



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ Regional Office  
पता: द्वितीय तल, झारखण्ड राज्य आवास बोर्ड मुख्यालय, हरमू चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड - 834002  
Add: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Headquarter-Jharkhand State Housing Board, Harmu Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834002  
Tel: 0651-2410002, 2410007; E-mail: ro.ranchi-mef@gov.in



मिसिल संख्या: FP/JH/MIN/87235/2020/1335

दिनांक 14.08.2023

सेवा में,

सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक, एफ.सी. डिवीजन  
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन अलीगंज  
जोरबाग रोड नई दिल्ली-110003

विषय: मिसिल संख्या:FP/JH/MIN/87235/2020; मगध ईस्ट ओपन कास्ट माइनिंग प्रोजेक्ट मेसर्स सेंट्रल कोलफील्ड लिमिटेड के परियोजना हेतु 192.36 हेक्टेयर वनभूमि, दक्षिण चतरा, झारखण्ड के प्रत्यावर्तन प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में वांछित स्थल निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करने बाबत

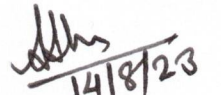
सन्दर्भ: i) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के पत्र संख्या. 8-27/2022-FC दिनांक 29.05.2023.

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत श्रीमान् के संदर्भित पत्र के आलोक में परियोजना से संबंधित वांछित स्थल निरीक्षण क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय राँची द्वारा दिनांक 03-07.2023-05.07.2023 को किया जाकर तैयार प्रतिवेदन को विभागाध्यक्ष के अनुमोदनोपरांत उनकी संस्तुति के साथ संलग्न प्रेषित किया जा रहा है।

संलग्न: यथा उक्त

भवदीय

  
14/8/23  
(शशि शंकर)

सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, राँची

## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT**

### **Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for diversion of 192.36 ha. of forest land for Magadh Open Cast Coal Mines project in favour of M/s CCL in Chatra district of Jharkhand.**

A proposal to divert 192.36 ha of forest land towards Magadh Open Cast (Coal) Mining Project is under examination as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

Ministry (MoEFCC) while processing this proposal of central Coalfield Limited (CCL) requested this office (IRO/RO Ranchi) to inspect the area as per FC rules 2003 with particular emphasis on following points:

- Examination of area proposed for diversion.
- Examination of CA area proposed
- Status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted in past to this project along with violation by erstwhile user agency.
- Legitimacy of land use proposed by user agency specially for over burden dump.

Accordingly, this office undertook site inspection along with state Forest officials u/a representatives on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and detailed report on the above points was sent on 21/4/2023.

As in the proposal two types of forest lands are involved namely Protected Forest & GMJJ under administrative control of State Forest Department (SFD) and State Revenue Department (SRD) respectively, the site inspection was focused on Protected Forest area only because no representation of State Revenue Department was there during site inspection who have jurisdiction over GMJJ lands.

Due to this, violation done by U/A on GMJJ land was not assessed. The same was neither informed by SFD during that visit nor by U/A representatives.

Therefore, ministry vide its letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 requested this office to visit the area again to examine the violation over GMJJ lands. All the patches of CA were also requested to be examined.

Hence sites (diversion and CA) were re-visited by RO, Ranchi during 3rd – 5th July 2023.

The site inspection in respect of the project was done by the team of IRO/RO Ranchi including Sh. Shashi Shankar, Assistant Inspector General of Forests and Dr. Surajit Panda, Sr. Technical Associate (GIS-DSS) along with Md. Saba Alam Ansari, IFS (DFO, Chatra South FD) for verifying the facts related to the actual ground situation of GMJJ land proposed diversion, including the CA lands. The following officials of SFD and representatives from user agency were present during the inspection visit:

- Sh. Mukti Prakash Panna, RFO Tandwa
- Sh. Nipendra Nath, General Manager, M-S Area, CCL
- Md. Akram, Colliery Manager, Magadh OCP

- Sh. Sanjay Kumar Behera, Mine Incharge, Magadh OCP
- Sh. Manish Sinha, Nodal Officer(E&F), M-S Area
- Sh. Mrigank Shekhar, Asstt Manager (Env),Madagh OCP
- Sh. Amarjeet Kumar, MT(Env), M-S Area
- Sh. Kamal Kishor, Forest Guard (FG)
- Sh. Laltu Kumar, FG
- Sh. M. S. Mahato, FG
- Sh. S. K. Oraon, FG
- Sh. Ankit Kumar, FG
- Sh. Jairam Oraon, FG

