

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: 4th July, 2023**

To,  
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Odisha  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 20.383 ha of forest land in favour of the Mahandi Coalfield Ltd. for continuation of mining operation at Bhubaneswari OCP within Mining Lease area over 658.724 ha under Angul Forest Division in Angul District, Odisha (Online proposal No FP/OR/MIN/155017/2022).**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0020-2022-8408/FE&CC dated 24.04.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After examination of the proposal revealed the following:

- i. The IRO Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 17.08.2022 (**Copy enclosed**) has provided the Status of compliance report of conditions of earlier approval for 112.521 ha of forest land vide Ministry letter dated 06.12.2004. After the examination of the said SIR, the Ministry vide its letter dated 19.09.2022 (**Copy enclosed**) requested to the State Government to furnish the status of progress made during the intervening period of 12 years along with the detail of year wise financial expenditure. The same is still awaited and required to be submitted for further action in this proposal.
- ii. As the mining lease of the Bhubaneswari OCP is 658.724 ha, out of which 132.904 ha is forest land. The Ministry has already diverted 112.521 ha forest land. Balance 20.383 ha DLC forest land is required to be diverted for expansion of Bhubaneswari OCP. The area for safety zone 6.795 was not included in the earlier approval. Therefore, the state may include in this proposal so that all forest land may be diverted.
- iii. KML file of the safety zone area 6.795 ha and also the KML file of the 1.5 times CA area for which the UA has deposited the amount in 2008.
- iv. KML file of the safety zone 0.615 may be uploaded on portal.
- v. The KML file of 112.521 ha forest land which has been diverted earlier is required for detailed analysis of the proposal.

- vi. State Government may provide the present status of compensatory afforestation raised and maintained over 225.042 ha of degraded forest land. Shape/KML files of the compensatory afforestation site also be submitted.
- vii. In this proposal 20.383 ha land is required to be diverted including 0.615 ha safety zone. Area for CA has provided 47.385 ha @500 plant per hectare. As per the provisions minimum 1000 plant per hectare have to be planted. The state may provide the details that how to accommodate the balance seedlings.
- viii. Whether any family is residing on the proposed forest land i.e. on 20.383 ha of forest land. If yes, then new R&R plan as per the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 is required.
- ix. Cost benefit ratio has been estimated to be 1:381.836 which seems to be on higher side. It seems estimation of cost and benefit components has not been done properly. The analysis needs to be re-estimated by accounting CB parameters appropriately.
- x. There is a discrepancy in the land use pattern given by the State and given in approved mining plan. As per the revised mining plan (revision 2 column) the forest land is 126.191 ha and as per the State Gov. forwarding letter it is 125.576. Similarly, Safety zone total area is 6.163 and as per the forwarding letter it is 6.778. There needs clarification.
- xi. In this proposal the UA has deposited the amount of CA levied after the S-II approval. All details of the funds deposited in the erstwhile Ad-hoc CAMPA may provide in the prescribed format for conformation.
- xii. This is the second revision of the Mining Plan, therefore, the State Government is requested to provide the copy of the earlier approved mining plans and details of the changes made in the mining plans.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(Surabhi Rai)**

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.