

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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: As per E-Sign**

To,

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

**Subject: 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 151.095 ha forest land including 142.075 ha forest land in Forest Compartment No. RF-827 & RF-828 of Burhar Range of South Shahdol Forest Division and 9.020 ha Revenue forest land under various Khasra's for Bikram Coal Block Open cast & underground Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s Birla Corporation Limited under Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/49537/2020) –regarding..**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) & Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/829/2021/10- 11/4243 dated 20.12.2021 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination and recommendation of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the aforesaid act and with due approval of the competent authority *Stage-I/In-principle* approval for the above mentioned proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 21.04.2022 read along with letter of even no. dated 21.09.2023 and letter of even no. dated 18.04.2024 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) & Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter no. F-1/829/2021/10-11/183 dated 15.01.2025 '**Stage-II/Final approval**' of the Central Government is hereby accorded under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 151.095 ha forest land including 142.075 ha forest land in Forest Compartment No. RF-827 & RF-828 of Burhar Range of South Shahdol Forest Division and 9.020 ha Revenue forest land under various Khasra's for Bikram Coal Block Open cast & underground Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s Birla Corporation Limited under Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be done over 114.412 ha non-forest land (*which have already been notified as forests under the relevant provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 by the State Government against this proposal vide Gazette notification no. 13187R-2134627/2024/10-3 dated 10.07.2024, Gazette notification no. 167/2196743/2024/10-3 dated 12.09.2024, Gazette notification no. PCCF/7/0060/2024-FLR-PCCF dated 27.09.2024 and Gazette notification no. PCCF/7/0060/2024-FLR-PCCF-Part (1) dated 14.11.2024*) within a period of two years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency. At least 1000 saplings per hectares shall be planted. If this is not possible to plant these many seedlings in the identified NFL, the balance seedlings will be planted in degraded forest land as per the prescriptions of the Working Plan at the cost of the User agency. In such case CA cost will be revised and duly approved by competent authority and deposited online in the CAF managed by CAMPA;
- iii. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency, as per the orders dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines given under para 3 of the Chapter -3 of the Consolidate Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 published by the Ministry on 29.12.2023, the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- iv. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- v. The user agency shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area, and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.;
- vi. The user agency shall ensure that the dumping of Over Burden (OB) shall be carried out as per the approved phased reclamation plan;
- vii. The State Government shall ensure that the biological rehabilitation works in the mined out areas and OB dumps be implemented and improved;
- viii. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [7.5 meters strip shall be kept within the mining lease boundary and area of the safety zone shall be part of the total area of mining lease] shall be done at the project cost within three years and maintained thereafter as per approved working plan of the State Govt.;
- ix. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department for the management of safety zone:
  - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its protection by erecting adequate number of 4 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed

- with DGPS coordinates and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
- b. In case of the mining leases adjoining the habitation stretch of the boundary of the safety zone of the lease adjacent to the habitation/roads should be properly fenced by the user agency at the project cost to protect the vegetation /regeneration activities in the safety zone.
  - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around the mining lease and to ensure dense canopy cover in the area, regeneration shall be taken in this area by the user agency at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
  - d. Afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the forest area under safety zone shall also be done by the user agency at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
  - e. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms.
- x. The following activities shall be undertaken by the user agency under supervision of the State Forest Department at the project cost:
    - a. Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams if available the vicinity of mining area shall be prepared and implemented.
    - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion.
    - c. Construction of check dams, retention toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour.
  - xi. 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 concern Dy. Director General (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
  - xii. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period coterminous with the period of the mining lease granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed thereunder;
  - xiii. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency implements the R&R Plan as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF &CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
  - xiv. 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;
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person;
  - xvi. Felling of tress on the forest land being diverted shall be reduced to the bare minimum and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  - xvii. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  - xviii. The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting tress are to be cleared in this project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
  - xix. 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;
  - xx. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
  - xxi. The layout plan of the mining plan/proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xxii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
  - xxiii. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
  - xxiv. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
  - xxv. The user agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March of every year regularly;
  - xxvi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
  - xxvii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the '*Stage-I/In-principle*' approval letter of even no. dated 21.04.2022 read along with letter of even no. dated 21.09.2023 and letter of even no. dated 18.04.2024 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
  - xxviii. As per Sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules,

2023 the State Govt. after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of forest land.

Signed by  
Dheeraj Mittal

Yours sincerely,

Date: 24-01-2025 16:34:36

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.