**Details of broken and unbroken GMJJ land of propose for diversion and ground situation**

As explained in the previous report of IRO dated 21/4/2023, the total lease area of the project (in Chatra District) is 495.9 Ha consisting of 219.88 Ha Non-forest land and 276.04 Ha Forest land. 96.72 Ha of Forest-land from this has already been diverted for the project by Final Approval dated 18/10/2010. 13.04 Ha of this diverted land now is carved from this project and is incorporated in adjacent Sanghmitra Project by the same Project Proponent owing to certain logistic conveniences. Therefore, 83.68Ha forest land which consists of 12.46Ha of notified Protected Forest & 71.22 Ha of Gair Majorua Jubgle Jhari (GMJJ) is already diverted in 2010 and mining is happening in the diverted as well as non-forest land in the project area.

In the present proposal, the total proposed forest area of Magadh Open Cast Coal Mines project is 192.36 ha. Out of 192.36 ha., 135.07 ha. is Gair Majorua Jubgle Jhari (GMJJ) land. This GMJJ land is not under the jurisdiction of DFO. The GMJJ land is under the administrative control of State Revenue Department (SRD) and mostly under Khatedari rights and occasionally discretely distributed as small land parcels along the non-forest lands. Therefore, DFO - Chatra South informed that it becomes tedious to even identify these GMJJ land for SFD officials as they don't have the relevant land records and do not administer, control or possess jurisdiction over such lands. He added SFD's inability in taking cognizance of any violation of GMJJ land. He further added that only 57.29 ha of total applied forest land is under administrative and statutory control of State Forest Depart (SFD) is situated in Northern part of the lease area which was shown to the inspecting IRO Team in its previous visit and where there is no violation of FCA in relation to the project.

The inspecting team reiterated the mandate of the re-visit and requested to visit the GMJJ sites where violation has been done/reported. Accordingly, the areas were visited.

It was informed by user agency that after the final approval dated 18/10/2010, the mining was started in two extremities (Eastern Part and Western Part) of the lease in diverted as well as non-forest lands. Two box-cuts were made, in Eastern Part (Zone-A)-at the Masilaung Site and in Western Part (Zone-B) at Saradhu site as depicted in the imagery below.

As the mining progressed, the excavation pits horizontally expanded and continued over GMJJ lands for which FC approval were not obtained. Representative of user agency apprised that since non-diverted GMJJ land were coming in between diverted lands and they were ocularly no different than non-forest land, the mining inadvertently continued on them also. He further added, all the required formalities on GMJJ lands were completed/settled from the State Revenue Department and the individuals under who's rights such GMJJ rested. The inspecting team enquired about the involved dichotomy of not recognizing the non-diverted GMJJ and yet, claim of settling the rights over them. To explain further, the user agency presented the production data (Monthly) from the above two zones to establish that the mining activities were many times stopped to avoid further mining in non-diverted forest lands. The Production Data as submitted by user agency is attached herewith as Annexure-I. The production data depicts that intermittent stoppage of mining cannot be attributed to extant FC approval as the same is yet to be accorded.

Further, the inspecting team assessed the extent of violated land. Since, the pits were found water logged in Zone-A (Masilaung Site), the claim of user agency that the mining activity is ceased since last two years appeared correct. It was apprised by GM Magadh OCP that the excavation or Non forest activities at Masilaung and Saradhu sites were started in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.



Photo. 1: Broken/mined GMJJ land of Masilaung sites.

Further, it has been observed that 26.07 ha and 8.47 ha area of GMJJ land were excavated at Masilaung and Saradhu sites respectively (over a period of about 1.5 years).

Out of this 34.54 ha GMJJ land, 27.21 ha was broken/utilized up to 19.11.2016, 5.59 ha was broken/utilized between 2016 to 07.05.2019 and the rest of the 1.74 ha land was broken/utilized after 07.05.2019. The details of broken and fresh land are listed below.

