

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 3rd November, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 354.258 ha. of forest land/revenue forest land (314.743 ha. of forest land + 39.515 ha. of revenue forest land = 354.258 ha. forest land) for Jhiria West Opencast Coal Mining in favour of M/s. South Eastern Coal Fields Limited, Anuppur District State of Madhya Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/39881/2019) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh letter no. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/39881/2019/3257 dated 21.09.2022 on the above cited subject and inform that the following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State:

- i. As per DSS analysis, the total forest area of safety zone has been found to be 70.618 ha instead of 65.366 ha as reported by the State Govt. This needs clarification and submission of correct kml file accordingly.
- ii. As per DSS analysis, the total area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation is found to be 767 ha instead of 710 ha. Moreover, pre-plantation activities are still visible in some of the CA patches (**Table-II of DSS report – Copy enclosed**). This needs clarification and submission of correct kml files accordingly.
- iii. Keeping in view the discrepancy in the forest area proposed for diversion and the area mentioned in the Mining Plan, the State Govt was requested to take corrective measures. It was also requested that the details in the Mining Plan/ Mine closure Plan must be commensurate with the details given in the proposal. Now the State Govt has submitted the revised Mining Plan indicating the forest area proposed for diversion as 354.258 ha. However, as per the Ministry of Coal Gazette notification dated 05.03.2019 the total forest land proposed to be acquired for the project is mentioned as 318.415 ha only. This is required to be corrected and the justification for diversion of 354.258ha

instead of 318.415 ha forest area shall also be submitted.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely

Encl: As Above

**Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

776853/2022/FC

Diversion of 354.258 ha forest land for Jhiria West OC Project (1.50 MTY) by M/s SECL

The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No F-1/FP/MP/39881/2019/3257 dated 21.09.2022 submitted the information/ documents in response to the observations made by this Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 03.02.2022. The same has been examined with the help of GIS-DSS tool and the observations made are follows;

S. No.	Observations of this Ministry vide its letter dated 03.02.2022	Observation of the DSS Cell, FC
i	The State Govt. has now intimated that the total area of the Coal block is 427.993 ha, whereas the same has been mentioned as 482.694 ha in the Mine closure Plan/Mining Plan. This needs clarification.	In this regard, the State Govt. informed that the Mine plan has been revised and now reported 427.993 ha area of mine plan. However, as per the DSS analysis, total mine plan area is found 428.296 ha. Please refer Table-I below.
ii	It has been intimated that an area 7.143 ha will be used as Safety Zone however the KML file of 7.143 ha forest land for Safety Zone has not been uploaded PARIVESH on portal, which is required to be done. It is pertinent to mention here that the area of safety zone has been mentioned as 84.778 ha in the Mine Plan/Mine closure plan. This needs clarification.	In this regard, the State Govt. reported 92.175 ha area of safety zone as per the revised mining plan. After examination of safety zone KML file through GIS software, its total area is found 92.211 ha whereas area of forest land under Safety zone is found 70.618 ha.
iii	The component wise breakup given in the Part-1 of the application is also required to be corrected keeping in view the exact area under safety zone, roads and other proposed land use.	In this regard, the State Govt. has given component wise break-up of the instant proposal. However, some variation has been observed in the forest area through KML file which may kindly be seen at Table-I below.
vi	Out of 16 patches for CA, 8 patches are having pre-plantation operations carried out in the past and having presence of Settlements, Agriculture land etc. within the proposed CA boundary. The areas proposed for CA have to be suitable for plantation and free from all encumbrances.	In this regard, the State Govt. has now removed those CA patches which were earlier having presence of Settlements, Agriculture land etc. However, still some CA patches are having pre-plantation activities. Again, all the 16 patches for CA (Table-II) have been analyzed using the DSS tool and now the total area of proposed CA land is found 767 ha whereas the State Govt. reported 710 ha area for CA. Therefore, the State Govt. may be requested to furnish information on the Pre-plantation operation visible in the proposed CA sites and variation in the CA area observed through DSS.

