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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE  
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संलग्नक तयारी -

F.No. 11-315/INS/ROSEZ/2014-61

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jal Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.

Subject:- Diversion of 231.84 Ha. of forest land in Chatakonda RF of Kothagudem  
Division for Koyagudem OCP-II (Phase-II) in favour of SCCL -  
Submission of Site Inspection Report.  
Reference:- GoAP letter No.6116/For.I (1)/2012 dated 12.11.2013.

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, site inspection of the project was done by the undersigned on 06.09.2014. The General Manager, SCCL, Yellandu and General Manager (Estates), SCCL, Adviser (Forestry), SCCL and local forest staff were present during the inspection. Based on the site inspection and discussions held with the officials of SCCL and Forest Department, and perusal of records pertaining to the project, the report is submitted, as under: -

F (C) clearance was granted in 2001 for 236 Ha of RF land in Compartment No-36 & 37 for Koyagudem-OC-I Project. Subsequently, F (C ) clearance was granted for an extent of 231.94 Ha in compartment No-37 for Koyagudem-OC-II, Phase-I in the year 2008. The mining in 236 Ha of Koyagudem-OC-I Project has already been completed. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is currently operating Koyagudem OCP-II (Phase-I) with an annual production capacity of 2.0 Million Tonnes. The production from the Mine is mainly meeting the coal requirement for Kothagudem Thermal Power Station of Telangana State. This Mine is likely to get exhausted within next 1½ years.

The total land required for Koyagudem OCP-II is 678.04 Ha. Of this, 463.78 Ha. is Reserve Forest land. SCCL has obtained Environment Clearance for the entire Koyagudem OC-II Project vide MoEF Lr.No.J-110135/306-IA.II(M) dated 11.6.2007. Mining lease was obtained under MMDR Act for 231.94 Ha. The SCCL has now applied for Mining Lease for 20 years under MMDR Act over an extent of remaining 446.10 Ha. in the name of Koyagudem OCP-II (Phase-II) . Of the 446.10 Ha., 231.84 Ha. is RF land and the remaining is Non-forest land.

SCCL have submitted proposal for diversion of 231.84 Ha. of Forest land in compartment No-33, 34, 36 and 37 in Chatakonda RF, Kothagudem Range of Kothagudem Forest Division vide application dated 18.1.2011 for grant of lease for 20 years including reclamation pre and post construction periods.

At the time of submitting application, the estimated coal reserves in this project were assessed as 17.94 Million Tonnes of which about 15.66 Million tonnes are reported to be located in forest land applied for diversion. As per the revised estimates, after conducting detailed study of the area, the estimated reserves are proved to be 38.78 Million Tonnes. The Project is expected to provide direct employment to 418 persons. Estimated Annual production is 2 Million tonnes of coal.

The equivalent extent of Non-forest land for C.A. is identified as detailed below:

		Ha.
Eluru Forest Division	:	115.04
Khammam Forest Division	:	<u>116.80</u>
Total	:	<u>231.84</u>

The DFO, Eluru prepared CA Scheme for 115.04 Ha. at a cost of Rs.250.925 lakhs and the DFO, Khammam has prepared C.A.Scheme for 116.80 Ha. at a cost of Rs.336.86 lakhs.

The proposed area does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, elephant corridor etc. There are no protected archaeological Heritage sites/ Defence Establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. The Project site is located at a distance of 4.163 kms. from the Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary.

Non-forest land required for the Project has already been acquired. In the forest land applied for diversion around 207.80 Ha. of the area is under cultivation and rights are recognized under RoFR Act to about 147 persons. The balance 24.04 Ha. is covered by streams, hillocks etc. The process of obtaining RoFR Certificate is under progress and Gram Sabha has passed a Resolution on 29.5.2010 and has agreed for diversion of forest land subject to providing R&R as per the latest R&R Policy of the Government.

