion.

ii. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/ other encumbrances.

The DCF Korea Forest Division has certified that the land identified for raising CA is free from encroachment and encumbrances and is suitable from management view point. CA sites could not be verified as the land for CA has been identified in 16 patches sites and the CA sites were located in Korea District located at far away from the area proposed for diversion.

iii. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view.

No information has been provided in the proposal. However, representative from the user Agency have informed that CA land is not important from the religious/archaeological view point.

iv. Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not.

Revenue Forest land in 16 sites has been identified in Korea District as per detail given below:

S.no	Name of the Village	District	Total Area (Ha)	Area proposed for CA (Ha)
1.	Pendri	Korea	97.53	78.59
2.	Bodemuda	Korea	111.86	108.67
3.	Bade Kalua	Korea	112.82	111.27
4.	Gidmudi	Korea	33.44	33.44
5.	Chhote Salhi	Korea	52.70	48.98
6.	Bade Salhi	Korea	273.37	266.27
7.	Thaggaon	Korea	246.8	201.40
8.	Kharqawan	Korea	21.09	20.00
9.	Salka	Korea	29.83	23.30
10.	Bari	Korea	226.27	226.26
11.	Mugum	Korea	259.85	258.72
12.	Bharda	Korea	25.02	20.47
13.	Chopan	Korea	30.99	30.98
14.	Manihouli	Korea	45.21	41.21
15.	Dhanpur	Korea	123.83	118.14
16.	Jilda	Korea	102.33	96.95
Total			1792.94	1684.65

v. Map with details

Differential GPS maps of all the sites have been submitted by the User Agency along with the proposal.

vi. Total financial outlay

CA scheme involving financial provisions of Rs. 1,01,11,69,995/- has been prepared providing provisions of maintenance for a period of 10 years.

9. 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.

No violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were observed during the inspection. The DCF concerned in Part-II have reported no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A certificate to this effect has also been submitted by the DCFs concerned.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest.

Yes. Proposal involves displacement of 411 families of Janardanpur village, comprising of 3 SC families, 366 ST families and 43 general families. R&R Plan for the displacement of the project affected families has been prepared and the same has been submitted along with the proposal. It was further informed that R&R has been prepared in consonance with the State Government of Chhattisgarh's R&R Policy.

11. Reclamation Plan:

Yes. The reclamation of the mine will be undertaken by the PP in accordance with the approved progressive Mine Closure Plan.

i. Details and financial allocation.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project. -NA

However, given the fact that total area involved in the 3 coal blocks allotted to the User Agency is 5,726.32 ha in the catchment area of Hasdeo river- a tributary of Mahanadi river, a catchment area treatment plan in the immediate catchment of Atom river should be implemented at the cost of User Agency to arrest silt and augment in-filtration of runoff water to improve the perennial water regime in the region.

13. Cost benefit ratio.

Total Cost - Rs. 2,042.50 lakhs

Total Benefits- Rs. 21,063.34 lakhs

BC Ratio -1:10.31

14. Recommendations of the Principal Conservator of Forests/State Government.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh has recommended the proposal with following conditions:

- i.** The labourers working in the mine shall be provided with piped gas supply to avoid pressure on the surrounding forests.
- ii.** The User Agency shall ensure that construction of residential accommodation for workers will be undertaken separately on non-forest land to avoid pressure on forest land for temporary construction; and
- iii.** Safety zone shall be fenced with recoiled barbed wire fencing of 6 feet high for the protection of forests

15. Recommendations of Regional Chief Conservator of Forests along with detail reasons.

Recommendations of the Addl. PCCF (Central) have been appended separately.

16. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land.

The detailed observations on the proposal have already been made in the inspection report. From the observations recorded in the inspection report, it can be ascertained that **area is rich in vegetation, particularly sal species and movement of wildlife has also been reported.** Three coal block i.e. PEKB, Parsa Coal Block and KECEB are contiguous in the area and currently, mining operation are undertaken in the PEKB. The Parsa Coal Block is contiguous to Parsa East and Kete Basen Coal Block (PEKB) and Tara Block. All three coal blocks of the allotted to the User Agency are located in outer fringe areas of Hasdeo Arand Coalfields. The User Agency has proposed captive open cast coal mining in Parsa coal Block to meet the demand of coal for their Super Critical Thermal Power Plant located in Rajasthan. **Had it been on a standalone case of mining, given the density of forest, it would not deserve consideration for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.** However, as the proposed area is one of the 3 coal blocks, out of which mining is already going on in coal block contiguous to this area, the proposal may be considered.

