



Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Eastern Regional Office/ पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
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No. 5-ORA404/2020-BHU **SPEED POST**

Date: 21.02.2020

To

Shri Sandeep Sharma
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Alliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

Sub: Site inspection report in respect of diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha. of RF in Chhendipada and Kankurupal Reserve Forest and 140.180 ha. of village forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul district Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd – reg.


Ref.: Ministry's letter No.8-01/2020-FC dated 28th Jan., 2020

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषय के सन्दर्भ में, मुझे आपको यह सूचित करने का निर्देश हुआ है की क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय द्वारा 13-15 फरवरी, 2020 के दौरान उपरोक्त परियोजना का निरीक्षण की गई है। निरीक्षण रिपोर्ट आप के अबलोकन एबमं आवश्यक कारबाई हेतु सलग्न है।

भबदीय,

संलग्नक: उपरोक्तानुसार


(आर के सामल) 21.2.2020

वन उप महानिरीक्षक (के)

Site inspection report in respect of diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha. of RF in Chhendipada and Kankurupal Reserve Forest and 140.180 ha. of village forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul district Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

The project was visited by me during 13-15th Feb., 2020. During inspection Shri V. Kartik, DFO, Angul, Shri Manmohan Swain, RO, Chhendipada, Shri Rabindra Choudhury, DGM, SCCL and other officials of SCCL and Angul Forest Division were present during visit to the proposed diversion site.

During visit to see the proposed CA Site in Boudh forest division, Shri Sasadeb Meher, Dy. Ranger was present. The Range officer and DFO were attending some District level meeting.

During the visit to Bolangir Forest Division, Shri P. K. Satpathy, DFO, Bloangir, P. K. Naik, RO, Muribahal and Shri Bhagabat Das, Section Officer, Jaintara were present along with above Officials of user Agency.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion

Legal status	Area in Ha.
Revenue forest	15.017
DLC forest	125.163
Chhendipada RF	634.457
Kakurpal RF	8.638
Total	783.275

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion (in ha):

Sl. No.	Particulars	Forest land in Ha.
1	Quarry area	645.158
2	Safe barriers including drainage, roads, transmission lines, etc.	98.057
3	CHP/Washery and service buildings	40.060
	Total area	783.275

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

No residential Building proposed for construction on forest land. Only some service buildings are proposed to be constructed.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

The total cost of the project is Rs.1,000 crores

5. Wildlife:

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

The applied area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve. Movement of wild elephants is often witnessed in the northern and southern part of lease area. So detail mitigation plan has to be prepared for avoiding man animal conflict in future and for providing safe passage of elephants. As reported the whole area on both sides of State High Way no 63 up to Deogarh Division has coal reserves and many coalmines will come up in future. Therefore for passage of elephants from south Athmallik/Angul division to Deogarh an **elephant under pass on SH-63** is highly required to be constructed. Otherwise this may lead to death of elephants due to road accidents or the elephants will be confined to different areas without a good Range for their movement.

Wild fauna like Elephant, Barking Deer, Indian Hare and birds like Indian Pea Fowl, Blue Jay, Egrets, Kingfisher, Drongo, etc. are noticed in the area.

6. Vegetation:

The applied area comes under Tropical Moist Deciduous forest. The said forest has been put under Eco-Value-Class-I with density 0.4. The forest comprises of Acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*), Barabakulia (*Delbergia paniculata*), Bheru (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Bhuincha (*Flacourtia jangomos*), Chara (*Buchanania lanzan*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Eucallyptus (*Eucallyptushybrid*), Ghurudu (*Gardenia gummifera*), Gohira (*Acacia leucophloea*), Karada (*Cleistanthus collinus*), Khaira (*Acacia catechu*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Mai (*Lannea coromandalica*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Rohini (*Soymida febrifuga*), Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Sirisa (*Aalbizzia procera*), Sunari (*Cassia fistula*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Tentuli (*Tamarindus indica*), Chakunda (*Cassia siamea*), etc.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled.

In Chhendipada RF around 1,05,092 number of trees to be felled, in Revenue forest 1087 number of trees and in non-forest area around 327 number of trees to be felled.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Felling of the trees from the forest area will induce soil erosion. Tree felling should be done in a phased manner.

(b) Important species:

The forest comprises of Acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*), Barabakulia (*Delbergia paniculata*), Bheru (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Bhuincha (*Flacourtia jangomos*), Chara (*Buchanania lanzan*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptushybrid*), Ghurudu (*Gardenia gummifera*), Gohira (*Acacia leucophloea*), Karada (*Cleistanthus collinus*), Khaira (*Acacia catechu*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Mai (*Lannea coromandalica*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Rohini (*Soymida febrifuga*), Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Sirisa (*Aalbizzia procera*), Sunari (*Cassia fistula*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Tentuli (*Tamarindus indica*), Chakunda (*Cassia siamea*), etc.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

74,932

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

31,248

7. Background note on the proposal:

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., (SCCL) is a Govt. Company jointly owned by Govt. of Telengana and Govt. of India. The Naini Coal mine is opencast project and located in Chhendipada Tahasil of Angul District of Odisha. The total requirement of land for the project is 912.799 ha. out of which 643.095 ha. is reserved forest land and 140.180 ha. village forest land. The balance is non-forest land. The present application is for diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land. This coalfield is south-eastern extremity of the lower Gondwana basins within Mahanadi valley. The Naini coal block is located within latitude $21^{\circ} 03' 21''$ N to $21^{\circ} 05' 23''$ N and longitude $84^{\circ} 52' 56''$ to $84^{\circ} 55' 17''$ E of Chhendipada Tahasil under Angul district.

The proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land in Chhednipada Range of Angul division for Naini Coal Block (Opencast) under Angul district of Odisha involves total land of 912.799 ha. comprising of 783.275 ha. forest land.

8. **Compensatory afforestation:**

MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter No.11-423/2011-FC dated 31.01.2013 has accorded status of Central Public Sector Unit to M/s SCCL for purpose of creation of compensatory afforestation in respect of the proposal seeking prior approval of Central Govt. in accordance with Section-2 of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land for coal mining and allied activities to be received by the Ministry in future.

Therefore, 1566.55 ha. (783.275 ha.X2) of degraded forest land has been proposed for diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land. An area of 1683.00 ha of degraded forest land comprising of 1083.00 ha. of degraded forest land (Bankamundi RF 542 ha. + Goudadei RF 541.00 ha) in Boudh forest division and 600.00 ha. degraded forest land in Tikhari RF of Bolangir forest division have been identified for compensatory afforestation.

Out of two patches in Boudh Division the Goudadei patch contains 22 Ha MDF as per DSS analysis and Tikhari RF in Bolangir Forest Division containing 35 Ha of MDF, Balance areas are either open forest or non-forest Therefore more areas have been proposed for CA (requirement is 1566.55 Ha but proposed is 1683.00 Ha).

The three patches in both the divisions were visited and it has been observed that the areas may not require planting of 800 seedlings in ANR model due to presence of existing regeneration and tree species with less canopy cover. Therefore new degraded forest areas may be identified to plant the balance seedlings and their location, co-ordinate details may be intimated by State Forest dept to Regional Office for records.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

Yes. Suitability certificate has been given by DFOs.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

Yes.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

No.

- (d) **Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

3 patches, Patches are compact.

- (e) **Map with details:**

Enclosed in the proposal.

- (f) **Total financial outlay:**

Cost of Compensatory afforestation over 1061.00 ha of plantable degraded forest land under Boudh Forest Division is Rs.14,77,61,500/-.

Cost of compensatory afforestation over 600 ha. with plantable area of 565 ha. of degraded forest and identified in Bolangir forest Division is Rs.7,92,46,600/-.

9. **Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:**

No.

10. **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not :**

No. The project does not involve displacement of any human habitation.

11. **Reclamation plan:**

Enclosed in the proposal.

Details and financial allocation:

-

12. **Details on catchment and command area under the project:**

NA

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

NA

13. Cost benefit ratio:

The cost benefit ratio comes to 1:32.57.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conserverator of Forests/State Government:

Recommended.

15. Recommendations of Dy. Director General of Forest (Central) along with detailed reasons:

Enclosed.

16. Dy. Inspector General of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

This is a mining project and it is site specific.

17. Utility of the project:

Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:

As reported the project is likely to generate direct employment of about 1062 persons in addition to indirect employment during the mining operations.

18.

(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

No, the land being diverted has no socio-cultural/ religious value.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

No, there is absence of any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests in the areas proposed for diversion.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique ecosystem:

No, the land under diversion does not form part of any unique ecosystem.

19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

The boundary of the project is approx. 30 Km from Boundary of Satkosia Tiger Reserve. Proposed Similipal-Satkosia Tiger Corridor is about 8.12 km on the north side of the proposed project.(DSS report enclosed)

20. Any other information relating to the project:

The proposed project is for mining of coal for electricity generation by a joint venture company of state and central Government. It is site specific project. The economy of the region will improve due to the project. The proposal may be considered for diversion of forest land proposed for non forestry purpose with safeguard conditions for mining projects.



(R. K. Samal, IFS)

Dy. Inspector General of Forest (Central)



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GIS based Decision Support System

Map interface showing a route with labels: **SAIDALPUR**, **Length: 2.12 km**, **DHANKANAL**, **Length: 10.08 km**, **Salkota Gorge**, **CUTTACK**, **BAISALI**, **BAISALI NAYAGARH**.

Navigation controls: Zoom in (+), Zoom out (-), Home, Refresh, Full Screen, Print, Close.

Tools: Draw Polygon, Load Local Shapefile, Enter (Lat, Long) Points.

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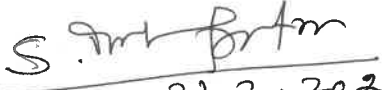


**RECOMMENDATION OF THE DY. DIRECTOR GENERAL of FOREST
(CENTRAL)**

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) is a Government Company jointly owned by Govt. of Telengana and Govt. of India. MoEF&CC, Govt. Of India has accorded status of Central PSU to M/s SCCL for purpose of creation of compensatory afforestation in respect of the proposal seeking prior approval of Central Govt. under Section-2 of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land for coal mining and allied activities.

Naini coal block is an opencast project and located in Chhendipada Tahasil of Angul district of Odisha. Out of the total area of 912.799 ha. 783.275 ha. is forest land. The area is not a part of national park, biosphere reserve and wildlife sanctuary. The area is mostly open forest except in very small portion of plantations and banks of small streams where areas contain medium density forest. The project area is site specific and cannot be shifted elsewhere. As the company has agreed to pay the dues for compensatory afforestation, NPV, site specific wildlife plan and regional wildlife management plan to compensate the ill effects of mining which can be managed to a great extent without much damage to the surrounding natural environment.

Considering the facts above the project is hereby recommended for consideration.


21.2.2020.
(S. Mohapatra)

Dy. Director General of Forest (Central)