

Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(Forest Conservation Division)

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

Dated: 23rd August, 2021

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh, Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhavan,
New Raipur (CG).

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 402.966 ha of forest land in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited for Kusmunda and Laxman Opencast Coal Mining Projects in Korba District of Chhattisgarh – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-04/2007/201-2 dated 5th April, 2021, received in this office through electronic communication on 6.08.2021 on the above subject forwarding a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval dated 26.04.2018 and to say that examination of the said compliance report in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. No relevant records establishing the non-forestry use of forest land before 1980 and before 12.12.1996 have been submitted by the State Government to support their claim. Details of relevant records may be furnished to the Ministry for consideration.
- ii. Penal CA has been proposed over an area of 402.966 ha of degraded forest land, however, supporting details of the degraded forest land, suitability certificate from the DCF concerned and soft copies of KML/shape files etc. have not been submitted along with the compliance, the same needs to be furnished by the State.
- iii. With regards to greening in the surrounding villages in accordance with condition no (viii) of Stage-I approval, no plan/scheme for undertaking comprehensive greening in the surrounding villages in future has been provided by the State.
- iv. In compliance to condition no (ix) and (x) of Stage-I approval regarding handing over of reclaimed mined out areas to the Forest Department and surrendering schedule, respectively, no credible progress report has informed by the State. Compliance has been reported only in the form of undertaking of user agency. Details of reclaimed land and status of its handing over back to the Forest Department needs to be intimated by the State.
- v. With regards to compliance of condition no (xi) regarding notification of reclaimed revenue forest land under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, no updated

progress has been informed by the State. Action taken by the State Government to notify the reclaimed revenue forest land needs to be intimated to the Ministry

- vi. Copy of approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan to be prepared for the catchment area of Hasdeo River in compliance to conditions no. (xii) of Stage-I approval and detail of deposition of cost of its implementation into the account of CAMPA has not been submitted along with the compliance report.
- vii. Status of progress made by the user agency to undertake a study for the protection, conservation and development of wildlife in the area in compliance to condition no (xiii) of Stage-I approval has not been intimated by the State Government.
- viii. In compliance to condition no (xvi) of Stage-I approval, a Monitoring Committee with DCF as member has been stated to be constituted by the State to monitor the compliance of various conditions stipulated by the Government of India and implementation of reclamation plan. However, copy of order constituting the Committee has not been submitted along with the compliance.
- ix. With regards to afforestation over degraded forest land of 1.5 times the area of safety zone, the State Government has reported that an amount of Rs. 11884392/- has been realized from the user agency for afforestation. However, supporting detail of area proposed for afforestation, afforestation scheme and its KML/Shape files have not been submitted along with the compliance.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Charan Jeet Singh)

Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Raipur
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Jail Road, Aranya Bhavan, Raipur
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Guard file