- i. A site specific study to assess the biodiversity in terms of floral and faunal should be conducted by an institutes of repute such Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and based on the recommendation to be made in the study, provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan, prepared by the State Government, if required, should be modified or amended in consonance with the findings of the biodiversity assessment study.
- ii. The State Government shall assess the extent of forest land for the purpose of forest connectivity and the use by wildlife and elephants in particular by undertaking scientific study for direct and indirect signs related to occupancy/habitat utilization and based on the outcomes of such study, areas, if any, falling in the elephant corridor should be delineated from mining.
- iii. Diversion of nallah located in the lease area of the User Agency shall be undertaken in consultation with the Chhattisgarh Water Resource Department to ensure that natural drainage and water regime do not get disturbed.
- iv. The user agency will make provision for appropriate financial outlay for the establishment of Rescue and Rehabilitation team to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts in the area.
- v. Given the fact that total area involved in the 3 coal blocks allotted to the User Agency is 5,726.32 ha in the catchment area of Hasdeo river- a tributary of Mahanadi river, a catchment area treatment plan in the immediate catchment of Atom river should be implemented at the cost of User Agency to arrest silt and augment in-filtration of runoff water to improve the perennial water regime in the region.
- vi. The User Agency shall make all possible efforts to transplant sound trees falling in the girth category of 60 cm or below in the area proposed for diversion. The trees should be transplanted in blank areas or non- mineralized area or in the degraded forest land in consultation with the State Forest Department.

17. Utility of the project. Numbers of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project.

The Parsa Coal Block has been proposed to be used for captive use for supplying coal to the Chhabra Thermal Power Plant, Kalisindh TPP and Suratgarh Supercritical TPP of the User Agency located in the State of Rajasthan. As per the detail provided in the proposal, the project will also provide employment opportunities to 768 persons. It was also informed that project will also boost social and economic development in the region.

18. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural /religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in the areas proposed for diversion.

No sacred groves or very old trees have been reported in the area. A certificate from the District Collector Surguja and Surajpur dated 27.02.2017 and 10.02.2017, respectively stating that there is no historical place within the periphery of 10 km from the boundary of the area proposed for diversion has also been submitted along with

proposal. However, CCF in his site inspection report dated 6.04.2018 has mentioned that land has its own socio-cultural religious value. However, no elaborative detail of socio-cultural religious value has been provided in his inspection report. Further, the DCF, Surguja in her inspection report mentioned that a site of archaeological importance name Ramgarh Paryatan area containing sacred caves (Sitagufa) is located at a distance of approximately 17.0 Km from the area proposed for diversion .

19. Situation w.r.t. any P.A.

- (i) The proposal does not form the part of any PAs or notified eco-sensitive zone. Nearest PAs areas are Samarsot Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamoringla Sanctuary and Badalkhol Sanctuary which and they are situated at an approximate distance of 150 Km, 80 Km, and 156 Km, respectively from the area under question. Further, a Wildlife Management Plan, involving financial provisions of Rs. 1216.00 Lakh prepared by Sh. Ashok Masih, Retd., Addl. PCCF has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) vide his letter no. 4133 dated 8.06.2017, has been submitted along with the proposal. As per the provisions provided in the Wildlife Management Plan, forest ranges of Udaipur (Surajpur Forest Division) and Lakhanpur and Ramnujnagar Forest Ranges of Surguja Forest Divisions have identified for the implementation of various mitigative measures suggested in the Wildlife Life Management Plan.