Year of Violation	Area in ha.
2016 (Up to 19.11.2016)	27.21
2019 (19.11.2016 - 07.05.2019)	5.59
After 07.05.2019	1.74

The violated GMJJ land and the spatial & temporal extent is illustrated in the following imageries:

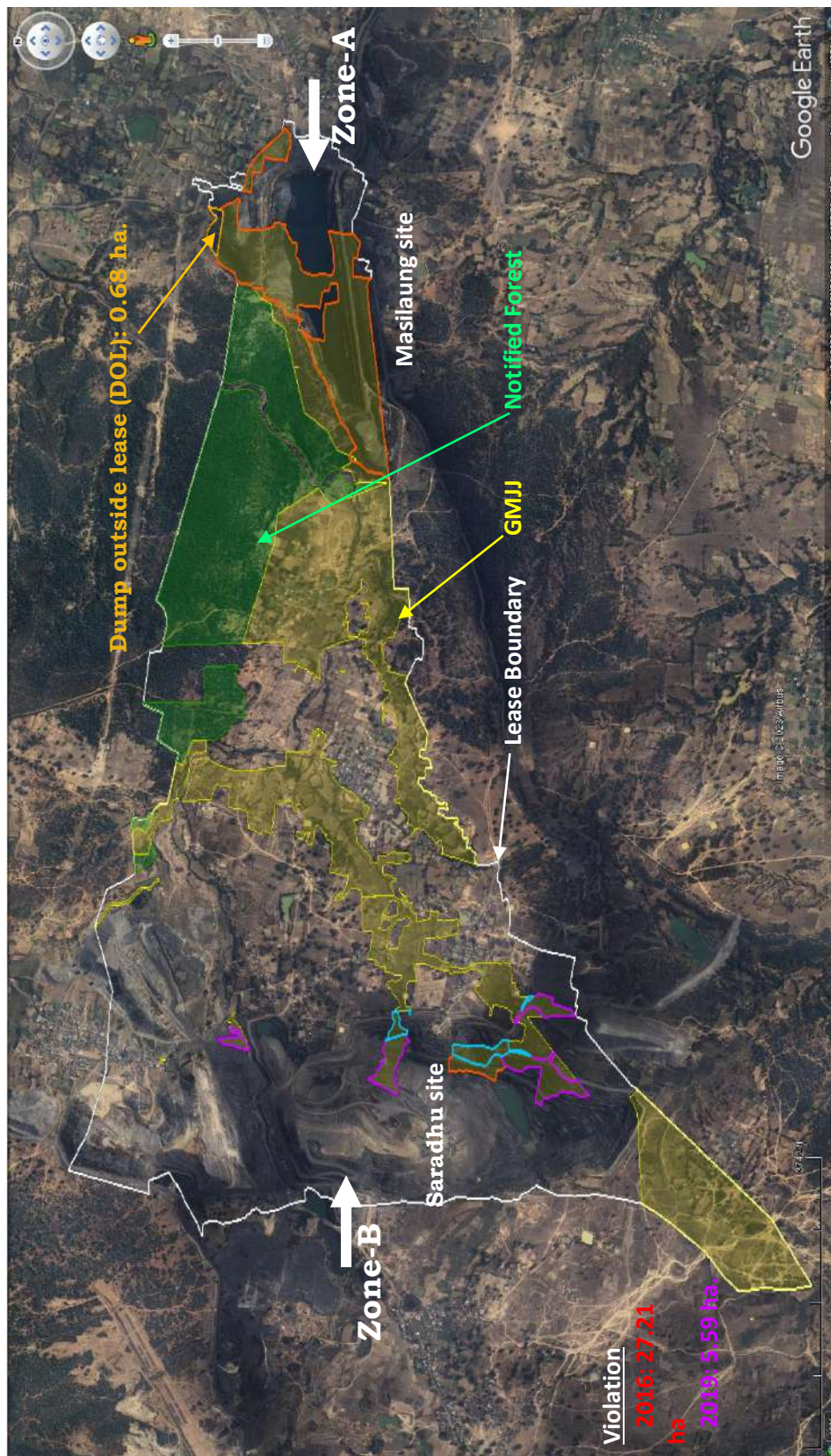


Fig. 1: Aerial view of the violation area (Google Earth Imagery, dated: 26.01.2023)

