

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: October, 2023**

To

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Chhattisgarh,  
Mahanadi Bhavan,  
New Raipur (CG).

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of additional 94.293 ha revenue forest land of Gevra OC expansion project of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited for Mining in Korba District of Chhattisgarh.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-41/2023/10-2 dated 13.10.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that after examination of said proposal the following are observed:

- i. The Ministry had granted earlier approvals letters for diversion of 803.129 ha (46.198ha, 564.885 ha, 192.046 ha and 100.898 ha) of forest land for Gevra Opencast mining project in favour of M/s. SECL in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. In this regard, the State Government is requested to submit the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the earlier approvals to this Ministry.
- ii. The State Government shall also submit the KML file of earlier diverted 803.129 ha (46.198ha, 564.885ha, 192.046 ha and 100.898 ha) forest land along with the KML files of CA land identified for these proposals and the status of CA plantation carried out.
- iii. The details of total lease area and total forest land involved in the lease area are required. The details of the same along with the details of balance forest land which need further forest clearance approval, if any, need to be submitted to this Ministry.
- iv. The details of the validity of the entire mining lease along with detailed chronology of approvals of the mining lease require submission.
- v. Status of reclamation measures undertaken by the user agency in their lease area in case of earlier approvals as per the Mine Closure Plans and gaps if any, is to be submitted by the State Govt. Further, in case of instant proposal, the details of proposed reclamation/back-filled area at the end of mine life has not been given in the project report. The same needs submission.
- vi. The State Govt. shall provide the details of safety zone of all the mining leases along with KML files as per this Ministry's guideline dt 25.09.2023.
- vii. As per the DSS report, settlement and road is visible in the proposed forest area. In this regard, State Government may offer its comments.

- viii. As per the DSS report analysis, out of 190.074 ha of DFL identified for CA, 3 ha is MDF. In this regard, the State Govt. shall offer its comments whether 1000 plants per ha. as per the existing rules/guidelines can be planted or not.
- ix. From the component wise breakup submitted it is observed that an area of 0.125 ha is proposed for mine infrastructure. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to provide the details of the said infrastructure.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to submit information/documents/comments as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully  
Sd/-

**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Aranya Bhavan, Sector 19, North Block, New Raipur- 492002 Chhattisgarh.
2. Dy. Director General (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Jail Road, Aranya Bhavan, Raipur.
4. IGF(C), sub-office, MoEF&CC, Raipur.
5. User Agency
6. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC