**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 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 36.734 ha of Reserved Forest land of Forest Survey No. RF-833, 834, Forest Range-Budhar, Division-Shahdol for Bangwar Underground Coal Mining in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Shahdol District in Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/29264/2017) – regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government ofMadhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/824/2021/10-11/1114 dated 25.03.2022 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was accorded '***In-Principle' (Stage-I)*** approval by the Central Government vide letter dated 19.02.2025. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported/submitted the compliance report vide letters dated 09.06.2025, 31.10.2025 and 28.11.2025 to the conditions stipulated in the 'In-Principle' approval and requested for grant of final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letters dated 09.06.2025, 31.10.2025 and 28.11.2025, Stage-II/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 36.734 ha of Reserved Forest land of Forest Survey No. RF-833, 834, Forest Range-Budhar, Division-Shahdol for Bangwar Underground Coal Mining in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Shahdol District in Madhya Pradesh State subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
ii. The State Government shall ensure that the comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)-cum- Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Madhya Pradesh shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency. The User

Agency shall pay the additional amount in this regard, if so determined;

iii. The State Government shall ensure that details of the finalized WLMP and disposition of monies, payment of deficit amount, etc. shall be approved by the competent authority and concurred by the concerned RO of the Ministry within a period of one year from the date of deposit of the said amount.

iv. The State Government shall ensure that under no circumstances, implementation of such mitigating measures envisaged in WLMP should be delayed beyond a period of 2 years from the date of issue of final approval under the Adhiniyam to ensure commencement of rejuvenation of ecosystem services lost from the forest area allowed for non-forestry use of forest land at the earliest possible time.

v. 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 or otherwise;

vi. 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;

vii. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area as per the detailed plan for life of the project as per mining plan, clearly linking the progress of mining and felling of the trees. Felling of trees shall be done, when it is absolutely necessary in phase-wise manner in the areas which become due for mining as per mining plan. 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, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 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 Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;

viii. The user agency shall surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with the plan prepared by the User Agency in this regard;

ix. The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;

x. 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 as applicable:

   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; and

d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms.

xi. 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:

a. 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 'Final' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme 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 Plan/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 Plan/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.

xii. The validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam shall be for a period co-terminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government;

xiii. The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval;

xiv. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;

xv. 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;

xvi. Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities;

xvii. The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department as per approved scheme;

xviii. The R&R Plan shall be implemented 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;

xix. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled;

xx. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;

xxi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

xxii. 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;

xxiii. 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;

xxiv. 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;

xxv. 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;

xxvi. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;

xxvii. The user agency shall comply with the provisions of 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;

xxviii. 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;

xxix. 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;

xxx. 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 consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry on dated 29.12.2023;

xxxi. The State Government after receiving the ‘Final Approval’ of the Central Government under subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of the all other acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes or Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act. 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed by
SUNEET BHARDWAJ
Date: 11-12-2025
13:37:36

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)
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, 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.