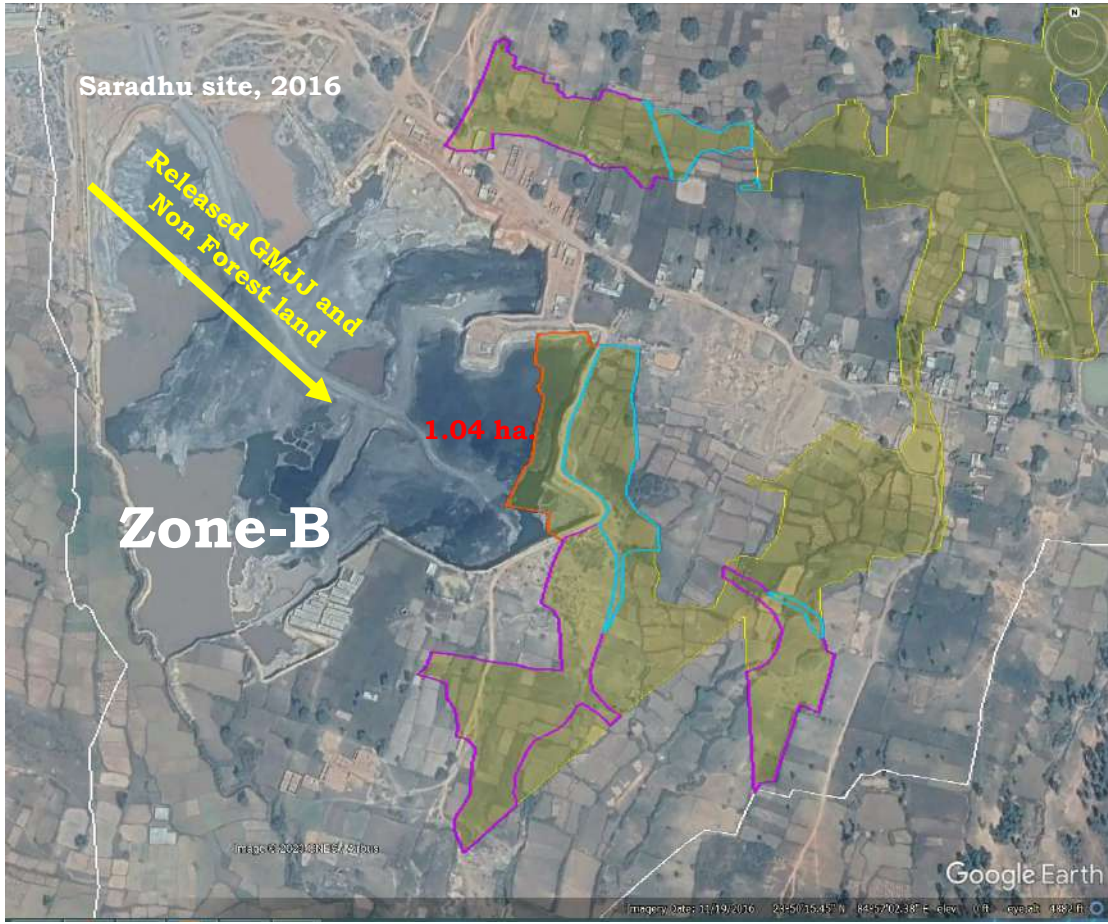


Fig. 2: Aerial view of the violation area (Google Earth Imagery, dated: 19.11.2016)



Fig. 3: Aerial view of the violation area (Google Earth Imagery, dated: 07.05.2019)

