

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: August, 2023**

To,

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

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 783.275 ha of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha of RF in Chhendipada & Kankurupal RF and 140.180 ha of Village Forest Land in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd for Naini Opencast Coal Mining Project in Angul Forest Division of District Angul (Odisha) - reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the DO letter dated 20.07.2023 received in the Ministry from Secretary, Ministry of Coal vide which it has been informed that the transfer of forest land to the SCCL has not yet been taken place due to additional conditions being imposed by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) in Angul. These additional conditions are beyond those specified in the Ministry's Stage-II /Final approval letter grant dated 13.03.2023. As a result, the delay in the transfer of forest land is impeding the operationalization of the mine and the commencement of coal production.

In this connection, I am directed to inform that the as per the provisions laid in Chapter 1 under Para 1.5 which inter alia states that "*While issuing the diversion order, the State Government/UT Administration shall not impose any additional condition over and above the conditions stipulated by the Central Government under FC Act, if the State/UT Government feels exceptional/unforeseen circumstances warrant imposition of additional condition(s), prior approval of the Central Government must be sought by the concerned State/UT Government justifying imposition of such additional conditions.*

In view of the above, I am directed to request to the Government of Odisha to kindly expedite the process without further delay.

Yours faithfully,

**(Dr. Surabhi Rai)**  
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-**for information.**

2. PCCF (HoFF), Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. DDGF (Central), Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
5. User Agency.