

भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
उप – कार्यालय,  
अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक,  
सेक्टर –19, नया रायपुर, अटल नगर  
छत्तीसगढ़ – 492002  
ईमेल- [iro.raipur-mefcc@gov.in](mailto:iro.raipur-mefcc@gov.in)



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
SUB –OFFICE  
ARANYA BHAWAN, NORTH BLOCK, SECTOR-19,  
NAYA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR, CHHATTISGARH - 492002  
Email – [iro.raipur-mefcc@gov.in](mailto:iro.raipur-mefcc@gov.in)

File no. FC-Misc./18/2024/IROCH/RPR / 30

Date:-30/04/2024

To

The Inspector General of Forests (FC- Division),  
Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh, Alignaj, New Delhi-110003.

**Sub: Site Inspection Report of The Proposal Seeking Diversion of 1898.328 Ha of Forest Land for parsa East & Kanta Basan Opencast Coal Mine of M/S Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) in Surguja District, Chhattisgarh.**

Sir,

On the above subject it is informed that site inspection of the above mine was conducted by the undersigned on 04<sup>th</sup> & 05<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2024 as a periodic monitoring in pursuant to Stage-II condition.

Submitted for information and necessary action.

(Encl: inspection report)

Yours faithfully,

(Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS)  
Inspector General of Forests

Chaturbhuja Behera  
29/4/24

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE PROPOSAL SEEKING DIVERSION OF 1898.328 HA OF FOREST LAND FORPARSA EAST & KANTA BASAN OPENCAST COAL MINE OF M/S RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED (RVUNL) IN SURGUJA DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH.**

**Name of the inspecting Officer** – Shri. Chaturbhuj Behera, IFS, Inspector General of Forests, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Raipur.

The site inspection of the above-mentioned proposal was carried out on 04<sup>th</sup>& 05<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2024 in pursuance to direction of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for periodic inspection of the proposal. Following officers/staff from the State Forest Department and the User Agency were present during the site inspection:

1. Shri. Rajesh Sheker, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Ambikapur Forest Division, Chhattisgarh.
2. Shri. Gajendra Dohre, Ranger Udaipur, Ambikapur Forest Division, Chhattisgarh.
3. Rakesh Kumar Shrivastava, Research Investigator- Forestry, Sub-Office Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Officials from User Agency:

4. Shri. Manoj Kumar Shahai, Head (Mining), PEKB OCM.
5. Shri Satish Kumar Kataria, Mine Manager, PEKB OCM.
6. Shri. Rajkumar Pandey, Senior Manager (Horticulture), PEKB OCM.
7. Shri. Awinash Kumar, Deputy Manager (Environment), PEKB OCM.

**1. Status of the forest land:**

The entire forest land has been diverted under Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The representative of the User agency has informed that Stage-I FC was granted for 1898.328 Ha vide F.No.8-31/2010-FC; 06.07.2011.

Area (Ha)	Stage-I/Stage-II FC letters no. & date	Status
1898.328 Ha	F. No. 8-31/2010-FC, dated- 06/07/2011	Stage – I clearance
762.00 Ha	F. No. 8-31/2010-FC, dated-15/03/2012 (Phase I)	Stage – II clearance for 1898.328 Ha in two phases
1136.328 Ha	F. No. 8-31/2010-FC, dated-02/02/2022 (Phase II)	

Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.

Particulars	Forest Land	Tenancy	Government	Total
Land already acquired	1871.118	701.786	109.952	2682.856

Breakup of Mining leasehold area of 2682.856 ha is as follows (as per EC 18.00 MTY)-

S. No.	Particulars	Area (ha)
1.	Quarry Area	2388.247
2.	External Dump	112.655
3.	Infrastructure	36.224
4.	Coal Evacuation Route	30.260
5.	CHP & Washery	28.381
6.	Reject Based Thermal power project	42.570
7.	Plantation Area	3.990
8.	Rationalization Area	40.532
Total		2682.856



**Fig. 1. Parsa East & Kanta Basan Opencast Coal Mine**

**1. Afforestation and Compensatory Afforestation:**

Till date PEKB OCM has planted 11.56 lakh plants in internal and external over burden dumps and 9,137 nos. of trees also transplanted in mining and infrastructure areas. An amount of Rs. 58.41 crore has been deposited in CAMPA for Compensatory Afforestation over total area of 3797 ha of degraded forest (Protected Forest). Additionally, medicinal plants were planted outside PEKB mine done in 7 acres of land near Ambikapur as per EC compliance and plantation activity for remaining 6 acres outside of mine is in progress.

An amount of Rs. 29,00,435/- has been deposited in CAMPA account of Forest Department for compensatory afforestation over 1.5 times of safety zone area over degraded forest land on 03.10.2011 & 24.03.2014.

**2. Demarcation and safety zone:**

Demarcation of mining lease area has been completed using 4 feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with Geographical co-ordinates, serial numbers and distance from pillar to pillar.