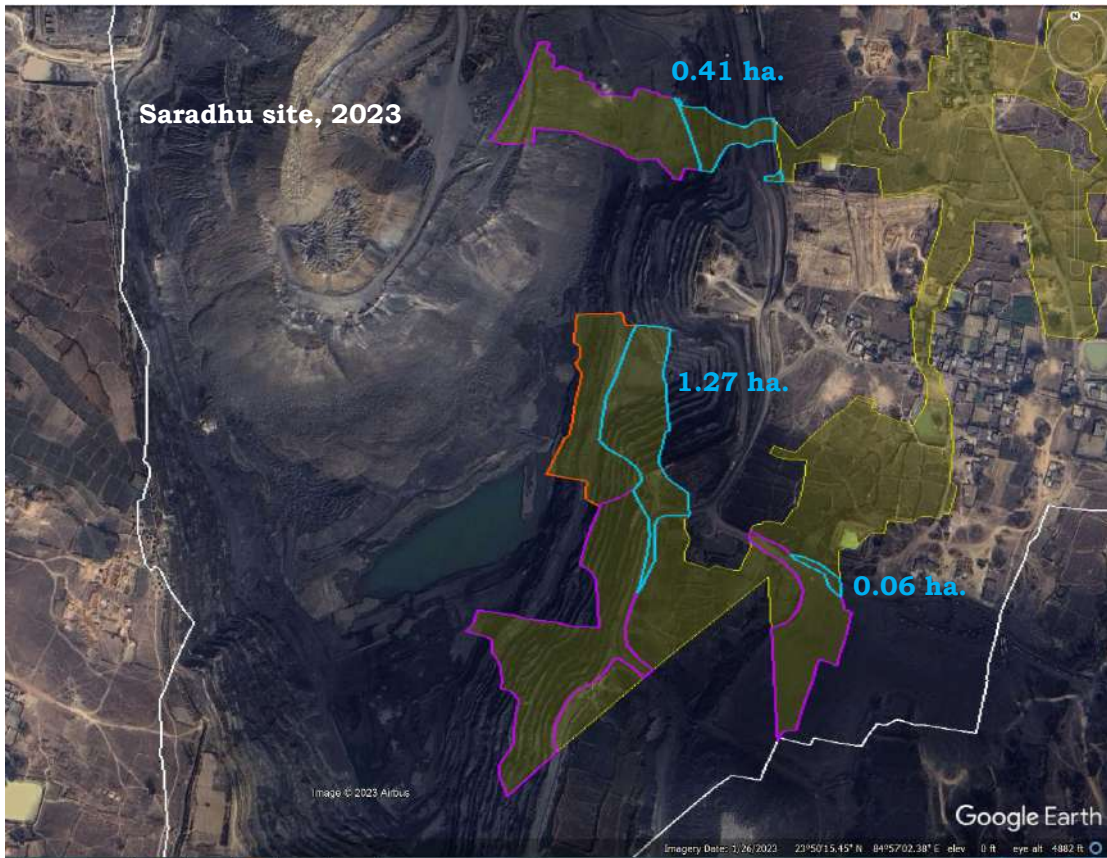


Fig. 4: Aerial view of the violation area (Google Earth Imagery, dated: 26.01.2023)

