

PARIVESH 1.0

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on
14.10.2024

Agenda No. 1

File No. FC/HPB/06/15/2024

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 1.3711 ha. of forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Public Work Department for the construction of link road from Barayali Buddo Stoti Shiv Nagar 0/00 to 4/150 within the jurisdiction of Kunihar Forest Division, Distt. Solan Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Road/153206/2022)- regarding.

The proposal was deferred for discussion in the next Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee desired that the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh should be present in person in the next AC meeting for discussion.

Agenda No. 2

Proposal No: FP/BR/Approach/157585/2022

Subject- Proposal for Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.018 ha forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on the side of SH-77 Road, Khata No.16, Khesra No.1134, Mauza – Majhua, Thana No.73, Thana - Raniganj by Shri Chhotu Kumar in Araria district of Bihar (Online No. FP/BR/Approach/157585/2022) - regarding.

The proposal was deferred for discussion in the next Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee desired that the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Bihar should be present in person in the next AC meeting for discussion.

Agenda No. 3

File No. 8-31/2010-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 1898.328 ha of forest and (1654.109 ha of revenue forest land and 244.219 ha forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, in Villages Parsa and Kete, Telsil Udaipur, District Surguja, Chhattisgarh- regarding.

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant

provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The proposal has been placed before the Advisory Committee due to variation in the description/legal status of the forest land mentioned in the various communications by the Committee/Ministry and for necessary correction thereof.
4. The AIGF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
 - i. The State Government vide letter No. F-5-4/2010/10-2 dated 28.04.2010 submitted the proposal for diversion of 1898.328 ha of forest land (1654.109 ha Protected forest land and 244.219 ha Revenue forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, Jaipur for coal mining in South Surguja Forest Division, in Villages Parsa and Kete, Tehsil Udaipur, District Surguja in the State of Chhattisgarh.
 - (i) The proposal was considered in FAC meeting held on 20-21.06.2011 and the Stage-1 approval was accorded vide letter dated 06.07.2011, wherein, no bifurcation of the forest area into protected forest and revenue forest was given in the subject or the main part of the letter. The subject of the Stage-1 approval letter read as under:

“Diversion of 1898.328 ha of forest land for Parsa East and Kete Basan captive coal block open cast mining project in favour of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in South Surguja Forest Division in Surguja District of Chhattisgarh”
 - (ii) After examination of Compliance report submitted by the State Government, the Ministry on 15.03.2012 accorded Stage- II approval. No bifurcation of the forest area into protected forest and revenue forest was given in the subject or in the main part of Stage- II approval letter as well. The subject of the Stage-II approval letter read as under:

“Diversion of 1898.328 ha in two phases of forest land for Parsa East and Kete Basan captive coal block open cast mining project in favour of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidut Utpadan Nigam Limited in South Surguja Forest Division in Surguja District of Chhattisgarh”.
 - (iii) Thereafter the proposal was considered in FAC meeting held on 25.01.2018 and herein the bifurcation of forest area in the subject of the MoM was observed which was wrongly mentioned as under:

“Diversion of 1898.328 ha (1654.109 ha of revenue forest land and 244.219 ha forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, in Villages Parsa and Kete, Tehsil Udaipur, District Surguja, CG”.
 - (iv) Later, in the letter dated 12.04.2018 written by the Ministry to the Principal Secretary (Forests) Govt. of Chhattisgarh, the bifurcation of the forest area into protected forest and revenue forest was given in the subject. It was observed that the same has been wrongly mentioned as under:

“Diversion of 1898.328 ha forest land (1654.109 ha of revenue forest land and 244.219 ha forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in Villages Parsa and Kente, Tehsil Udaipur, District Surguja, Chhattisgarh”.

- (v) Thereafter, in the proceedings of further meetings and various communications the bifurcation of the forest area into protected forest and revenue forest continued to be mentioned in the same manner.
- (vi) Accordingly, as per the recommendation of FAC in its meeting dated 23.12.2021, the Ministry vide letter dated 02.02.2022 accorded approval for commencing Phase- II mining operation in the balance area i.e. 1136 ha of forest land with subject as under:

“Proposal for non-forestry use of 1898.328 ha of forest and (1654.109 ha of revenue forest land and 244.219 ha of notified forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), in Villages Parsa and Kete, Tehsil Udaipur, District Surguja, Chhattisgarh- grant of permission for mining over Phase-II area-reg.”

- (vii) Now, the State Government vide their letter no. Bhu-Praband/Khanij/331-45/2025 dated 16.08.2024 has requested to issue a corrigendum with regard to the letter dated 02.02.2022 and mention the bifurcation of the forest area as “**1654.109 ha of forest land and 244.219 ha of notified Revenue forest land**” instead of “1654.109 ha of revenue forest land and 244.219 ha of notified forest land”.
- (viii) The Committee observed that the as per the proposal submitted by the State Govt. vide letter dated 28.04.2010 the bifurcation of the forest area has been given as “1654.109 ha Protected Forest land and 244.219 ha Revenue Forest land” and the correction in the letter dated 02.02.2022 can be made accordingly.

5. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with AIGF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided that necessary correction in the bifurcation of the forest area into Protected Forest and Revenue forest in the letter dated 02.02.2022 is required to be done and recommended as under:

In the Ministry's letter No. 8-31/2010-FC dated 02.02.2022, the subject of the said letter i.e.

