

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi – 1100 03
Dated:30-09-2024

To
The Principal Secretary
EFS&T Department, Government of Telangana,
Dr. BR Ambedkar, Telangana Secretariat
Hyderabad.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited for change in land use of already approved proposal for diversion of 154.96 ha of forest land for Gouthami Khani OCP phase-III in Ramavaram RF & Range of Kothagudem Division of Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State (Online Proposal No.FP/TG/MIN/970/2005)–regarding

Madam/Sir

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No. No.1640/For.I (1)2005 dated 05.07.2024 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Telangana and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (AC), the Central Government hereby agrees to accord "***In-principle***" approval in favour of M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited for change in land use of already approved proposal for diversion of 154.96 ha of forest land for Gouthami Khani OCP phase-III in Ramavaram RF & Range of Kothagudem Division of Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. *All details of the proposed NFL at rehabilitated dumps of Koyagudem OCP-I for an extent of 140 Ha and 14.96 Ha at GKOCF dumps along with CA scheme, KML file, Maps, Site suitability certificate etc. shall be provided along with the compliance report of the conditions of the 'in-principle' approval for diversion of 649.3014 ha. of forest land in Ramavaram RF of Ramavaram Range of Kothagudem Forest division for grant of mining lease for proposed VKOCF from underground rights to surface rights (Online proposal No.FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020).*
- iii. *The proposed NFL shall be notified as RF/PF under IFA, 1927 or other state*

local acts before grant of the final approval for diversion of 649.3014 ha. of forest land in Ramavaram RF of Ramavaram Range of Kothagudem Forest division for grant of mining lease for proposed VKOCP from underground rights to surface rights (Online proposal No.FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020).

- iv. *The State Government shall ensure that the already technically and biologically reclaimed areas of the GKOC-PH-III mine shall not be used for OB dump.*
- v. *The State Government shall ensure that the already technically and biologically reclaimed areas of the GKOC Phase-III mine shall be surrender to the SFD as per details given below:*

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|---|---|
| <i>35.0 ha out of 154.96 ha (GKOC-III)</i> | <i>Will be handed over to the SFD after Stage-I</i> |
| <i>119.96 ha (balance area of GKOC-III)</i> | <i>Proposed to be surrendered after for 15 years from grant of Stage-II</i> |

- iv. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of the 'in-principle' approval:
 - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28o; and
- v. **Safety Zone Management:** Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the. State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the

State Forest Department;

- d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
- vi. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;
- vii. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- viii. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- ix. The State Government shall upload KML files of the forest area proposed for diversion and identified for carried out CA on equivalent, NFL and for balance seedling degraded forest area on the E-Green watch portal with all the requisite details prior to grant of final approval;
- x. The all compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xi. The User agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xii. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
- xiii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on *e-portal* (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xiv. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
- xv. Layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xvi. No construction of buildings / no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xvii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person;
- xviii. User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
- xix. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
- xx. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxi. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional

- Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxiii. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and.
- xxiv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

3. After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (Adhiniyam), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Chennai, of MoEF&CC.
4. The IGF (C) Sub-office, Hyderabad of MoEF&CC
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi, for uploading.