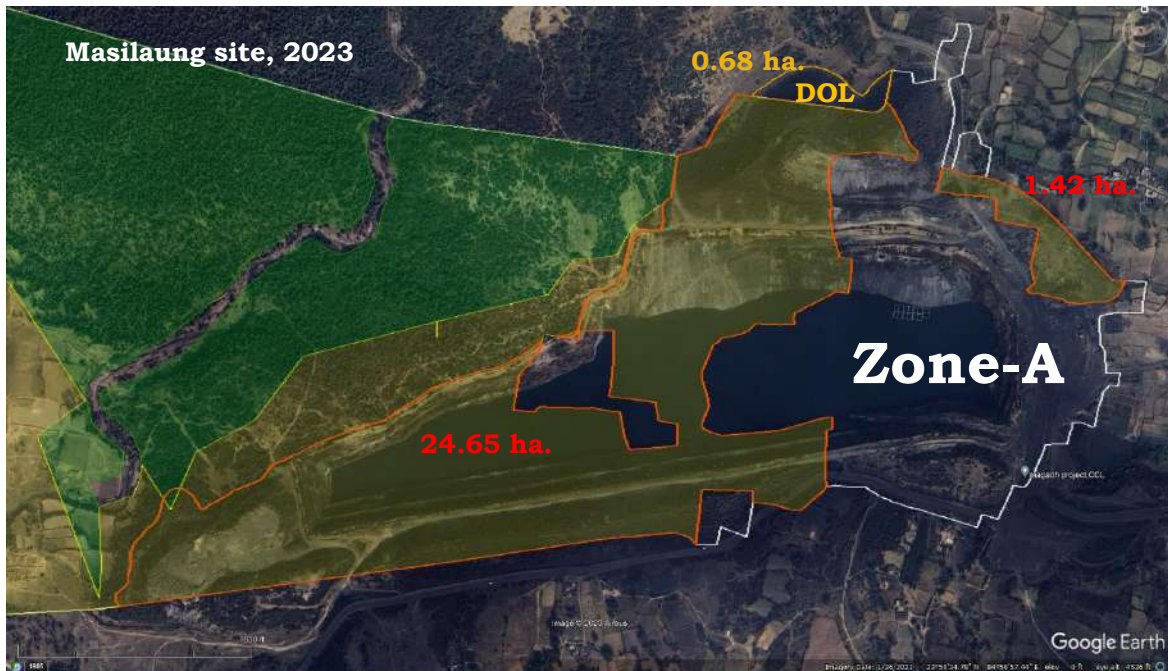


Fig. 6: Aerial view of the violation area (Google Earth Imagery, dated: 26.01.2023)

Masilaung site will be reused for further excavate the remains bottom level coal seam which is approximately 17 meters thick. On the other hand, the Saradhu sites is decoaled completely and this area will be used for backfill. The backfill process has already been started.

A small area of about 0.68 ha has been identified beside the lease boundary which is the continuous part of the coal dump, marked as ‘DOL’ on Fig 1 and 6.



Photo. 2: Broken/mined GMJJ land of Masilaung sites.



Photo. 3: GMJJ land of Masilaung sites (23.84106080 N, 84.97794181 E).



Photo. 4: Broken/mined GMJJ land of Saradhu sites.





Photo. 5: Broken/mined land and backfilled of Saradhu sites.



Photo. 6: Broken/mined GMJJ land and backfilled of Saradhu sites.

Further, the user agency apprised that consolidated Wildlife Management Plan and Integrated Watershed Development plan for the entire project area (earlier diverted and present proposed) has been prepared and submitted to SFD for required approval.

Since a part of lease is already approved and mining operation already started in non-forest area as well as diverted area, therefore commencement of mining activities and avid continuation of the same has led to FC violation over around 36 Ha of GMJJ forest land.

### **Observations on the proposed CA areas:**

The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) against the above proposals is proposed around 392.71 ha. on Degraded Forest Land (DFL) in Chatra, district. The CA land is comprised in 7 discrete patches located in various forest blocks of different Mauzas (Villages).

1. Encroachment was observed in Kichto, Bargaon, Ulatu 2 and Ulatu 1 (foothill area of Tandwa hill forest) CA lands during field visit. The land identified was

mostly barren land suitable for plantation except some small patches of vegetation and ploughing fields.

2. The identified Laranga, Chor and Jangi CA lands are mostly barren land suitable for plantation except some small patches of ploughing fields in Laranga.
3. The demarcated CA land of Bargaon is not technically and logically acceptable for CA plantations.
4. The details Forest cover information of CA land are as follows:

Forest cover information of CA land (area in hectare)

Name	MDF	OPEN FOREST	NON FOREST	SCRUB	WATER	Total area (ha.)
Kichto	00.00	45.00	100.00	00.00	02.00	147.00
Bargaon	00.00	07.00	23.00	00.00	00.00	30.00
Chor	00.00	02.00	35.00	00.00	00.00	37.00
Jangi	00.00	00.00	48.00	00.00	00.00	48.00
Laranga	00.00	00.00	13.00	00.00	00.00	13.00
Ulatu 1	06.00	24.00	14.00	07.00	00.00	51.00
Ulatu 2	20.00	19.00	26.00	00.00	00.00	65.00
<b>Total area (ha.)</b>	<b>26.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>259.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>391.00</b>

Therefore, it is necessary to take action to evict encroachments. The DFO assured the imminent eviction and emphasized that the forest areas with encroachments are deliberately identified and chosen for CA proposals as SFD finds it as an opportunity to permanently remove the encroachment by taking the encroached land under plantations thereby securing them for next 10-12 years. A few photographs of the CA land taken during the field inspections are below:







*Sh*  
11/8/23

(Shashi Shankar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

I do consent with the observations made by AIGF in this inspection report and forward the same to ministry for further analyzing this site-specific mining proposal under the purview of FC Act & Rules incorporating the penal provisions prescribed.

