

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: August, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal seeking prior approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 277.15 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Central Coalfield Limited for Rajrappa Open Cast Coal Mining Project in Bokaro Forest Division, District Bokaro (Jharkhand) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-21/2013/2978/V.P. dated 03.08.2023 forwarding the required information on the compliance of the conditions stipulated in Stage-I approval dated 03.09.2020 and to say that after examination of the compliance report revealed the following:

- i. As per the tentative schedule for surrendering the reclaimed land, it has been mentioned that a part of the area will be handed over in two years or three years. In this regard, the state shall submit the land surrendering schedule mentioning the calendar year in which the land fully reclaimed will be handed over to the Forest department.
- ii. In compliance of condition no (xi)(a) of Stage-I approval, the DSS analysis of KML files submitted indicating safety zone vis-a vis boundary has been carried and it has been found that:
 - a. Part of Mining lease boundary is falling on the Damodar River. Therefore, accuracy of the mine lease KML file needs to be rechecked.
 - b. The safety zone has not been proposed all along the periphery of the mining lease boundary.
 - c. Upon superimposing the KML file of In-principle approved forest land over the KML file of the mining lease, it is observed that, both the boundaries do not reconcile with each other properly. The State Govt. is requested to provide the correct KML file of In-principle approved forest land along with mining lease boundary with proper overlapping.
- iii. The approved copy of afforestation scheme over degraded forest land proposed for afforestation to the extent of 1.5 times the area earmarked for safety zone has not been provided by the State Govt.
- iv. The State Govt. has not intimated about copies of schemes/plans, if any, prepared by the user agency in compliance to condition no. (xiii)(b), (xiii)(c),

(xiii)(d) and (xiii)(e).

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 sincerely,

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.