

**F. No. 8-13/2016-FC**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003.  
Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

To,

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

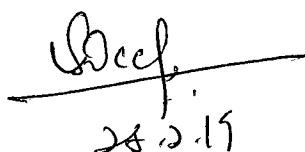
**Sub: Diversion of 207.990 ha (202.91 ha. area for underground mining and 5.08 ha for surface rights) of forest land for coal mining at Ketki Underground Mining, Vishrampur in Surajpur Forest Division, Surajpur District, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited.,**

Sir,

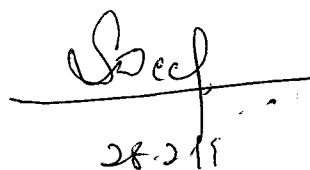
I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter No. F-5-6/2016/10-2 dated 25.06.2016 on the subject cited above seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of 207.990 ha (202.91 ha. area for underground mining and 5.08 ha for surface rights) of forest land for coal mining at Ketki Underground Mining, Vishrampur in Surajpur Forest Division, Surajpur District, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited, was sought in accordance with provisions of Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under section-3 of the said Act, ***In-principle*** approval for the said diversion was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 27.09.2017 read with corrigendum dated 01.02.2018 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Chhattisgarh vide their letter No. BHU-Parbandh/Khanij/331-46/37 dated 03.01.2019, ***Stage-II/Final approval*** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 207.990 ha (202.91 ha. area for underground mining and 5.08 ha for surface rights) of forest land for coal mining at Ketki Underground Mining, Vishrampur in Surajpur Forest Division, Surajpur District, Chhattisgarh in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited, Chhattisgarh, subject to following conditions:

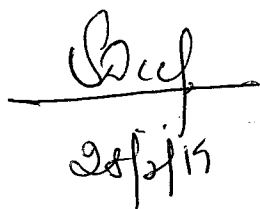
- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

  
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- (ii) The Compensatory afforestation and Penal Compensatory Afforestation over the identified degraded forest land, shall be raised within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter as per approved Plan/Scheme by State Forest Department from the funds provided by the user agency;
- (iii) Following activities, as per approved plan/schemes, shall be implemented by the user agency under the supervision of State Forest Department:
  - (a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be initiated to be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the date of 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  $28^{\circ}$ ; and
  - (e) No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- (iv) The State Government ensure that the ground area over the mine will not be allowed to be used for construction of residential buildings and the green cover on the ground over the underground part of mine shall be maintained as forest and supplemented by plantations in gaps as per the approved plan/scheme by State Forest Department from the funds deposited by user agency;
- (v) The State Government ensure that 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;
- (vi) The State Government ensure that the User agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (vii) The State Government ensure that the approved scheme for 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 as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 27.05.2015] shall be implemented within three years at the project cost from the issue of Stage-II Clearance;
- (viii) The 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;
- (ix) The State Govt. ensure that the user agency shall implement the land surrender schedule in accordance with the approved mine plan and progressive mine closure plan;


  
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- (x) The State Govt. ensure that the State Forest Department shall implement the approved plan for gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- (xi) The State Govt. ensure that the State Forest Department shall carry out afforestation on degraded forest land, one and half times in extent to the area used for safety zone as per the approved plan/scheme from the funds deposited in CAMPA by the user agency;
- (xii) The State Govt. ensure that the user agency shall carry out de-silting of the 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 at their cost in consultation with State Forest Department;
- (xiii) The State Govt. ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xiv) The State Govt. ensure that user agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
- (xv) The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that Forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and the layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xvi) The State Govt. ensure and 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;
- (xvii) The State Govt. ensure and the User agency shall carry out mining in a phased manner and take due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan shall be executed by the User Agency as per the approved mining plan/scheme and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, concerned state Government and the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Concerned Regional Office. 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 Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
- (xviii) The State Govt. ensure that the boundary of the mining lease and safety zone shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS Co-ordinates;

  
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- (xix) The State Government shall ensure that the process of settlement of rights has been completed in accordance with provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;
- (xx) The State Govt. ensure that 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 every year regularly.
- (xxi) 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; and
- (xxii) The State Government and User Agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

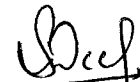
Yours faithfully,

  
(Sandeep Sharma) 28.2.15

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur.
3. The Nodal Officer(FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Forest Conservation Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

  
(Sandeep Sharma) 28.2.15

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)