*Santosh*  
14/8

(Santosh Tewari)

Dy. Director General of Forests  
RO, Ranchi



ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE



## Annexure-I (The Monthly Production Data)

**CENTRAL COALFIELDS LIMITED**

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

(A Miniratna Category- I Company)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

MAGADH-SANGHMITRA AREA, BACHRA

PO: BACHRA, DIST:-CHATRA, PIN:-829201

(JHARKHAND)

E-mail ID: sominmgs@gmail.com

### Month wise Production details from different patches of Magadh OCP in Chatra District

Month	Masilong Patch (Te)	Kundi Saradhu Patch (Te)
Sept.'2015	120120	0
Oct.'2015.	73600	0
Nov.2015	0	0
Dec.'2015	0	0
Jan.'2016	0	0
Feb.'2016	56820	0
March'2016	227320	0
April'2016	79060	0
May'2016	0	0
June'2016	0	0
July'2016	0	0
Augt.'2016	0	0
Sept.'2016	0	0
Oct.'2016	3500	0
Nov.2016	47700	0
Dec.'2016	115800	113300
Jan.'2017	89800	124100
Feb.'2017	88900	99000
March'2017	146780	47800
April'2017	15060	0
May'2017	117960	0
June'2017	64240	1520
July'2017	11960	6680
Augt.'2017	0	21740
Sept.'2017	0	221240
Oct.'2017	0	108780
Nov.2017	0	285000
Dec.'2017	0	173580
Jan.'2018	0	76000
Feb.'2018	0	340500
March'2018	0	759440

*Handwritten signature*

April'2018	0	168540
May'2018	0	189880
June'2018	0	187100
July'2018	0	84680
Augt.'2018	0	37740
Sept.'2018	0	321280
Oct.'2018	0	611940
Nov.2018	0	648940
Dec.'2018	0	294500
Jan.'2019	0	616740
Feb.'2019	0	564340
March'2019	0	1176280
April'2019	0	16042.12
May'2019	0	152469.26
June'2019	0	33468
July'2019	0	285100
Augt.'2019	0	308226
Sept.'2019	0	261000
Oct.'2019	0	560640
Nov.2019	0	860240
Dec.'2019	0	128200
Jan.'2020	0	541400
Feb.'2020	0	300000
March'2020	0	151320
April'2020	0	0
May'2020	0	0
June'2020	0	0
July'2020	0	0
Augt.'2020	0	0
Sept.'2020	0	0
Oct.'2020	0	0
Nov.2020	0	44720
Dec.'2020	0	306740
Jan.'2021	0	90360
Feb.'2021	0	9240
March'2021	0	148160
April'2021	0	212460
May'2021	0	89920
June'2021	0	0
July'2021	0	45910
Augt.'2021	0	90080
Sept.'2021	0	77800
Oct.'2021	0	111560
Nov.2021	0	193860

Hanner

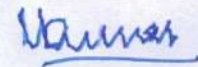
Dec.'2021	0	93500
Jan.'2022	0	146200
Feb.'2022	0	472760
March'2022	0	893440
April'2022	0	285200
May'2022	0	224500
June'2022	0	440320
July'2022	0	711100
Augt.'2022	0	355080
Sept.'2022	0	151260
Oct.'2022	0	142640
Nov.2022	0	44700
Dec.'2022	0	0
Jan.'2023	0	41360
Feb.'2023	0	473040
March'2023	0	570420
April'2023	0	353360
May'2023	0	0
June'2023	0	0

It is evident from the above that the production discontinued from Masilong Patch as Tenancy land in possession was exhausted. As soon as it was noticed that Mine working is encroaching GM JJ Land, the mine working was stopped.

In Kundi Saradhu Patch Mine working was done in diverted GM JJ Land (96.72 Ha) along with the association of Tenancy land which was possessed by providing the employment under R&R benefit to the concerned tenants.

Mine working was discontinued during April-20 to Oct-20 due to non-availability of possessed tenancy land and again the Mine was stopped in June-21, Dec-22 and from May-23 to till date due to scarcity of possessed land.

Further GM JJ Plot Nos 590 & 706 of Saradhu village were partially diverted (in 96.72 Ha), in which the un-diverted portion was un-intentionally encroached due to measurement error.



Staff Officer (Min.)  
M-S Area.