

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 7th September, 2021

To

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

2. The Regional Officer,
Integrated Regional Office,
MoEF&CC, Bhopal

Subject: Diversion of 80.902 hectares of forest/revenue forest land (66.377 ha. forest land + 14.525 ha revenue forest land = 80.902 ha.of forest/revenue forest land) for Shobhapur underground coal mining in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Pathakhera in Betul District State of Madhya Pradesh – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer letter No. F-1/769/2017/10-11/2510 dated 26.7.2021 of APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh on the above subject forwarding report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval dated 03.05.2018 and to say that on examination of the said information following shortcoming have been observed: -

- i. The Regional Office, Bhopal has not submitted the report regarding status of the forest clearance and the on-going mining activities without valid Forest clearance under section 2(ii) of the FC Act as per condition no. (iv).
- ii. The User Agency has not submitted the copy of FC granted in past along with the details of the mining area of Sobhapur underground mining project over 460.844 ha which as per the EC report involves 357.079 ha of forest land as per condition no. (iv).
- iii. The State Government has not submitted the documentary evidence for the forest area broken up prior to 25.10.1980 and after 25.10.1980 till the date of filing of proposal and current status of operations in proposed area as per condition no. (iv).
- iv. The Regional Office, Bhopal has not submitted the comprehensive report on Forest clearance showing status of entire Pathakhera coal block in Madhya Pradesh, the extent of forest land and the status of clearances in all such cases as per condition no. (v).

- v. The documentary evidence showing that the proposed land is taken under CBA (A&D) Act, 1957 has not been submitted in view of condition no. (xv).
 - vi. The user agency has not submitted the undertaking as per the condition No. (xvii).
2. Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal for grant of Stage-II approval.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj
Asst. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The P.C.C.F & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Nodal Officer, FCA, Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
3. User Agency;
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading on PARIVESH portal.