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 1898.328 ha of forest and (1654.109 ha of revenue forest land and 244.219 ha of notified forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), in Villages Parsa and Kete, Tehsil Udaipur, District Surguja, Chhattisgarh- grant of permission for mining over Phase-II area- reg.

Be read as

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 1898.328 ha of forest land (1654.109 ha of Protected Forest land and 244.219 ha of Revenue Forest land) in favour of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), in Villages Parsa and Kete, Tehsil Udaipur, District Surguja, Chhattisgarh- grant of permission for mining over Phase-II area- reg.

Further, the breakup of 1898.328 forest land in the main part of the letter dated 02.02.2022 be also read as “1654.109 ha of Protected Forest land and 244.219 ha of Revenue Forest land.”

Agenda No. 4

File No. 8-02/2022-FC

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Mizoram for non-forestry use of 63.441 ha Reserved forest land for construction of National Institute of Technology in Aizawl District in the State of Mizoram (Online Proposal No FP/MZ/SCH/148602/2021)- regarding.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer, Government of Mizoram attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The instant proposal was placed before Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.08.2024. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong, Nodal Officer, Mizoram and Mizoram State Government officials. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong and Nodal Officer, State of Mizoram, the Committee decided that:
 - a. A Committee comprising of Shri Manoj Pant, Member Advisory Committee, the Additional Director General Forest (FC) and DDGF (C), Regional Office or her representative, Shillong shall visit the proposed area and submit report along with specific recommendation on the request of the State Government regarding relaxation of Penal CA and Penal NPV provisions levied by the Ministry vide Stage-I approval dated 07.06.2023.
 - b. The Nodal Officer of Mizoram will assist the committee and will be present at the time of visit and provide details related to proposal.
 - ii. As per above decision of the Committee, a Sub-committee visited the site from 02.10.2024 to 03.10.2024 and submitted its report to the Ministry on 9.10.2024.
 - A. The member of the Sub-Committee briefed the Advisory Committee about their observation, discussions held during and after the site visit and

recommendations made in the report. The Committee, after examination of the report and recommendations made by the Sub-Committee observed the following:

- i. The instant project proposal is for a Government educational institute, which is a non-profit entity.
- ii. From the sequence of events as explained earlier, it does not appear that there was any intention of violating any provision of the FCA 1980.
- iii. The State Government maintains a high percentage of forest cover, which is in fact the highest amongst all the states of the country.
- iv. There are significant areas under non-forest category, which have good forest cover.
- v. The actual area which was brought under non-forestry activity is 17.209 ha. The Penal NPV and PCA should be calculated based on this figure.
- vi. As of now, the Penal NPV has been imposed five times of the NPV for the area under violation and PCA over degraded forest land (DFL), five times of the forest area under violation, which in the opinion of the sub-committee is apparently on the higher side.
- vii. Providing NFL with dense canopy density towards prescribed CA (alongwith exemption from paying cost of raising CA) is an environmentally positive action which should always be encouraged, notwithstanding the provisions of FC Rules as applicable. In fact, realizing its significance, in the new Rules provision has been made wherein, if NFL with vegetation cover of 0.4 or more canopy density is provided as CA land, same will be exempted from making payment for raising CA. This is also in tune with the spirit of Accredited Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) provision made in the same new Rules.
- viii. The Sub-Committee, based on its observations made during the site visit recommended to levy penal provisions in respect of forest land actually broken without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- ix. Considering all above discussions and observations made specifically in sub-para- 1 above, it is recommended that:
 - i. The quantum of penalty may not be reduced, however, same should be rationalized in the most pragmatic way, without compromising the conservation principles.
 - ii. Penal NPV should be levied, at the rate of five times of NPV over actual area under violation, i.e. 17.209 ha. However, the actual amount to be levied would be 20% of the amount calculated, the project being a Government entity, as per the extant provision.
 - iii. PCA shall be levied over five times of 17.209 ha of DFL. Alternatively, the State Government may pledge equal amount of NFL with vegetation cover of more than 0.4 canopy density. This would bring more area under the notified forest area network, thereby more area under scientific forest management.

- iv. The Government of Mizoram shall demarcate all the forest land in State to avoid similar complications in future. A time-bound action plan should be made, which will be submitted to MoEFCC.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal Officer, Government of Mizoram. After going through the facts of the proposal and inspection report of the Sub-committee, the Committee accepted the recommendations of the Sub-committee and recommended as under:
- (i) The quantum of penalty may not be reduced, however, same should be rationalized in the most pragmatic way, without compromising the conservation principles.
 - (ii) Penal NPV shall be levied, at the rate of five times of NPV over actual area under violation, i.e. 17.209 ha. However, the actual amount to be levied would be 20% of the amount calculated, the project being a Government entity, as per the extant provision, NPV shall be levied.
 - (iii) Penal CA shall be levied over five times of 17.209 ha of DFL. Alternatively, the State Government may pledge equal amount of NFL with vegetation cover of more than 0.4 canopy density. This would bring more area under the notified forest area network, thereby more area under scientific forest management.
 - (iv) The Government of Mizoram shall demarcate all the forest land in State to avoid similar complications in future. A time-bound action plan should be made, which will be submitted to MoEFCC.

Agenda No. 5

F. No. 8-27/2023-FC

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 338.74 ha of forest land for Coal Mining in Barjora (North) Coal Mine Block in favour of West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC), Bankura District, West Bengal (Online Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/43000/2019)-reg.

