

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: July, 2024**

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Chhattisgarh,  
Raipur

**Sub: 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 Prakash Industries Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 515.581 ha (201.806 ha for Underground mining) of forest land for Coal mining in Bhaskarpara Coal block under Surajpur District in the State of Chhattisgarh (Online Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/149564/2021)-regarding**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter No. F-5-01/2023/10-2 dated 13.03.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section- 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section- 3 of the said Act, '*in-principle*' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 21.08.2023 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter no. F 5-01/2023/10-2 dated 14.03.2024, letter No. Bhu-Praband/Khanij/331-306/1123 dated 03.05.2024, letter no. F 5-01/2023/10-2 dated 05.06.2024 and letter No. Bhu-Praband/Khanij/331-306/1440 dated 18.06.2024, *final/ Stage-II approval* of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 515.581 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Prakash Industries Pvt. Ltd. for Coal mining in Bhaskarpara Coal block under Surajpur District in the State of Chhattisgarh, subject to following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over already notified non-forest land i.e. 313.787 ha vide notification no. F 5-01/2023/10-2(Part-1) (**56.248 ha**) , F 5-01/2023/10-2(Part), F 5-01/2023/10-2(Part-2) (**83.454 ha**) and F 5-01/2023/10-2(Part-2) dated 24.04.2024 (**174.085 ha**) in lieu of the area proposed for open cast mining within three years from the date of issue of Stage- II approval and

maintained thereafter as per approved CA plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. Further, as far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;

- iii. ***The State Government shall ensure that stand alone patches of newly proposed CA sites i.e. 12.181 ha in Bokrel Village, Janjgir-Champa District and 3.010 ha in Sawni Village, Balrampur District will be fenced at the cost of User Agency;***
- iv. ***The State Government shall ensure that as in the part of Revenue Forest Land proposed to be diverted there are settlements of approximately 51 families and the user agency has given an undertaking that these families/people will also be resettled and will be included in part of R&R plan. The State Govt. shall ensure that 51 families are resettled as per R&R plan;***
- v. ***The State Govt. shall ensure that underground mining is not converted to open cast mining with regard to the instant proposal and no such proposal shall be considered in future;***
- vi. ***The State Government shall ensure that forest area earmarked for underground mining and to be kept as un-disturbed needs to be demarcated and appropriately protected by the user agency under the super vision of State Forest Department as per protection plan;***
- vii. ***State Govt. shall ensure that gap plantations in the forest area earmarked for underground mining and to be kept as un-disturbed is carried out as per the scheme;***
- viii. ***The State Government shall obtain an under taking before handing over of land from the User Agency stating that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined in future;***
- ix. ***The State Government shall ensure that process for settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has been completed as per Rule 11 (7) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023;***
- x. The State Government shall ensure that User Agency will 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;
- xi. 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;
- xii. Compensatory levies if so determined in future to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xiii. The State Government shall ensure that following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, is undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
  - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
  - b. 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;
- c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
  - d. 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 28°; and
  - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- xiv. 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 as per the plan;
  - xv. The State Government shall ensure that User Agency will regularly undertake desilting of existing village tanks and other water bodies located within five Km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies as per the plan;
  - xvi. The State Government shall ensure that Safety Zone Management activities is undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per para 7.9 of Chapter 7 of Handbook of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 issued in 2023;
  - xvii. The State Government shall ensure that site specific Wildlife Management Plan to mitigate the impact of project on wildlife of the area prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of State at the project cost is strictly implemented;
  - xviii. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
  - xix. 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;
  - xx. 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 Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
  - xxi. 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;
  - xxii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the

- provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xxiii. 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;
- xxiv. The State Government shall ensure that boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, is 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;
- xxv. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
- xxvi. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
- xxvii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxviii. 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 shall be carried with by the State Government and User Agency;
- xxix. 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;
- xxx. The State Government and User Agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 21.08.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, complete compliance of FRA, 2006 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; and
- xxxi. 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.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd-**  
**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Raipur.
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC.

