

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

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

To,

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

Subject: Proposal for non-forestry use of 331.198 ha of forest land in favour of M/s NTPC Limited for Pakribarwadih (North West) Opencast Coal Mining Project in West Forest Division, District Hazaribagh, Jharkhand State – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-10/2021-1664/V.P. dated 14.06.2022 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 *in-principle* approval for the above mentioned proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 26.05.2023 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Jharkhand vide letter No. Van Bhumi-10/2021-4871/V.P. dated 23.12.2024 and letter No. Van Bhumi-10/2021-1058/V.P. dated 20.03.2025, **Final approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 331.198 ha of forest land in favour of M/s NTPC Limited for Pakribarwadih (North West) Opencast Coal Mining Project in West Forest Division, District Hazaribagh, Jharkhand State subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that the team of specialists from field of

Soil Engg, Agriculture Engg, Hydrology, GIS & Geology constituted under chairpersonship of DFO concerned shall continuously study the area for assessing the impact of on-going mining on various environmental/ecological parameter and submit findings report to RO annually;

- iii. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the study of river-aquafer interaction using non-invasive geo-physical technique in 10 km radius of NTPC Pakribarwadih Coal mine site conducted to facilitate the delineation of groundwater potential zones, ground water variation in these zones and help in water budgeting to the surroundings;
- iv. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Reclamation, Eco-restoration, and Conservation Plan prepared by conducting proper study before initiating mining activities since the area is rich in species composition;
- v. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the Catchment Area Treatment Plan for the treatment of all Nallahs/streams pertaining to instant mining lease/project area;
- vi. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the integrated soil and water conservation plan for the entire landscape affected by the mining activities of the User agency in the region;
- vii. The State Government shall ensure that the mining in the area should be in consonance with the "Integrated Wildlife Management Plan" of North Karanpura;
- viii. As observed in the existing mine of NTPC Pakri Barwadih no amount of siltation dams could prevent the sediment deposition and choking of streams as overburden is dumped just adjacent to the nallahs/ streams. The Khorra nallah will largely be affected by the mining activities hence it should be protected by identifying and developing green belt of 100 metres on the side of Khorra nallah & Pakwa Nalas that is facing the mining area, to prevent further sedimentation and choking.
- ix. The User agency has submitted an undertaking that 100 mtrs green belt along that side of Khora Nala which is towards PBNW Mine will be maintained since commencement of mining activities till the condition no (ix) stipulated in the Stage-I FC is amended. In this regard it is clarified that the grant of final approval does not, in any manner, create any right or equity in favour of the user agency for mining activities in the green belt. The State/UA shall ensure complete compliance of the conditions of approval.
- x. The Compensatory afforestation over degraded forest, double in extent to the forest land being diverted, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost and the work of compensatory afforestation shall start within

three years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval. Further, the State shall ensure that the compensatory afforestation area is made free from of all encumbrances;

- xi. The compensatory afforestation scheme, as approved, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department. The CA will be maintained for 10 years and the CA scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- xii. 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;
- xiii. **Safety Zone Management:** Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at 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 area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department. Afforestation in the degraded forest land shall be done within two years from the date of 'final' diversion order and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department; and
 - e. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms.
- xiii. 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;

- xiv. The State Government shall ensure that trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
- xv. 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, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 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 Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
- xvi. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xvii. 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;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. 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;
- xx. 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;
- xxi. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxii. 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;
- xxiii. 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;

- xxiv. 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;
- xxv. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the '*in-principle*' approval letter of even no. dated 26.05.2023 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, for the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006;
- xxvi. 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.

Digitally signed by
Suneet Bhardwaj
Date: 07-04-2025
14:32:39

Yours sincerely,

(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, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.