Table-I

S. No.	Component	Figures given by the State Govt.			Figures calculated through KML file			Difference in Forest Area (Ha) (A)-(C)
		Forest (in Ha.) (A)	Non-forest (in Ha.) (B)	Total Area (A)+(B)	Forest (in Ha.) (C)	Non-Forest (in Ha.) (D)	Total Area (C)+(D)	
1	Quarry Area	285.651	38.119	323.77	280.646	43.111	323.757	5.005
2	Mining Safety Zone	65.366	26.809	92.175	70.618	21.593	92.211	-5.252
3	Infrastructure	0	4.778	4.778	0	5.053	5.053	0
4	Road	3.241	4.029	7.27	3.202	4.073	7.275	0.039
	Total	354.258	73.735	427.993	354.466	73.83	428.296	-0.208

776853/2022/FC

S.no	District	Name of PF/RF	Range	Compartment No	State Govt. reported Area (ha.)	DSS Calculated Area (ha)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	Water	
1	Shahdol	RF338	Jaithari	RF 338	30	31	0	6	8	3	14	0	
2		RF536	Bijuri	RF 536	30	44	0	0	34	0	10	0	
3		PF	Bijuri	PF 562	50	52	0	0	0	1	51	0	
4		PF	Bijuri	PF 566	50	55	0	0	0	0	55	0	
5		PF	Jaitpur	PF 896	50	52	0	1	23	0	28	0	
6		PF	Keshwahi	PF 962	50	51	0	0	39	0	12	0	
7		RF	859	Jaitpur	859	50	64	0	0	38	0	26	0
8		PF	755	Shahdol	755	50	54	0	4	34	0	16	0
9		RF	746	Shahdol	746	50	51	0	3	30	0	18	0
10		RF	754	Shahdol	754	50	55	0	0	27	0	27	1
11		PF	Keshwahi	PF 964	30	31	0	0	22	0	9	0	
12		RF	Keshwahi	RF 969	50	51	0	1	34	0	16	0	
13		RF	Keshwahi	RF 1013	50	50	0	3	12	0	35	0	
14		RF	455	Kotma	455	50	51	0	0	37	5	9	0
15		PF	430	Kotma	430	50	50	0	0	0	25	25	0
16		RF	875	Jaitpur	875	20	25	0	0	14	0	11	0
		Total			710	767	0	18	352	34	362	1	

Out of 767 ha forest land identified for CA in 16 patches under Shahdol District, 18 ha of land is characterized with Moderately Dense Forest (MDF), 352 ha of land as Open forest (OF), 34 ha of land as Scrub, 1 ha in Water and 362 ha. of land as Non Forest/ Non-wooded (land devoid of tree cover) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018.

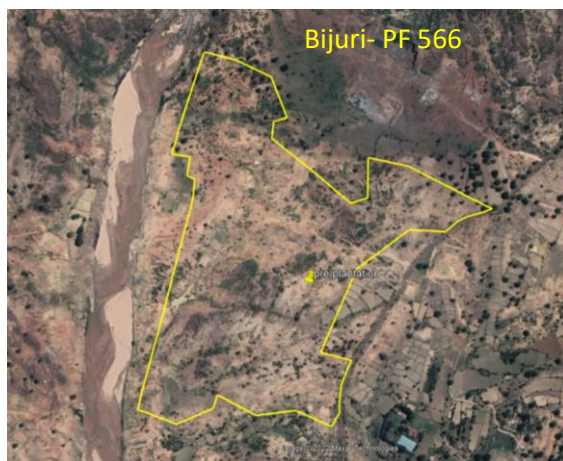
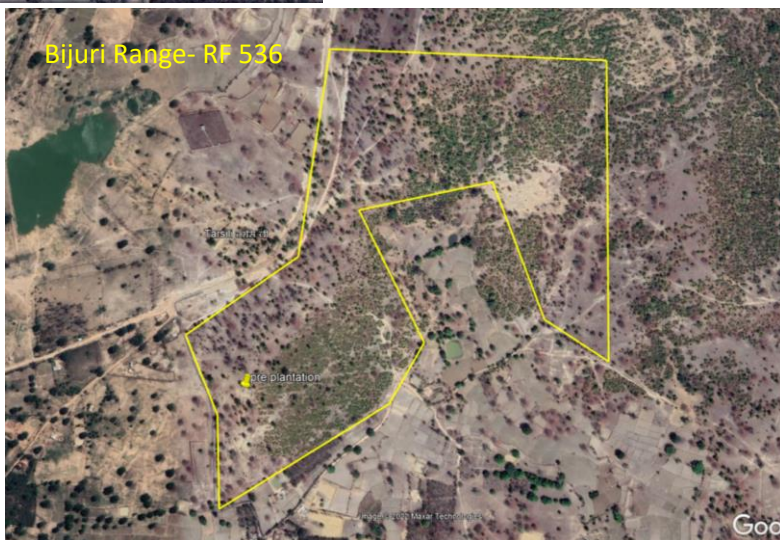
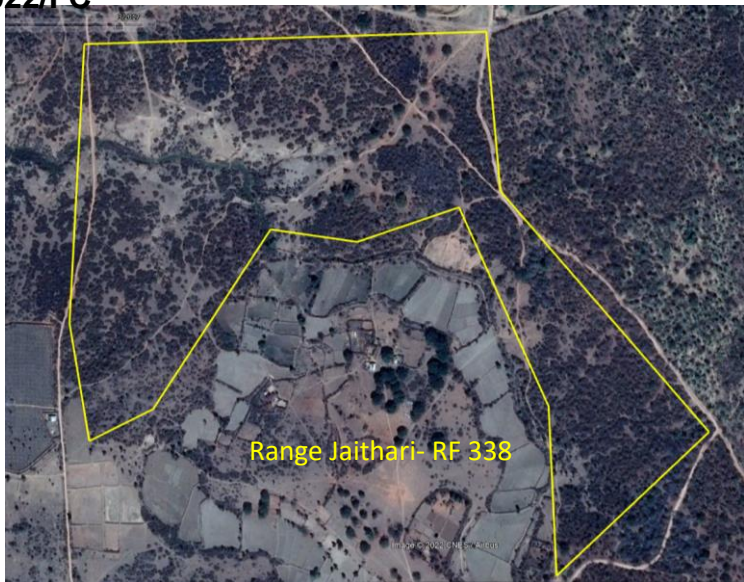
Table-III showing the CA patches wherein the Pre-Plantation activities visible through satellite imagery