1. The agenda for above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. The Nodal Officer (FCA), West Bengal and DDGF (Central), Sub-office Kolkata under the jurisdiction of Regional Office, Bhubaneswar were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for consideration. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:

- i. The Committee noted that Government of West Bengal vide proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/43000/2019 uploaded the above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal on 17.10.2023 for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ii. Legal Status of forest land is Protected Forest and density of vegetation is 0.4 (Eco class 3) with total 67,755 nos. of project affected trees.
- iii. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 340.36 ha. Non-forest identified in 53 patches located under the Bankura, Medinipur, Birbhum, Alipurduar, Purulia & Jalpaiguri Districts of West Bengal. DFO concerned has given Site Suitability Certificate.
- iv. The state has informed that the proposed forest land is adjacent to the already mined out area in non-forest land. As reported by the State Govt. that the mining operation is continuing over the 260.14 ha non-forest land and coal stock over the non-forest land will be exhausted by December 2024. Therefore, new unbroken land as per approved mining plan is required for coal extraction to meet the coal demand for the Power Generation Plant of WBPDC.
- v. The Committee further noted that while recommending the proposal, the DFO has mentioned that Barjora North Coal Mine Project is situated in one of the rich biodiversity areas of Bankura North Division. It's a single patch of approximately 2900 hectares of forest out of which the proposed Forest area of size 338.74 ha. lies at the north western edge of the forest patch. The landscape is significant in terms of ecological functions being an important habitat for the Asian Elephants. The area is rich in biodiversity with the presence of Sal and associates. Enumeration exercise brought out a total of 67755 trees in the proposed forest area. Besides the trees, the area is rich in shrubs and climbers which are also utilized by the Asian Elephants. There is an existing open cast mine at the northern edge of the proposed site. In view of employment generation and energy security, the project assumes significance. However, the project will also have a detrimental impact on the ecology. In order to balance the trade-off between energy security and ecological security, safeguard measures need to be in place to ensure that both interests are secured in a sustainable manner. Hence the proposal submitted by the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited for the diversion of 338.74 Ha of forest land under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 may be recommended in the larger public interest with the following conditions:
 - a. Since the proposed area is part of the adjoining forest area, a 100 m strip of bio fencing with high density plantation needs to be taken up to ensure that the impact of open cast mining on adjoining forest is minimized.
 - b. The advent of open cast mining would involve breaking up of land and removal of topsoil which might increase the vulnerability of the forest patch to soil erosion. Hence a Comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan should be prepared and implemented to ensure that the damage to remaining habitat is minimized.

- c. The proposed area is rich in terms of biodiversity especially floral diversity. The area is rich in trees, shrubs and climbers. An effort must be made to preserve the germplasm of the proposed site by developing similar micro habitats in other forest areas of South Bengal. The same may be incorporated in a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.
 - d. Advent of open cast mining will affect the existing habitat of elephants - through reduction of habitat size and consequent disturbance to adjoining forest due to mining activity. Hence adequate measures are required in a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan in order to safeguard the remaining habitat in Barjora, to develop similar habitats in South Bengal and to take measures to mitigate Human-Elephant Conflict.
 - e. Since the area is densely populated, adequate protection measures need to be in place to minimize Human-Elephant Conflict throughout the route of Elephants. These measures can be Elephant Proof Trenches, Energized Fencing, Watchtowers, Engagement of Rapid Response Teams, Elephant Trackers, Vehicles for quick response etc. The same should be incorporated in a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.
 - f. Livelihoods invariably get affected in Elephant affected villages- through crop & hut damage and restriction on movement. Livelihood security measures need to be in place in the form of compensation, crop support, solar lights, watchtowers and engagement of villagers as watchers. The same should be incorporated in a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.
- vi. Further, the concerned CCF while recommending the proposal has mentioned that the Divisional Forest Officer has enumerated the floral diversity. The area adjoining to this forest cover was being used by Asian Elephants. By looking at the energy security of our nation on one side and the importance of conservation of precious biodiversity of our forest on other side, this case is being recommended with following prerequisites namely:
- a. The boundary line area between the proposed land to be transferred and the remaining forests should be covered with multi-layered fencing @ Energy fencing; Elephant proof trenches; patrolling path along with few watch towers at strategic locations; few layers of special plantation along the boundary areas; electric line (electrification), a Taskforce to guard the mining area @ 24x7 to avoid any undue incidence both for human being and wildlife are most important.
 - b. A comprehensive Biodiversity conservation plan to conserve the native fauna and flora of this area, which may be replicated in any suitable place at similar soil and forests area of south Bengal.
 - c. A scientific soil-moisture conservation plan is found to be essential at the adjoining forest cover to safeguard the local flora and fauna.
 - d. A long-term comprehensive wildlife conservator plan for the adjoining forest cover will take care of any human –wildlife conflict shortly.
 - e. Essential livelihood and support activities for the adjoining local inhabitants including Forest Protection committees, Forest Fringe population and forest –dependent dwellers will bring more peace and stability to the local area.

