

I/53053/2023

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**  
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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003

**Dated: 14th September, 2023**

To,

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

**Subject: Diversion of 16.49 ha forest land for Kuya Colliery Open Cast Project in favour of M/s BCCL in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand State (Online No. FP/JH/MIN/32906/2018) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to inform that the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi forwarded the proposal as submitted by Government of Jharkhand vide letter no. Van Bhumi-21/2020-1585/V.P. dated 28.04.2023 on the subject cited proposal mentioning that the proposal should be evaluated in the light of/ along with previously approved proposal for the same project and to inform that after careful examination of the said proposal in the Ministry the following observations have been made by the Ministry:-

- i. As per the Mine plan, Kuya Colliery comprises an area of 340.50 Ha which includes 176 Ha of Kuya underground, 60 Ha of whole Golukdih colliery and 104.50 Ha land transferred from Ghanoodih Colliery. Therefore, the total forest land involved in the 340.50 ha lease area needs to be examined by the State Govt. and a detailed report along with copies of approvals accorded earlier under the FCA, 1980 needs to be submitted.
- ii. As per the mining plan, only 117.19 ha forest land exist within the mine lease area of 340.5 ha. However, the Ministry vide its letter No 8-44/2009-FC diverted 234.08 ha forest land for open cast mining project in favour of same user agency. Therefore, the State Govt. shall provide the justification in this regard along with the KML file of 234.08 ha forest land and the status of lease hold area.
- iii. Further, out of 117.19 ha forest area mentioned in the Mine plan, the user agency has sought diversion of 16.49 ha forest land. Thus, the status of balance 100.7 ha forest land is not available in the proposal. The same needs justification.
- iv. The State shall ensure that the area proposed for diversion and its component wise detail is commensurate with the approved mining plan. A comparative analysis in this regard shall be submitted.
- v. Status of compliance of conditions stipulated in earlier Stage-II approval dated 12.04.2012 granted for diversion of 234.08 ha of forest land for coal

mining need to be submitted by the State Government along with KML files of diverted area (234.08 ha) as well as the CA areas proposed earlier.

- vi. Status of reclamation measures undertaken by the user agency in their lease area in case of earlier approvals as per the Progressive Mine Closure Plans and gaps if any, shall be intimated by the State.
- vii. The KML files indicating the different components of the project has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted/ uploaded conspicuously depicting the various project component vis-à-vis total lease area.
- viii. As per the DSS analysis, it has been revealed that area is broken within the proposed forest patch for the construction of road. The same needs clarification.
- ix. The Mining lease (ML) boundary needs to be verified because the area of KML file of ML is found to be 374.606 ha against the 340.5 ha as per the details mentioned in online Part-I.
- x. Satellite imagery shows that the plantation activity is visible in the proposed CA patch namely Tukipur Compartment No. 562 and part of this patch is having encroachment of Agriculture land. Therefore, the proposed CA patch needs to be revised.
- xi. Satellite imagery shows that the construction activities like pond etc. are visible in the another CA patch namely Bhurahi Compartment No. 125, 131, 218, 219, 222, 227, 229. This needs clarification.
- xii. The site suitability of CA land shall be ascertained as per the Ministry's guideline dated 13.07.2022.
- xiii. In the Mining plan, it has been reported that a section of Tisra Jore Nallah flowing in the proposed quarry area, has to be diverted for operation of the proposed project. Therefore, comments of the water resource department on the proposed measures and impact of the project on the hydrological regimes are required to be submitted.
- xiv. The details of land-use at the end of mine life has not been given in the Mine plan and progressive mine closure plan. Therefore, the revised mining plan along with mine closure plan shall be submitted/ uploaded.
- xv. Details of coal evacuation plan and how the requirements of water and electricity will be met by the user agency shall be submitted. The details of additional forest land required for the same shall also be submitted.
- xvi. The State Govt. shall submit the status of Mine lease validity along with the relevant details and chronological history.
- xvii. Given the density of 0.6 of the proposed forest area of 16.49 ha, number of project affected trees reported as 2246 appears to have been estimated on lower side. The same needs to be reconfirmed by the State.
- xviii. The CF, Bokaro in Part-III reported that the proposed area is having 10 years old plantation and prominent species such Chakundi, Chhatni, Doka etc have been noticed. Therefore, the details of plantation, the scheme under which it was done along with undertaking from the user agency to bear the cost of plantation in the proposed area shall be submitted.

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- xix. KML files and afforestation scheme of the degraded forest land proposed for afforestation in lieu of 1.5 times the area of safety zone has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted along with the afforestation scheme and suitability certificate.
- xx. The PCCF (WL) recommended the proposal subject to fulfillment of Site specific wildlife/ Biodiversity conservation plan at the project cost. However, the undertaking from the user agency to bear the cost has not been submitted.
- xxi. Cost Benefit ratio is calculated as 1:434.64, which is extremely high. Therefore, the same needs to be revisited and required to be submitted in prescribed format keeping in view the revised rates of NPV dated 06.01.2022.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(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.