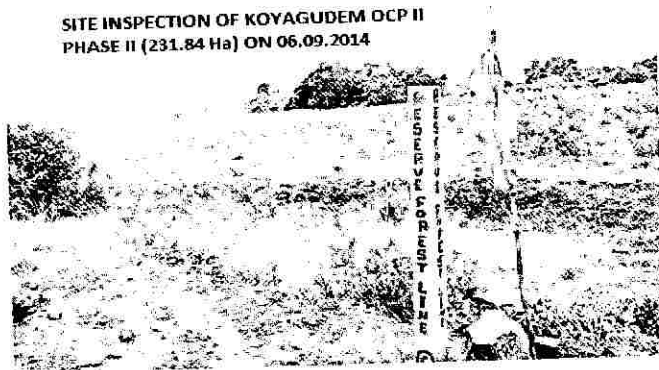
Out of 231.84 Ha. required for diversion, 222.07 Ha. is for quarry, safety berm and drain around quarry. Approach road including security post requires 6.6 Ha. and the balance 3.17 Ha. is required for diversion of public road as a right of way.

There is a hamlet by name "Darapadu" adjacent to proposed area for diversion. There are 82 families in this hamlet. In view of proposed mine, SCCL has started construction of rehabilitation colony at the site at distance of about 3 Km from the boundary of the Project for safety reasons, with the consent of the people likely to be affected due to this Project. The SCCL has also reportedly identified about 200 Ha of non-forest land near "Sampathnagar" village at a distance of about 5 Km from the colony. In the cultivated land in the proposed area for diversion the main agricultural crops are of Maize, Cotton, Red gram etc. The income from agriculture per annum is estimated to be ranging from Rs. 15000 to Rs.20000/ per Acre/ annum.

#### **Status of reclamation in the completed mine of Koyagudem OC-I (236Ha):**

It has been informed that the mining has been completed in 2011 in this area of 236 Ha. As per the conditions of clearance under F ( C ) Act, phased reclamation plan was

to be implemented by the user agency at their cost and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal. During the inspection it was observed that most of the reclaimed area is being used for dumping the overburden of OCP-II Phase-I. The current height of the OB dump is reportedly 50 Meters. The original forest land was said to be plain. As per the stipulated condition the area once brought to ground level should have been afforested.



The factors favoring grant of clearance under F ( C ) Act,

- 1-Extraction of 38.78 Million tones of coal to meet the coal requirement of Kothagudem Thermal Power of Telangana State.
- 2- Continuation of employment to the existing 418 employees.
- 3- The 207 Ha of land currently under agriculture will come under forest crop after completion of mining and reclamation.
- 4- Many local people will get indirect employment.

Factors favoring rejection of the proposal for clearance:


- 1- 147 persons present getting employment and income from agriculture from the proposed area will be deprived of the same.
- 2- The proposed project boundary is within 5 Km from the Kinnersani Sanctuary, very rich in wildlife
- 3- The mining is likely to impact ground water in the adjoining areas.
- 4- There is an apprehension that the project affected people may encroach areas of Kinnersani Sanctuary.
- 5- Due to transport of coal by lorries the roads between Yellandu and Kothagudem are likely to be damaged.

Looking to the requirement of the coal in the State the proposal may be considered favorably stipulating following additional conditions.

- 1- the affected families shall be compensated suitably by paying annually an amount equivalent to loss of income from agriculture.
- 2- Provide direct employment to all the affected families.

- 3- Area shall be reclaimed after completion of mining and shall be afforested with native forest species at the cost of user agency.
- 4- Fund shall be provided annually to the local Divisional Forest Officer for promotion of agro-forestry in the vicinity of the project and area between Kinnersani sanctuary and the project site, as per the plan prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer.
- 5- A habitat improvement plan for the area of the Kinnersani sanctuary nearer to project site shall be implemented at the cost of user agency.
- 6- Suitable bridges/ quality roads shall be constructed at all the low lying spots being frequently damaged due to movement of lorries with heavy loads of coal.

Yours faithfully,

  
( K.S. Reddy )  
Addl. PCCF (Central)