Fencing of safety zone Approx. 9.8 Km has been completed, protection and regeneration work of Safety zone for first phase of the project has been completed. Approx. 15,017 nos. natives species sapling plants including transplantation of important species like Sal (majority) and other trees has been planted in approx. 7.66 Ha land in safety zone area.

An amount of Rs. 29,00,435/- has been deposited in CAMPA account of Forest Department for compensatory afforestation over 1.5 times of safety zone area over degraded forest land on 03.10.2011 & 24.03.2014.

### 3. Reclamation Plan:

The representatives of the User Agency have informed that reclamation of the mined-out area will be undertaken as per the approved Progressive Mine closure Plan. As per detail made available by the User Agency, so far, the User Agency has reclaimed 430.70 ha biologically while an area of 593 ha has been reclaimed technically. Details of area excavated so far, and area reclaimed, as per detail made available by the User Agency, is given as under:

#### **Status of technical and biological reclamation of Forest & Non-Forest Land at PEKB OCM as on 31.12.2023:**

Unit /OCP	PEKB
MP Capacity (MTY)	18 MTY
Total quarriable area of the project as per approved MP	2388.25 Ha
Void to be left at the closure of the project as per MCP	230.69 Ha
Total Area excavated/ Area mined out completely	696.88 Ha
Prorate Area not required to be backfilled	230.69 Ha
Total Area Technically Reclaimed /Back Filled	593.4 Ha
Balance Area to be technically reclaimed/back Filled	1564.56 Ha
Area already Biologically Reclaimed	429.88 Ha
Balance Area to be Biologically reclaimed	1864.184 Ha
Total Area of External OB dump	112.655 Ha
Area of ext. Dump technically reclaimed	112.16 Ha
Balance area of ext. OB dump to be technically reclaimed	0.495 Ha

Details and financial allocation: As per the User Agency a recurring cost of Rs. 582 Lakhs/annum have been allocated for plantation works for 18 MTPA.

### 4. Wildlife: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not?

An amount of 22 Crore has been deposited in CAMPA by RRVUNL for implementation of the approved Wildlife Management Plan. RVUNL has deposited additional amount of Rs. 10.28 Crores for implementation of revised Wildlife Management on the demand of State Forest Department.

### 5. Soil conservation measure: The User agency has informed that following initiatives/mitigative measures have been undertaken at site-

- i. construction of approx. 14.81 KM of drainage system,
- ii. 11 nos. of settling ponds and construction of approx. 2.62 KM. of permanent toe walls along completed dump slopes.
- iii. Reclamation of internal & external over burden dumps is being done through proper grading and benching and thus making the dumps stable.
- iv. Topsoil generated during mining activities is being stored in separate top soil dump as per top soil management plan and same is being re-used in reclamation.
- v. 30000 sq. mtrs. of geo-textiling over the dump slopes.
- vi. Sowing of grass seeds and plantation of drought hardy species has been done over all vulnerable areas including slopes of completed dumps.
- vii. A total of 1,155,968 numbers of sapling trees have been planted in internal and external over burden dumps and 9137 nos. of trees also transplanted in mining and infrastructure areas till 1st January 2024.
- viii. Approx. 15,017 nos. native species sapling plants including transplantation of important species like Sal (majority) and other trees has been planted in approx. 7.66 Ha land in safety zone area.

## 6. Issues regarding phase-II handing over:

Phase-I area consisting of 762 ha was completely mined out by 2020-21. After that, the user agency applied for 134.76 Ha in Phase-2 area for handing over but in 2021-22. Since it did not have mining area, the coal production had stopped from 20.08.2022 to 05.10.2022 in the FY 2022-23.

Tree felling started dated 22.09.2022 in applied 134.76 Ha area of Phase-2 & out of it 43.63 Ha of forest land transferred on 12.10.2022, 25.11.2022 & 03.01.2023 in three phases. Later additional area of 26.82 Ha was provided. Due to opposition from villagers, tree felling is stopped from time to time.

## 7. Any other matter:

- (a) The reclaimed area has been planted with indigenous species which have shown promising growth. The area has appearance of natural forest. The survival and growth of the Sal plantation is exemplary. Besides, it has also carried out transplantation of Sal. It has established a large nursery which is catering to the plantation. Sal is being regenerated in the nursery from the seed source. Last year, it has also raised plantation of Miyawaki model in the OB.
- (b) The User Agency has maintained the top soil very meticulously which is one of the major contributing factors in the survival and growth of the plantations. Further, regular watering is done in the plantation from the mine water.
- (c) The slopes have been stabilized in the OB by grasses and bamboo. Besides, Soil conservation measures have been undertaken at various places.
- (d) Reclamation and backfilling is under process. Evidently, reclamation is being carried out as per the mining plan.
- (e) Coal transportation is done through own railway line. Dust or fugitive was not conspicuous at any place in the mining lease area.
- (f) Due to resistance from the NGOs and some groups, felling of trees have not been taken up at times which had affected mining operation last year.
- (g) The UA has taken up wide-range of CSR activities around the project area successfully, which includes free education in school, skill development, pisciculture, vegetable production, dairy farming etc.