20. Any other information relating to the project.

- (ii) Complete compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been submitted by the User Agency along with the proposal. The District Collectors of Surguja and Surajpur have issued certificates dated 13.02.2018 and 27.03.2017 for an area of 614.2019 ha and 227.319 ha, respectively certifying all clauses stipulated in Form-II annexed to the MoEF&CC's advisory dated 5.07.2013.
- (iii) The Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited (RVUNL) has been allotted three coal blocks in the area by the Ministry of Coal. Currently, mining is undertaken in Parsa East and Kete Basen Coal Block. The Parsa Coal Block has been allocated by the Ministry of Coal vide its order no. 103/24/2015/NA dated 8.09.2015 (**Annexure-IV**). The two coal block viz. KECEB and Parsa Coal Block have been allotted by the Ministry of Coal to the RVUNL vide its letter dated 31.03.2015 and 8.09.2015, respectively. All three coal blocks have been allotted for captive use of the coal. Three coal block i.e. PEKB, Parsa Coal Block and KECEB are contiguous in the area and currently, mining operation are undertaken in the PEKB. The Parsa Coal Block is contiguous to Parsa East and Kete Basen Coal Block (PEKB) and Tara Block. All three coal blocks of the allotted to the User Agency are located in outer fringe areas of Hasdeo Arand Coalfields. The User Agency has proposed captive open cast coal mining in Parsa coal Block to meet the demand of coal for their Super Critical Thermal Power Plant located in Rajasthan.
- (iv) During the inspection it was also gathered that the User Agency has RVUNL has 6 Thermal Power Plants (TPP) in the State of Rajasthan having total power generation capacity of 7,580 MW and total annual coal requirement of 35.12 MT. It was further informed that out of the total 6 TPP, 2 TPP are Super Critical TPP requiring 11.06 MTPA of coal. It was further informed that Super Critical TPP of the User Agency are likely to be commissioned in the year 2019-2020 . Re remaining TPP of the User Agency have been reported to be operational. Current coal linkages for aforementioned TPP, are with SECL and PEKB, KECEB and Parsa Coal Blocks. The PEKB coal has total coal reserve of 452 MT, out of which 23 MT have been mined out so far at an annual production capacity of 10 MTPA. At an enhanced production of 15 MTPA, the life of the mine will be 34 years. The User Agency has further informed that estimated coal reserves in Parsa and Kete Extension Coal Block area has coal reserves of 150 MT and 200 MT respectively. An annual production of 12 MTPA (5 MTPA-Parsa CB; 7 MTPA KECEB) will be realized from these two coal blocks in near future to meet the coal requirement of TPPs of the User Agency. Detail of TPP and their coal requirement, as made available by the

User Agency, is enclosed at **Annexure –V (Pg.6765/c)**.

- (v) Important wildlife reported in the area sloth bear, hyena, jackal , wild boar, etc. In addition to these movement of elephants and leopard has also been reported in area. However, examination of the proposed area using DSS tools revealed sloth bear as an important species in the area and area does not form part of any tiger corridors, tiger reserve, PAs. Further examination of the area revealed that no Remnant Forest Type are found in the area. It was also gathered during the inspection that area of the Parsa Coal Block does not form the part of elephant corridors, however, stray movement of elephants has been reported in the area. Similarly, leopards, based on the human-wildlife conflicts , as per records maintained by the State Forest Department, have also been reported in the forests of the area. Area does not form part of any PAs and Eco- sensitive Zone. Nearest PAs areas are Samarsot Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamoringla Sanctuary and Badalkhol Sanctuary which and they are situated at an approximate distance of 150 Km, 80 Km, and 156 Km, respectively from the area under question.
- (vi) A Wildlife Management Plan, involving financial provisions of Rs. 1216.00 Lakh has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) vide his letter no. 4133 dated 8.06.2017 which will be implemented in the nearby area. However, in accordance with the provisions contained in the condition no. (ii) of the Stage-I approval dated 19.12.2017 wherein the MoEF&CC has stipulated that an Integrated Wildlife Management Plan will be prepared and implemented for the entire Hasdeo area based on the outcome of biodiversity assessment study to be conducted in the region. Therefore , in the backdrop the efficacy of the proposed separate plan for the Parsa Coal Bleak needs to be examined. It is also imperative to mention that another plan, involving financial provisions of Rs. 22.0 crores, is also being implemented by the State Forest Department in the impact zone of PEKB coal block.
- (vii) Biotic pressure in the form of grazing, lopping and illicit felling was also observed during the inspection. It was informed that there are total 50 villages falling in the core and buffer areas (10 Km) of the forest land proposed for coal mining (Annexure-VI: **(Pg.6766-67/c)**).
- (viii) Evacuation of coal has been proposed by the railway. The PP has constructed a railway line upto their lease area for transportation of washed coal.
- (ix) So far approval in almost 6 cases pertaining to the diversion of forest land, including PEKB and KECB has been accorded by the MoEF&CC, for coal mining and ancillary infrastructure such as transmission lines, railway lines, etc. Detail of approval accorded is enclosed at Annexure-VII **(Pg.6768/c)**.

In view of above, the facts related to the proposal may be placed before in next FAC meeting scheduled to be held in July, 2018 for their examination and appropriate recommendation.
