

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: November, 2023

To,

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of West Bengal,
Aranya Bhawan, Block LA-10A,
Sector-III, Salt Lake,
Kolkata- 700106

Subject: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Coal Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of West Bengal's letter No. 3391-FR/O/L/10T-1/2019 dated 20.10.2023 forwarding a reply on the observations of Advisory Committee with a request for re-consideration of the proposal as per clause 1.20 of the Handbook of the guidelines on FCA, 1980. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention here that based upon the recommendations of Advisory Committee the proposal stands rejected by the Central Government and the decision has been communicated to the State Govt. vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 17.08.2023. The user agency is at liberty to submit a "*complete proposal de-novo*", however the reply/compliance to the observations can not be considered as the complete *de-novo* proposal.

In view of the above, it is reiterated that Govt. of West Bengal may submit the complete proposal *de-novo* for consideration by the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Sub- Office of MoEF&CC, Kolkata
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF (HoFF), Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.

I/57298/2023

5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.