Feb' 23	29	65	12	187 4	00	00	28	16	00	00	2024
Total no. of elephant presence days in this Division upto 28.02.2023,during F.Y-2022-23											7023

Total Elephant Presence Days (EPD) & their number			
Month	Number of elephant stay days in Division	Number of elephant (in Nos)	Remarks
Feb'23	28	72-74	

- ix. The Committee further, noted that the CWLW has recommended the proposal and inter-alia mentioned that:
- a. The forest land proposed for diversion is not part of recognized elephant corridor. It is also not a passage that is used by elephants for accessing the river Damodar. The entry and exit to the Barjora elephant micro-habitat also lies on the opposite side of the proposed mining land. Thus, the proposed land diversion is not expected to impact established elephant migration route. T
 - b. here was no human death within five (5) kilometre radius from the proposed mining site in Barjora in last 3 years and the compensation paid against crop damage is a modest sum of ₹1.40,160/-. The compensation/ ex-gratia amount of ₹90.96 lakhs mentioned by the Nodal Officer, FCA is the accumulated dues for three years (2020-21. 2021-22 and 2022-23) for the entire Bankura (North) Division. The above account gives correct picture of the human-elephant conflict in the immediate vicinity of the proposed mining site.
 - c. The proposed site identified for diversion is part of the Barjora elephant habitat, but it lies at the norther-most edge of the habitat abutting the existing mining site. Citing empirical evidence, the DFO and CCF commented that the elephants are occupying the Barjora micro-habitat irrespective of ongoing mining operations. The land proposed for diversion supports a vegetation whose species composition is typical of Bankura (North) Division except for higher abundance of Mohul and Pial, (two elephant fodder species). The forest land falls in Overlapping Wildlife Management Working Circle.
 - d. In the recent years, there is a tendency of elephant herds staying longer period of time in Jhargram and Medinipur compared to Bankura (North).
 - e. Considering the above, it is estimated that the impact of the proposed project could be kept at a manageable level using extraction technology that does not require blasting and adopting the safeguards proposed by Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura (N) Division and Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Circle. The Proposal, therefore, is recommended
- x. Further, the committee noted that the State Government recommended the project subject to the following safeguards:
- a. Formulation of a comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan detailing the best practices to be adopted / implemented for the management of the Barjora micro- habitat.

- b. Formulation of a comprehensive Soil Moisture Conservation Plan for overall stability of the forest landscape from erosion and for augmenting the water resources in the area.
 - c. Ensuring minimalistic change in the natural drainage system within the proposed forest diversion area.
 - d. Maintaining international standards of coal extraction and following all the environmental norms as maybe specified for this project.
 - e. Maintaining safety zone of buffer zone around the mine area, as per norms.
 - f. Abiding by all such conditions as may be imposed for the reforestation and afforestation efforts for the overall forest ecosystem in the area post-mining.
- xi. Further, the committee noted that during the examination of the proposal in the Ministry, following observation were made to the State and the same has been replied by the State Govt. as per the details given below:
- xii. Further, the committee noted that the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has carried out the site inspection report in this proposal. During the examination of the SIR it has been observed that the clear recommendation of the DDGF (Central) has not been provided. However, they have mentioned that proposal may be considered subject to following conditions:
- a. The instant proposal is for diversion of 338.74 ha of forest land for coal mining in Barjora North Coal Mine Block in Bankura District of West Bengal by West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. The legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
 - b. The forest is Dry Deciduous Sal forests. The species enumerated for felling are Sal, Mahua, Pipal, Acacia and Eucalyptus. Total 67,755 nos. of trees enumerated to be felled. Out of which about 64,033 nos. (94% of total enumerated) of trees are less than 60 cm girth. Trees should be felled in a phased manner and when it is absolutely required to remove to minimize the adverse impact on the eco-system.
 - c. It is reported that adjoining forest patch of Barjora has been utilized by the herd of Asian Elephants. The forest patch of Barjora is the terminal point of the migration route of Elephant and the proposed site of forest land is at north-western edge of the Barjora Forest Patch. The forest land proposed for diversion is not part of any recognized elephant corridor. The CWLW, West Bengal has recommended the proposal with the observation that "Considering the above, it is estimated that the impact of the proposed project could be kept at a manageable level using extraction technology that does not require blasting and adopting the safeguards proposed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura (N) Division and Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Circle. The proposal therefore is recommended". To mitigate the impact of mining on wildlife available in the area, the State Govt. should implement Wildlife

- Conservation Plan duly approved by CWLW, West Bengal at the project cost.
- d. The "Tartora Nala" flows from west to east of the proposed mine boundary and needs to be diverted as per the approved Mining Plan. As per approved Mining Plan, total length of the diverted nalla will be 6.30 Km and based on the present flow, width and depth of the nala has been considered as 3 meter and 2.5 mter respectively. So, safety zone with plantation of at least 50 meter width may be maintained along the lease boundary close to nala. Efforts should be made to ensure that no discharge leads to the Tartora nalla from the mining lease area by constructing embankment towards the lease boundary of the river.
 - e. Soil and moisture conservation measures may be done in forest landscape to check soil erosion and for recharging of ground water.
 - f. The reclamation of mined out area will be undertaken as per the approved Progressive Mine Closure Plan. As reported by the inspecting officer, the previous allottee (DVC-EMTA) has already completed Rehabilitation and Resettlement as per the approved plan. No shifting of person is involved in the present revised Mining Plan.
 - g. Since, the proposed forest land is part of the elephant micro-habitat, a proper bio-fencing need to be installed to prevent entrance of migrated Asian Elephants into mining lease area. Also during mining of the adjacent to the forest boundary, advanced technology should be adopted for blasting to minimize vibrations.
 - h. Total 338.84 ha of non-forest land has been identified compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of 338.74 ha of forest land. Approximately, 30 ha of the non-forest land proposed for CA is adjacent to the forest boundary. As reported, identified non-forest land is suitable for plantation.
- xiii. The committee observed that the PCCF(HoFF) has recommended the proposal however, his report is silent on the concerns raised by the Nodal Officer in recommendations. The details in this regard are required to be sought from the PCCF(HoFF).
- xiv. The Committee also observed that Barjora (North) Coal Block was earlier allocated to M/s DVC EMTA Coal Mines Ltd. Mining activity in Non-forest land of the block started in Jan, 2011 and production of coal continued till 31 March, 2015. Thereafter by order of Hon'ble Supreme Court the Coal Block was de-allocated and reallocated by GoI to WBPDCCL vide letter no: 103/07/2015/NA dated 31.03.2015 as per Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 with a provision of end use of coal for its Power Plants situated in West Bengal. After reallocation of Coal Block, WBPDCCL has obtained necessary approvals and started mining operation in 260.14 Ha in Non-Forest land. Mining Lease obtained by DVC EMTA has been transferred in favour of WBPDCCL by GoI.

- xv. The Committee observed that the CWLW while recommending the proposal has mentioned that the impact of the proposed project could be kept at manageable level using extraction technology that does not require blasting. In this regard, the state may intimate whether the mining is proposed to be done with the extraction technology without blasting or otherwise.
 - xvi. The Committee observed that the compensatory afforestation has been proposed over non-forest land. The regional Office in the SIR has reported that about 169.41 ha area in Jalpaiguri district is in the riverine area of Teesta river. The suitability of the same has to be ensured. Further, it has been informed that during site inspection, only some of the areas proposed for CA in Bankura District were physically inspected. The Regional Office needs to inspect the remaining areas proposed for CA and ensure their suitability. A detailed report in this regard is required from the Regional Office.
 - xvii. The Committee observed that a brief profile of the lessee/company should be submitted giving details of their existing mining leases for coal in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land where mining is completed. Along with this, the State Government should also submit the details of all other coal-mining leases with their capacity and average annual production and projected future requirements. They should fully justify the necessity of opening the proposed mining lease on forest land by giving details like total number of mines with mining lease area, mineable reserve, life of mine, maximum production achieved in particular year against permission granted for production per year" This may be added if deemed fit.
 - xviii. The "Tartora Nala" flows from west to east of the proposed mine boundary and needs to be diverted as per the approved Mining Plan. A justification for the diversion of the Nala needs to be submitted. The state shall examine the same and give a reasoned justification as to why the diversion of nala is essential and why it is not possible to retain the nala within the mining lease with a safety zone along the nala.
4. **Decision of Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DIGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer, Government of West Bengal decided to defer the proposal for want of the following information:
- i. The CWLW while recommending the proposal has mentioned that the impact of the proposed project could be kept at manageable level using extraction technology that does not require blasting. In this regard, the state shall intimate whether the mining is proposed to be done with the extraction technology without blasting or otherwise.
 - ii. A brief profile of the company/UA should be submitted giving details of their existing mining leases for coal in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land where mining is completed. Along with this, the State Government should also submit the

details of all other coal-mining leases with their capacity and average annual production and projected future requirements. They should fully justify the necessity of opening the proposed mining lease on forest land by giving details like total number of mines with mining lease area, mineable reserve, life of mine, maximum production achieved in particular year against permission granted for production per year" This may be added if deemed fit.

- iii. The "Tartora Nala" flows from west to east of the proposed mine boundary and needs to be diverted as per the approved Mining Plan. A justification for the diversion of the Nala needs to be submitted. The state shall examine the matter and give a reasoned justification as to why the diversion of nala is essential and why it is not possible to retain the nala within the mining lease with a safety zone along the nala. The State Govt. shall submit no objection certificate from irrigation/water resource department with regard to the proposed diversion of the said nala.
- iv. The PCCF(HoFF) has recommended the proposal, however, keeping in view the fact that the area proposed is in high conservation zone and part of a landscape which is an elephant habitat, an indepth analysis of the issue is needed, especially in view of the concerns raised by the Nodal Officer. The PCCF(HOFF) shall therefore submit his clear recommendations duly addressing the specific concerns raised by the Nodal Officer.
- v. The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over non-forest land. The regional Office in the SIR has reported that about 169.41 ha area in Jalpaiguri district is in the riverine area of Teesta river. The suitability of the same has to be ensured. Further, it has been informed that during site inspection, only some of the areas proposed for CA in Bankura Distrcit were physically inspected. The Regional Office needs to inspect the remaining areas proposed for CA and ensure their suitability. A detailed report in this regard is required from the Regional Office.
- vi. The State Government shall submit the information on the above-mentioned points to the Ministry along with a copy to the Regional Office. The Regional Office shall examine the same and keeping in view the recommendations of the Nodal Officer, West Bengal and the Regional Office shall submit its recommendations on the proposal to the Ministry.

Additional Agenda No. 1

File No. 8-94/2013FCVOL.I

Sub: Proposal for change in CA site : Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO Ltd.) (A Govt. of India Enterprises) for non-forestry use of 59.90 ha. of forest land for implementation of 240 (MW) Heo Hydro Electric Project in Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/3548/2012)- regarding.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 19.11.2013 submitted the extant proposal seeking prior approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. In-principle approval was granted by the Ministry on 27.10.2015 subject to certain conditions prescribed therein.
 - iii. Subsequently, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide letter dated 21.11.2018 submitted a proposal for seeking re-appropriation of already approved 0.6 ha land and diversion of 4.2 ha of additional forest land. Said proposal for additional area was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 22.05.2019 and 11.06.2020 and based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Ministry vide letter dated 26.07.2020 granted 'in-principle' approval for additional area of 4.2 ha.
 - iv. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 22.09.2020 also forwarded a representation of user agency for extension of 'in-principle' approval for a period of 2 years to enable them to complete compliance of in-principle approval and its submission for final approval.
 - v. In the meantime, the proposal was transferred from M/s Heo Hydro Power Private Limited (original User Agency) to M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO Ltd.). Accordingly, based on a request received from the State, in-principle approval was transferred by the MoEF&CC in favour of M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO Ltd.) vide letter dated 31.01.2024.
 - vi. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 03.07.2024 and 11.09.2024 submitted a report on compliance to conditions stipulated in the in-principle. From the examination of the compliance report it was revealed that CA site has been changed by the State Government. Accordingly information on various attributes of changed CA sites was requested from the State Government by the Ministry on 20.08.2024.
 - vii. The State Government in its reply dated 11.09.2024 has submitted the information on the various attributes related to compensatory afforestation proposed on a new site.
 - viii. Examination of CA site using DSS revealed the same as suitable for raising compensatory afforestation.

- ix. The State Government in its letter dated 11.09.2024 has also submitted the reasons and justification for delay in the submission of the compliance report beyond the stipulated period of 5 years, as was stipulated in the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003. In its justification, the State Government has mentioned that delay occurred due to delay in land acquisition for road and power evacuation. The Committee considered the same and opined that detailed justification supported with valid and cogent reasons needs to be provided by the State.
- x. As in-principle approval was accorded on 27.10.2015, compliance of FRA, 2006 is mandatory as per Rule 16 (8) (i) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approvals.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended the following:
- i. The Central Government may accept the proposal of the State for change in the site of compensatory afforestation over an area of 114.40 ha of degraded forest land in Jorji-Takke-Pujo RF.
 - ii. The State Government shall submit detailed justification supported with valid and cogent reasons, along with a request for condonation of delay for submission of compliance report within the stipulated period.
 - iii. The State Government shall submit complete compliance of FRA, 2006 before Stage- II approval in accordance with the condition of the in-principle approval dated 26.07.2020.

Additional Agenda No. 2

File No. 8-102/2013FC

Sub: Proposal for change in CA site : 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. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO Ltd.) (A Govt. of India Enterprises) for non-forestry use of of 52.8 ha of forest land (surface forest land- 47.7 ha, river-bed- 2.3 ha & underground area-2.8 ha) for construction of Tato-I HEP (186 MW) in Shi-Yomi District earlier in West Sian District of Arunachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/AR/HYD/3580/2012)- regarding.

1. The above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis.

Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
 - i. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 19.11.2013 submitted the extant proposal seeking prior approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
 - ii. In-principle approval was granted by the Ministry on 27.10.2015 subject to certain conditions prescribed therein.
 - iii. Subsequently, on the request of the State Government, the Ministry vide letter dated 26.07.2020 granted re-appropriation in quarries and there is no change in the proposed area for instant proposal.
 - iv. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 22.09.2020 also forwarded a representation of user agency for extension of 'in-principle' approval for a period of 2 years to enable them to complete compliance of in-principle approval and its submission for final approval.
 - v. In the meantime, the proposal was transferred from M/s. Siyota Hydro Power Private Limited (original User Agency) to M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO Ltd.). Accordingly, based on a request received from the State, in-principle approval was transferred by the MoEF&CC in favour of M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO Ltd.) vide letter dated 31.01.2024.
 - vi. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter dated 03.07.2024 and 11.09.2024 submitted a report on compliance to conditions stipulated in the in-principle. From the examination of the compliance report it was revealed that CA site has been changed by the State Government. Accordingly information on various attributes of changed CA sites was requested from the State Government by the Ministry on 20.08.2024.
 - vii. The State Government in its reply dated 11.09.2024 has submitted the information on the various attributes related to compensatory afforestation proposed on a new site.
 - viii. Examination of CA site using DSS revealed the same as suitable for raising compensatory afforestation. Examination of compensatory levies deposited for raising CA revealed that against the total cost of ₹3,76,03,300/- estimated for the implementation of the CA scheme, an amount of ₹3,65,05,500/- has been deposited by the user agency. The differential amount of ₹10,97,800/- also needs to be deposited by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
 - ix. The State Government in its letter dated 11.09.2024 has also submitted the reasons and justification for delay in the submission of the compliance report beyond the stipulated period of 5 years, as was stipulated in the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003. In its justification, the State Government has mentioned that delay occurred due to delay in land acquisition for road and power evacuation. The Committee considered the same and opined that detailed justification supported with valid and cogent reasons needs to be provided by the State.

- x. As in-principle approval was accorded on 27.10.2015, compliance of FRA, 2006 is mandatory as per Rule 16 (8) (i) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided as under:
- i. The Central Government may accept the proposal of the State for change in the site of compensatory afforestation over an area of 100 ha of degraded forest land in Jorji-Takke-Pujo RF.
 - ii. The State Government shall submit detailed justification supported with valid and cogent reasons, along with a request for condonation of delay for submission of compliance report within the stipulated period.
 - iii. Against the total cost of ₹3,76,03,300/- estimated for the implementation of the CA scheme, an amount of ₹3,65,05,500/- has been deposited by the user agency. The differential amount of ₹10,97,800/- also needs to be deposited by the user agency into the account of CAMPA.
 - iv. The State Government shall submit complete compliance of FRA, 2006 before Stage- II approval in accordance with the condition of the in-principle approval dated 26.07.2020.

Policy Issue

Agenda No. 1

Sub: Extension of dispensation of one year Working Permission granted to Category C mines to Category A and B Mines in the State of Karnataka – reg. (F. No. 11/76/2023-FC)

1. The policy agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The DDGF (Central), from various Regional Officers, and Nodal Officers of the States also attended the meeting.
2. The Member Secretary briefed the Advisory Committee about the issue and development took place in the matter.
3. The Advisory Committee, after deliberations noted the following:
 - i. The matter was earlier considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 23.09.2024 wherein the Committee desired that provisions of para 7.4(iv)(e) of the Consolidated Guidelines may be examined by the Forest Conservation Division in light of the provisions of section 8B(2) of the MMDR

- Act and detail outcome of the same may be placed before the Advisory Committee in its forthcoming meeting.
- ii. The Forest Conservation Division examined the matter wherein the following was observed:
- (a) The section 8B was inserted in the principal Act i.e. the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957 in 2021 by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021. The section 8B provided for transfer of statutory approvals granted to erstwhile lessee to successful bidder after action of these mines.
 - (b) As per the provisions of the section 8B, all statutory approvals available with the erstwhile lessee were regarded as valid and transferrable to the successful bidder. The successful bidder can continue the mining operations in the already broken up area in accordance with the sub-section (2) of section 8B which provided that *"...Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, it shall be lawful for the new lessee to continue mining operations on the land till expiry or termination of mining lease granted to it, in which mining operations were being carried out by the previous lessee."*
 - (c) To align the provisions of approvals granted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, the MoEF&CC on 7.07.2021 issued guidelines allowing State Governments to transfer approval to successful bidder granted under the Adhinyam to erstwhile lessee. Said approval of the Central Government was subject to certain condition which inter-alia included compliance of compensatory afforestation and NPV before handing over the land to the new lessee, if the same was not earlier. Said provisions of the Guidelines have been incorporated as para 7.4(iv)(e) of the Consolidated Guidelines. Further, para 7.4(iv)(d) of the guidelines specifies that mining operations shall be restricted in the forest area for which approval under section 2(1)(ii) has been obtained by the erstwhile agency.
 - (d) Although the provisions of section 8B(2) of MMDR Act, 1957 held it lawful for the new lessee to continue mining operations in the land in which mining operations were being carried out by the previous lessee, the operation of para 7.4(iv)(e) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 i.e. non-compliance of conditions of FC did not allow the new lessee to commence mining operations. Subsequently, taking note of reports of State regarding non-compliance of the conditions of approval by the erstwhile lessee/State Government, the Ministry vide guidelines dated 21.09.2023, incorporated at para 7.4(vi)(b) of the Consolidated Guidelines, provided provisions of Working Permission for a period of one year to enable the successful bidder of Category 'C' to comply with the shortfall of compliance of approval.
 - (e) The provisions of Working Permissions for Category 'C' mines, were considered by the MoEF&CC in accordance with the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 31.07.2015 wherein the

Hon'ble Apex Court has inter-alia directed that *"..The existing statutory approvals/clearances in favour of the lessee of the erstwhile Category 'C' mining leases will be transferred in favour of the new lessees. The concerned authority will take expeditious action for the grant of the statutory approvals such as the environmental clearance and approval/TWP under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.."*. Further Member Secretary clarified that, Hon'ble Supreme Court in their order dated 4.08.2006, has allowed one year of working permission in ongoing mining leases and provisions of section 8B(2) of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2021 also made it lawful for the new lessee to continue mining operations in which earlier lessee was carrying out mining operations, which was considered and recommended by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 11.09.2023 and subsequently incorporated at para 7.4(vi)(b) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2023 for its use in future. Therefore, in line with the said provisions working permission of only one year were considered for these mines.

- (f) Category A & B mines, which were allowed to continue by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, after expiry of the terms of validity of lease under the MMDR Act, 1957 were granted to successful bidder. However, at the time of transfer of approval in accordance with the guidelines given under para 7.4(iv)(e), the new lessee could not commence the mining operations. Accordingly, the State Government of Karnataka, keeping in view the less degree of violations in these Category A&B mines, has requested to extend the dispensation of para 7.4(vi)(b) of the Consolidated Guidelines i.e. working permission not exceeding one year to enable the new lessee to comply with the conditions stipulated in the FC approval. In case the agency fails to submit the complete compliance of conditions stipulated in the FC approval, the approval of the Central Government shall be deemed to be cancelled.
- iii. The working permission, as requested by the State Government, cannot be considered as a general policy. The approval for grant of working permission in respect of mining leases has always been granted at the level of Central Government only. Prior to the amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation Act, 1957 in the year 2015, during renewal of the mining leases, the working permission used to be given in accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 4.08.2006, to the lessee in case his application of renewal is delayed at State level due to various reasons. However, as the concept of renewal has been done away with now, therefore, there is seems to be no requirement of formulating any policy on the grant of working permission to such leases.
- iv. The Central Government has allowed the State Government to transfer the approval subject to compliance of all conditions stipulated in the approval granted under the Adhinyam. Non-compliance, if any, is also to be ensured by the State Government before handing over the land to the user agency. However, the cases to which the State Government considers as exceptional, the same may be forwarded to the Central Government for taking further view in the matter.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** After detailed deliberations with the Nodal Officer and Regional Offices, the Advisory Committee observed that given the various initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to streamlining and authorising the States to transfer approvals granted to erstwhile lessee to new lessee, there is no requirement of formulating a general policy of working permission. However, cases, where the State Government is of the view of allowing the new lessee to continue mining operations within the already broken up area for a limited period, may be forwarded to the Central Government, along with updated status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the granted under the Adhiniyam, for taking further view on such cases based on their merit.

