



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

शेत्रीय कार्यालय(दक्षिणी पूर्व परिशेत्र)/Regional Office (South Eastern Zone)

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F.No.4-TSA156/2019-CHN/1380

Dated the 05th August, 2019

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
5th Floor, Jal Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Renewal for diversion of 124 ha of forest land for coal mining in favour of M/S SCCL for GKOC Phase II Kothagudem in Ramavaram RF of Kothagudem division in BhadradiKothagudem District.- reg.

Ref: That Office Letter - F. No. 8-17/1998-FC (vol.) dtd. 15/05/2019 and 05.07.2019

Sir,

In response to the subject matter and references cited I am to submit herewith the inspection cum detailed report for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(L. Chandrasekar I.F.S)
Deputy DGF (Central)i/c

o/c

DESPATCHED (By SP)
Date 05/08/19 R&T.

Site Inspection Report

1.	Legal Status of the forest land proposed for diversion.	Reserved Forest
2.	Item-wise break up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.	The entire area has been decoaled. The renewal is sought for OB dumping and reclamation by suitable planting
3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If Yes, the details thereof.	No
4.	Total cost of the project at present rates.	NA
5.	Wild life: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from the wildlife point of view or not	No
6.	Vegetation (i) Total number of trees to be filled	NA
7.	Background note on the proposal	The entire area has been decoaled. The renewal is sought for OB dumping and reclamation by suitable planting
8.	Compensatory afforestation (i) Whether land for CA is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not?	CA non forest land has been given by SCCL
	(ii) Whether land for CA is free from encroachments/ other encumbrances?	No information provided
	(iii) Whether land for CA is important from religious/archaeological point of view?	No information provided
	(iv) Land identified for raising CA is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not?	CA land of 124 ha which is a part of 495.08 ha of CA land in Paloncha Forest Division.
	(v) Map with details	As in the proposal
	(vi) Total financial outlay	Rs. 199 Lakhs.

[Handwritten Signature]

9.	Whether proposal involves violation of the provisions of the FCA or any other Forest Act? If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned official.	FDO Kothagudem has reported that no violation has taken place in the area proposed for renewal.
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons? If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not?	No
11.	Reclamation plan: Details and financial allocation.	UA reported that the reclamation is going on as per the approved Mining Plan
12.	Details of catchment and command area under the project. CAT plan to prevent siltation of the reservoir.	NA
13.	Cost benefit ratio	NA
14.	Recommendations of the PCCF/ State Govts.	Recommended
15.	Recommendations of the RAPCCF (C) along with detailed reasons.	As in the detailed inspection report
16.	Regional APCCF (C) shall give detailed comments on whether there is any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non forest land?	NA
17.	Utility of the project	To utilize and reclaim the area effectively
18.	Number of Scheduled castes/ STs to be benefitted from the project.	-----
19.	Whether area being diverted has any socio cultural, religious value?	FDO Kothagudem has reported that the area has no endangered or rare or unique species of flora and fauna. Also he has reported that the proposed area does not fall under any PA or corridor and has does not contain any archaeological heritage site or any other important
20.	Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forest exist in the areas proposed for diversion?	As above
21.	Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique	As above

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	ecosystem?	
22.	Situation of the project with respect to any PA	As above
23.	Any other information relating to the project	Photos taken during the field visit are enclosed for perusal.



L. CHANDRASEKAR I.F.S
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Inspection Report of L.Chandrasekar, I.F.S., Deputy Inspector General of Forests
(Central) to the Gowtham Khani OCP - II area of 124 ha of forest land in
Kothagudem Forest Division, Bhadradri District, Telangana on 30.07.19

1. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a Government Coal Mining Company jointly owned by Government of Telangana and Government of India on 51:49 equity basis. SCCL is currently operating 16 opencast and 32 underground mines in 4 districts viz. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Bhadradri of Telangana State.
2. The present proposal is for renewal of FL diverted vide. Lr. No. 8-17/98-FC dtd. 08.02.99 of MoEF for an area of 124 ha in Gowtham Khani OC-II(GKOC II) and the same was inspected by the undersigned at 9 AM on 30.07.2019 along with DFO and FDO Kothagudem and officials of SCCL.
3. The entire area of 124 ha (now found out to be 124.065 ha by DGPS survey) has been decoaled. The photo of the area is enclosed for reference. It may be seen that OB is dumped upto a height of +30m in the diverted FL. Progressively the area is now being filled up and OB is now coming from GKOC Phase I area. The project authorities inform that 50% to 60% of the area will be filled up leaving a void for the remaining area, when all the material from GKOC Phase I reach the 124 ha area in the next three years. It was enquired as to why the area needs to be renewed for the next twenty years, the SCCL officials were hopeful of getting more OB from the new VK - 07 OC mine which is an UG mine at present, going to be made into OC shortly. Procedures for obtaining clearances for the same are going on as mentioned by the Project Proponent. It was mentioned by the project authorities that this area of 124 ha if allowed to be used for OB dumping will reduce the area of OB dump in the future project, since normally upto 90-120m height of OB dumping is allowed. It was mentioned that OB dumping is planned for next 10 years and reclamation works are planned for the remaining ten years and that is the reason for requesting renewal for 20 years.
4. As regards to compliance of conditions in the area CA land has been handed over in the form of non forest land. The area is yet to be notified as RF and PCCF has taken up the matter with Government of Telangana for the notifying the area. Since the non forest land was supporting good vegetation, CA was raised in 2001-02 and 2002-03 DFL land for 105 ha at an expenditure of 39.392 lakhs. The total CA money received from the UA was 49.6 lakhs. **No NPV was charged at that point of that time and this time if the renewal is considered NPV for 124.065 ha may need to be realised.**

Demarcation of the area of 124 ha though was claimed to be done, except on one side, since the OB dumping is going on, the pillars are not on ground. Safety zone

L. Chandrasekar

maintenance also is not seen on ground due to the fact that all the three phases are contiguous to each other. It was reported by the officials of the forest department that One and half times the safety zone afforestation was done in an area of 9.311 ha and out of the amount of Rs. 3.66 lakhs given for that purpose, 2.845 lakhs was spent in the year 2001-02. The Plantation mainly comprising of Eucalyptus, Bamboo and Misc species was also seen by the undersigned. Survival is upto 55%

Reclamation is yet to start. Possibly after refilling the quarry it may start. SMC works in the form of garland drain, toe walls etc are there on field. SCCL is reportedly providing LPG cylinders to its employees 12 nos/year free of cost.

Few of the areas where reclamation is done in OB were inspected. The performance of the species such as Ficus is very good.


5. Though, the compliance towards conditions imposed in forestry diversion is more or less satisfactory but off late it is seen that the company is violating the provisions of environment clearances. The violation pertains to increase in production more than the stipulated in environment clearance granted to various projects. The matter was brought to their notice and as well as Ministry from time to time. In fact during the appraisal of one project of diversion of 285.44 ha of forest land in Lankapalli RF of Khamman Division the Ministry has sought for over all compliance of the SCCL and nominated a committee comprising of ADGF(C), RO(SEZ), Chennai and Shri. Sandeep Sharma, AIG of the Ministry and the report was also submitted to the Ministry at that time.

As the Hon'ble Supreme Court has viewed the violations very seriously in WP (Civil) No. 114/2014 in the matter of Common Cause Versus Union of India and others, it is seen that the project authorities in its 4 existing projects appears to have submitted undertakings saying that they will not repeat any such violations in future.

But nevertheless, Regional Office, Chennai in its earlier two recommendations in the month of July 2019, opined that, it is advisable to obtain the **views of the State Government of Telangana in the matter along with the commitment from their management for not repeating such violations in future** before processing this proposal. **The same is reiterated once again.**

SCCL authorities submitted that the matter of violations on the EC side was taken up in EAC meeting on 28/03/2019 and produced a copy of the minutes of the meeting mentioning that the decisions of the same are binding on them.

The inspection came to an end at 2.00 PM.

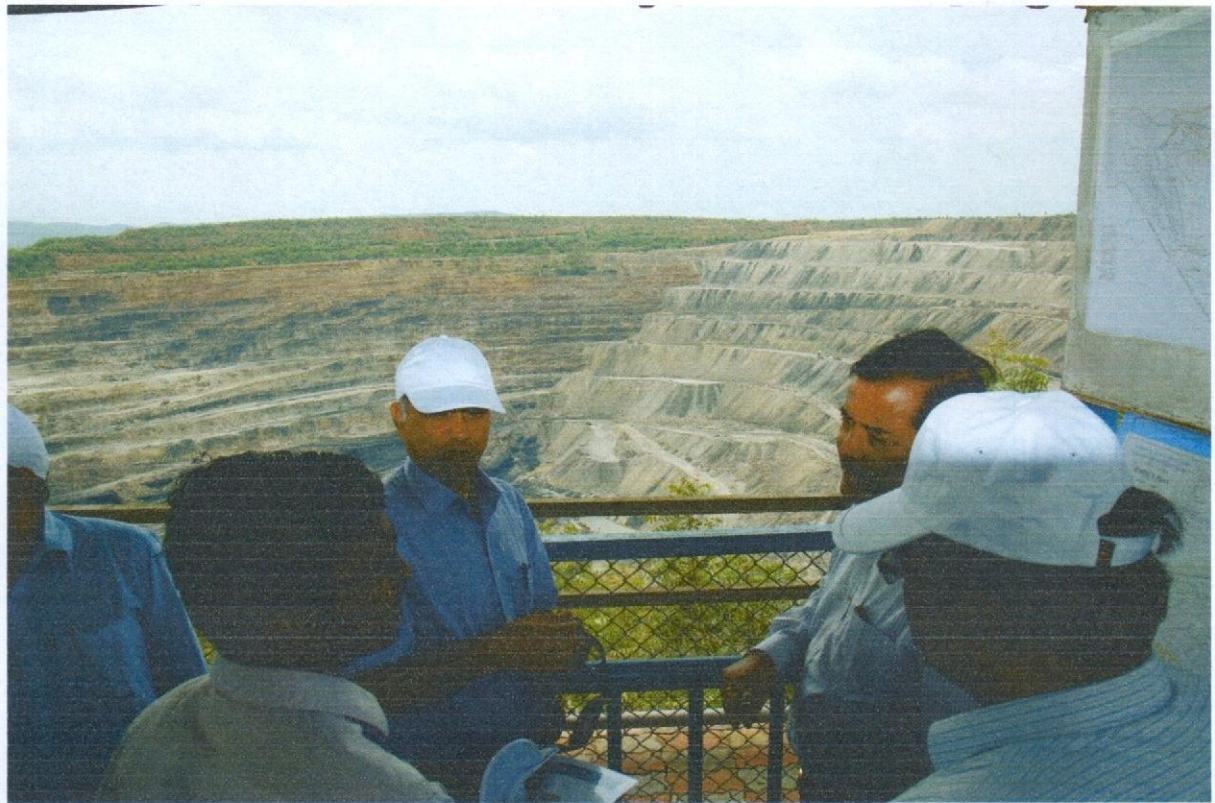


L. CHANDRASEKAR I.F.S

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)



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L. de V.



L. de [Signature]