

File No. 8-64/1993-FC(Vol.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: As per e-Sign

To

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

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 65.52 ha of forest land for expansion of Surda Copper Underground Mine project in favour of M/s Hindustan Copper Limited in Singhbhum district, Jharkhand – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-15/2023-3696-A/V.P. dated 29.09.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and with due approval of the competent authority, the Central Government hereby accords "*In-principle/Stage-I*" approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 65.52 ha of forest land for expansion of Surda Copper Underground Mine project in favour of M/s Hindustan Copper Limited in Singhbhum district, Jharkhand subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the guidelines in the matter;
3. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
4. *The Integrated Wildlife Management Plan approved by the PCCF(Wildlife)/CWLW shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.*
5. *The State of Jharkhand shall reconcile the penal CA amount deposited by*

the user agency with the state of Bihar. The steps for completion of penal CA shall be taken in case the same has not yet been done by the State of Bihar. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted;

6. The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion in the e-Green watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;
7. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through **e-portal** (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>); Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
8. The user agency will protect and demarcate the diverted forest land on surface, in consultation with State Forest Department by construction of a stone wall/trench/barbed wire fencing with angle iron and will maintain the fencing during entire period of life of the mine
9. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF&CC before Stage-II Clearance;
10. The surface area of diverted land for underground mining shall be Rehabilitated and enriched by using indigenous species with participation of local people at the project cost. The user agency shall prepare the plan for the purpose in consultation with state forest Dept.
11. The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF& CC before Stage-II approval;
12. The State Government and user agency shall monitor the mining induced subsidence and take appropriate mitigative measures to ensure that it remains within the permissible limit;
13. 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 Stage-I approval:
 - i. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved

- scheme;
- iv. 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 280; and
 15. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
 16. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concerned Regional Office may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
 17. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
 18. The surface area over the mine shall not be allowed to be used for construction of residential buildings or labour camps;
 19. The State Government shall ensure that green cover on the ground over the underground part of mine shall be maintained as forest and supplemented by plantations in gaps at the cost of user agency;
 20. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
 21. 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;
 22. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, 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;
 23. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
 24. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
 25. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
 26. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the 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;
 27. 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;
28. 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; and
 29. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry on dated 29.12.2023.

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

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, 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.