Agenda No. 2

Sub: Clarification on the commencement of the period for starting the mining operations in respect of Category C mines in the State of Karnataka - reg. (F. No. 11/136/2021-FC)

1. The policy agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 14.10.2024. The DDGF (Central), from various Regional Officers, and Nodal Officers of the States also attended the meeting.
2. The Member Secretary briefed the Advisory Committee about the issue and development took place in the matter.
3. The Advisory Committee, after deliberations noted that issue was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 23.09.2024 wherein the Advisory Committee observed as under:
 - i. The State Government of Karnataka has referred the 4 cases pertaining to M/s MSPL (3 cases – Category C mines) and M/s Gavisiddeshwara (one case- Category A mines) seeking clarification on the commencement of the period of one year of working permission in such cases.
 - ii. The Central Government, in accordance with the provisions of guidelines, given under para 7.4(vi)(d) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, inter-alia provided the provisions of granting working permission not exceeding one year to enable the agency to comply with the unfulfilled condition of approval granted to erstwhile agency in respect of Category C mines.
 - iii. The cases of M/s MSPL, pertaining to category C mines were granted working permission by the Central Government under the provisions of above guidelines. The lease of M/s Gavisiddeshwara, pertaining to Category 'A' mines, wherein the compliance of CA remained unfulfilled due to the fault of State machineries, was also considered as a special case, and was also granted working permission for a period of one year.

- iv. On the basis of working permission granted by the Central Government, the State Government followed by the State Forest Department granted working permission. However, due to various reasons, the working permissions in these cases, was granted by the State Government or authorities of the Forest Department, after a gap ranging from 3 to 9 months, thereby delaying the mining operations and reducing the working permission time, which otherwise would have continued for one year.
 - v. The Advisory Committee, after thorough deliberations, recommended that given the provisions of para 7.4(vi)(d) of the Consolidated Guidelines, the period of working permission cannot be extended beyond a period of one year by the Central Government. The Committee also recommended that as and when request seeking clarification on the commencement of working permission is received from the State, the same may be dealt with by the Central Government on its merit on case to case basis and keeping in view the reasons behind extension of working condition sought and role of UA and State government in them.
4. The State Government vide their letter dated 24.09.2024 has submitted its view stating that the State Government agrees with the opinion of the PCCF & Nodal Officer. The PCCF (HoFF) Officer in his letters dated 24.09.2024 has opined that *the point from which working permission of one year is computed needs to be the date from on which the Working Permission has been issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests. Working Permission should have the effect of providing the User Agency to work in the mine.*
5. The Committee, after detailed deliberations on the recommendations made by the State Government observed as under:
 - (i) The Central Government, after analysing the request fo the State Government and peculiar situation where user agency was not at fault, granted working permission were granted for a period of one year enabling the agency to comply with the working permission.
 - (ii) Keeping in view the fault of the State authorities in respect of complete compliance of CA land, the State Government should have acted promptly to ensure that benefits of the working permission granted by the Central Government can be utilized to maximum extent by the user agency. However, the State Government delayed the issuance of working permission order thereby reducing the time of working permission available for mining.
 - (iii) As the working permission was granted by the Central Government, therefore, period of working permission should commence from the date of issue of order by the Central Government and not by the date of orders issued by the State authorities.
 - (iv) As regards to extension of working permission, the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 24.09.2024 recommended that the period of working permission cannot be extended beyond a period of one year by the Central

Government. Therefore, the State Government needs to expedite the compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to the erstwhile agency.

6. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** After detailed deliberations with the Nodal Officer and Regional Offices, the Advisory Committee, recommended the following:
- (i) As regards to extension of working permission beyond one year, re-iterated its decision made in its last meeting held on 24.09.2024 on the period of working permission cannot be extended beyond a period of one year by the Central Government. Therefore, the State Government needs to expedite the compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to the erstwhile agency and after completion of the compliance of conditions, the land may be handed over to the user agency to commence mining operations.
 - (ii) Special provisions of working permission were introduced to enable the new user agency to complete the compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval. As the working permission was granted by the Central Government, the period of working permission should commence from the date of issue of order by the Central Government and not by the date of orders issued by the State authorities.

(Not present)

Dr. Naveen Chandra Bisht
(non-official Member)

(confirmed through e-mail)

Shri S. D. Vora
(non-official Member)

(confirmed through e-mail)

Shri Manoj Pant
(non-official Member)

(confirmed through e-mail)

Dr. Mehraj Sheikh
Deputy Commissioner (NRM)
(Member)

(Not present)

Shri Sushil Awasthi
Additional Director General of Forests
(WL)
(Member)

(confirmed through e-mail)

Shri Anjan Kumar Mohanty
Additional Director General of Forests (FC)
(Member)

(Confirmed)

Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey
Inspector General of Forests
(Member Secretary)

(Approved)

Shri Jitendra Kumar
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)

(Chairperson)