*Chhaya*  
29/7/24

(Chaturbhuj Behera, IFS)  
Inspector General of Forest,  
MOEF&CC, Raipur

## Photographs During Site Visit



Biologically Reclaimed with Sal Plantation and Transplantation of Sal Trees



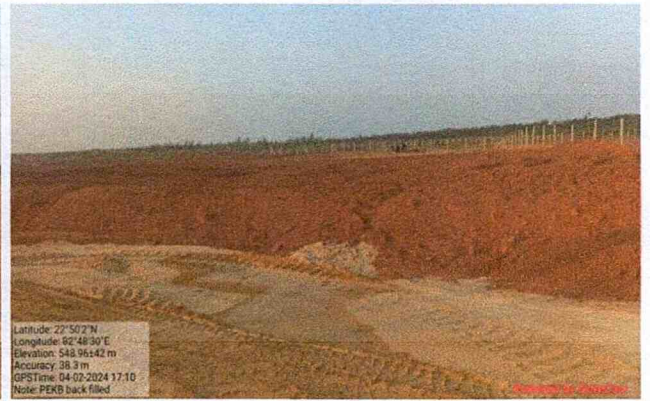
**Biologically Reclaimed with Sal Plantation and Transplantation of Sal Trees**



**Biologically Reclaimed with Miyawaki method Mixed Plantation and Transplantation**



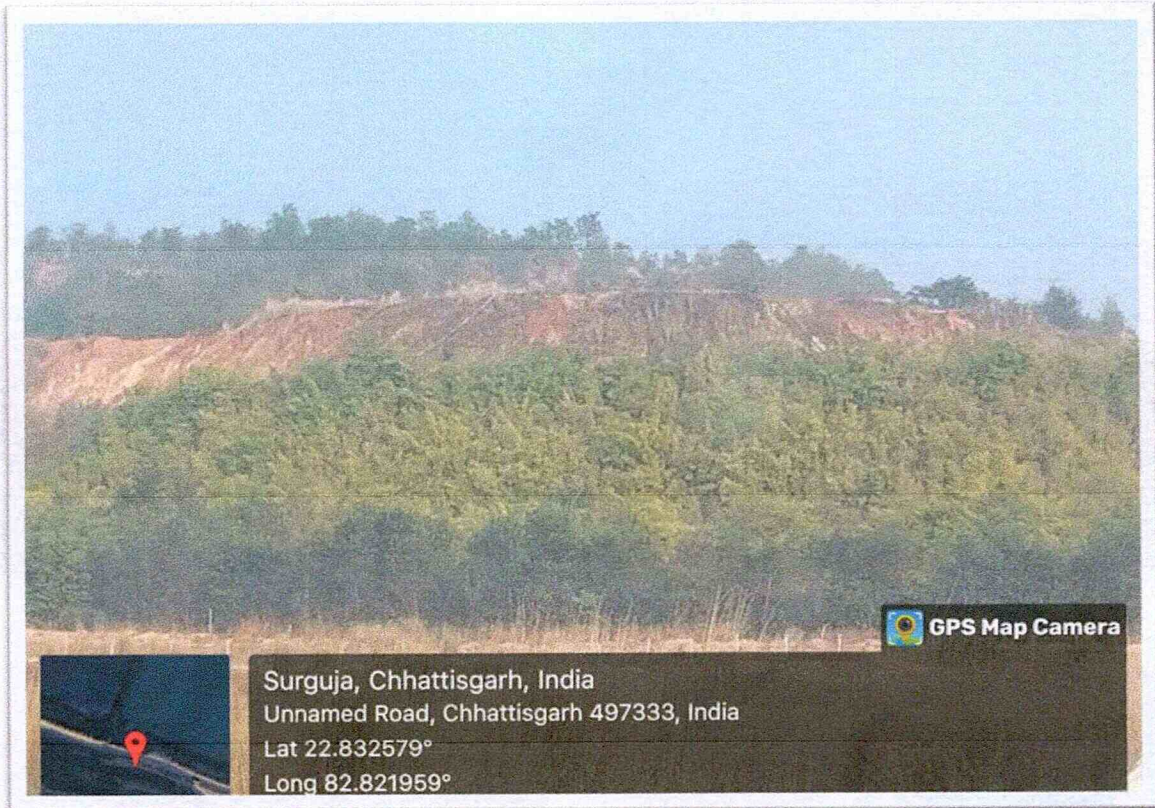
**Miyawaki Plantation on Internal OB site**



Technically Reclaimed and Back Filled Area







**Internal OB site**



**Safety Zone Plantation**



**Mining Area**