

F. No. 8-53/2003-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
F.C. Division

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 510.
Dated: 7th August 2008

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

Sub:- Diversion of 90.10 ha of forest land for Argada under ground Mining Project in favour of Central Coalfields Limited in district Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.

Sir,


I am directed to refer to the State Govt. letter no. Vanbhumi - 53 / 2003-1749 dated 05.04.2003 and subsequent letter no. Vanbhumi - 53 / 2003 - 6560 dated 16.12.2003 and Director (T) CCL's letter no. GM (E & F) : 2004 / 204 dated 18.02.2004 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, in-principle approval for the said Mining Lease was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 06.05.2004 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter no. Vanbhumi - 53 / 2003 / 6122 dated 28.11.2007, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 90.10 ha of forest land for Argada under ground Mining Project in favour of Central Coalfields Limited in district Hazaribagh, Jharkhand subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. a Compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
b Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area shall be done at the project cost. Besides this, 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.
c The user agency shall take up plantation over the surface area wherever the forest density is less than 0.4. Gap planting should be taken up in the areas where density is between 0.4 and 0.7. The user agency will protect the area till the life of the underground mining. Consultation with Forest Department.
3. Following activities shall be undertaken by the User Agency at the project cost:
 - (i) Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented.
 - (ii) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion.
 - (iii) Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour.

- (iv) The areas shall be reclaimed keeping in view the international practice of stabilizing the dumps by grading / benching so that angles of repose (normally less than 28 at any given place) are maintained.
- (v) The top soil management plan should be strictly adhered to.
- 4 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
 - 5 The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - 6 The user agency will make arrangement for free supply of coal to labourers and staff working on the project site so as to avoid any pressure on the adjacent forest areas.
 - 7 The period of permission for lease under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be for 20 years subject to possession of valid lease by User Agency under the MMDR Act, 1957.
 - 8 Demarcation of mining lease area will be done on the ground at project cost using 4' high stonewall fencing.
 - 9 The User Agency will implement the recommendations of the Subsidence Analysis Report at the project cost.
 - 10 The user agency shall undertake rehabilitation and afforestation of the used / mined out pits / voids as per plan for rehabilitation of abandoned mines in CCL command area under the supervision of the State Forest Department. The annual report about the progress of rehabilitation should be submitted to the CCF (Central), Bhubaneswar.
 - 11 Any other condition that the State Govt. or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may impose from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests.
 - 12 Other standard conditions as applicable to underground mining projects shall be applicable in instant case also.

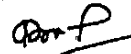
Yours faithfully,


(B.H. Singh)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2. The Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forest, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
4. The User Agency
5. Monitoring cell of the FC section
6. Guard file.


(B.H. Singh)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Handwritten note:
Issued
22/8/08