

**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: September, 2023**

To,

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

**Subject: Proposal for diversion of 699.34 ha (400.96 ha in Chatra South Forest Division and 298.42 ha in Hazaribagh West Forest Division) of forest land for Chandragupt Opencast Coal mining project in favour of M/s Central Coalfield Limited in Jharkhand (Online No. FP/JH/MIN/140599/2021) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-37/2022-3203/V.P. dated 22.08.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that after examination of said proposal revealed the following:

- i. As Schedule-I species have been reported in the area and DFO also mentioned the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Jharkhand on the likely impact of the project on the movement of wildlife in general and elephant in particular needs to be furnished by the State. Further, comments may also be furnished on the adequacy of mitigation measures like Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan or Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management proposed for the area.
- ii. The authorities in the State Forest Department have recommended preparation of various Plans and their implementation either before or concurrently with the mining operations. Detail of such plans, in tabular form indicating clearly against them, their tentative cost, time required for preparation and duration of implementation, etc. need to be furnished by the State.
- iii. In online Part-II, it has been reported that the proposed forest land is moderately vulnerable to erosion. Therefore, mitigation measures in this regard needs submission.
- iv. Cost benefit Ratio has been estimated as 1:81.92 which is exorbitantly high. The analysis may be revisited by the user agency by applying appropriate economic tools to accurately estimate the various parameters and detailed analysis thereof may be submitted to the Ministry

- v. Detail of safety zone of the mining leases for raising afforestation has not been submitted along with the proposal. Same needs to be submitted along with complete detail of supporting attributes such as afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, KML files, etc.
- vi. From the purpose-wise breakup of forest land, the following may be ascertained:
  - a. An area of 0.14 ha has been proposed for diversion of Nadi/nalla. The status of feasibility reports for said diversion along with comments of Water Resource Department on the feasibility of said proposed diversion needs to be informed by the State.
  - b. An area of 13.94 ha of forest land has been proposed for infrastructure while only 2.3 ha only has been proposed in non-forest land. The State Government may therefore assess the legitimacy of site-specificity of various infrastructural components and possibility to shift non-site-specific components to the non-forest land.
  - c. A total forest land of 36.82 ha of forest land has been proposed for Green belt which is in addition to 2.9 ha of forest land earmarked for safety zone. Rationalise for including green belt area in the project which could otherwise be excluded from the project and be managed by the Forest Department. Considered view of the State Government in this regard needs to be furnished.
  - d. Details of area proposed for dumping of overburden is not available in the purpose-wise breakup. Comments in this regard may be provided by the State Government.
- vii. Analysis of the area proposed for diversion and area proposed for CA area using DSS analysis revealed the following which needs clarification:
  - a. Google imagery shows the presence of Settlements, Roads and Agriculture land etc. within the proposed forest land for diversion
  - b. As per Google imagery, Tandwa Barrage has been constructed after the year 2016 over the Garhi Nadi (River) and part of barrage project is falling in the forest patch which has been proposed for diversion.
  - c. Google imagery shows the encroachment of Agriculture land, plantation activities and presence of settlement in CA patches.
  - d. An earthen pond created recently in the CA patch namely Mahuari and New Road has been constructed in the CA patch namely Village - Kendua.
  - e. Out of total 1400 ha (DSS Calculated) forest land proposed for CA, 31 ha of land is characterized with Moderately Dense Forest.
- viii. Quantitative details of deaths of human and elephants in last five years may be furnished by the State along with details of existing and proposed elephant corridors in the landscape.
- ix. External dump is being proposed in 86.16 ha of land in Amrapali OCP, which is not given in the proposal but included in Mining Plan. Therefore

compliance status of Amrapali OCP shall be submitted.

- x. In case Amrapali OCP is not of the UA then an NOC from the UA of Amrapali OCP shall be submitted.
- xi. Amrapali OCB boundary is in the west side of the Barki river, the impact of having mining on both the sides of river will require deep understanding of the impact of hydrology of the river, so comments of the State shall be submitted in this regard.
- xii. A high level bridge over Barki river needs to be constructed to connect the proposed OCP, the location of the bridge and its connectivity should be shown through KML for further DSS analysis.
- xiii. Chotki river falling in the proposed site has to be diverted as per the proposal but the site inspection report or the comments of the State is silent on it, specially about its impact on the water security and hydrological cycle downstream.
- xiv. Since the area has elephant therefore the cases of the Human Elephant conflicts in the district needs to be looked into, for which deaths of human and elephants in the Chatra and Hazaribagh district in last five years to be provided. Loss of property and crop damage and compensation given and pending should also be provided.
- xv. Recommendation of the CWLW will be needed specially regarding need of wildlife management and mitigation of conflict plan.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by  
(Dr. Surabhi Rai)  
Surabhi Rai

**Deputy Inspector General of Forests**

Date: 22-09-2023 10:39:32

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.