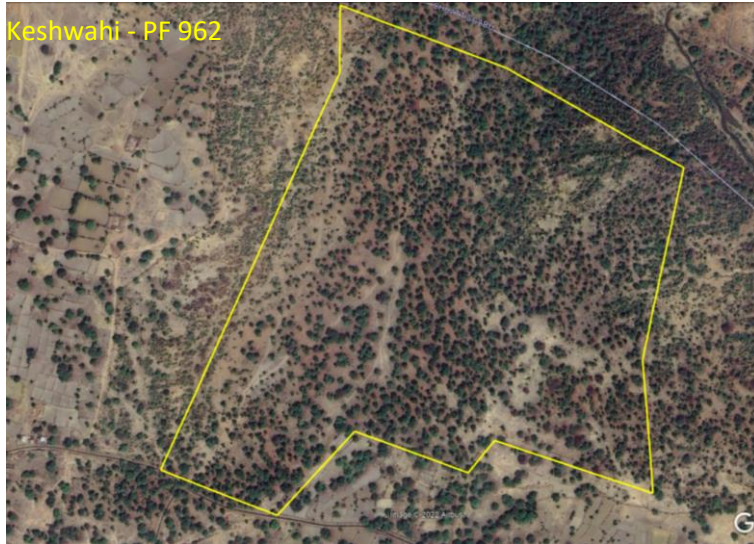
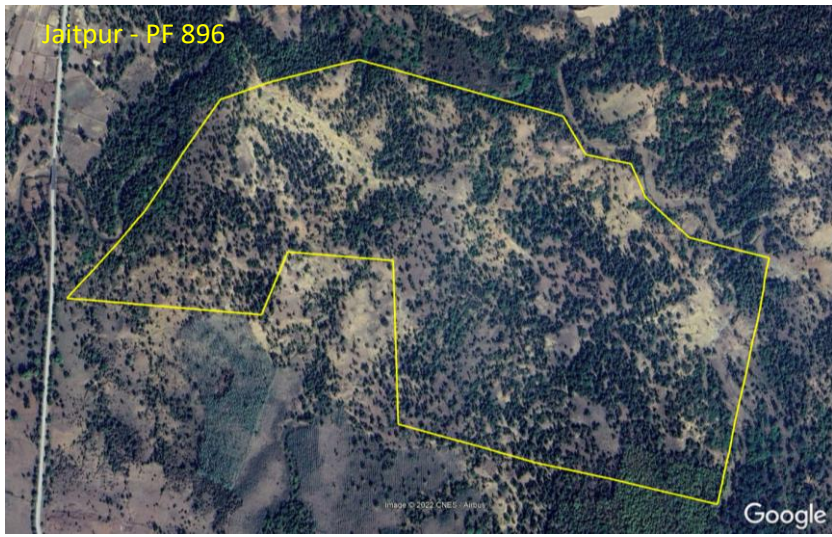
S. No.	CA site details (Range, Compartment No & RF/PF)	CA patch Area (ha)
1	Bijuri Range- RF 536	30
2	Bijuri- PF 562	50
3	Bijuri- PF 566	50
4	Range Jaitpur- 859	50
5	Kotma PF 430	50

Submitted please

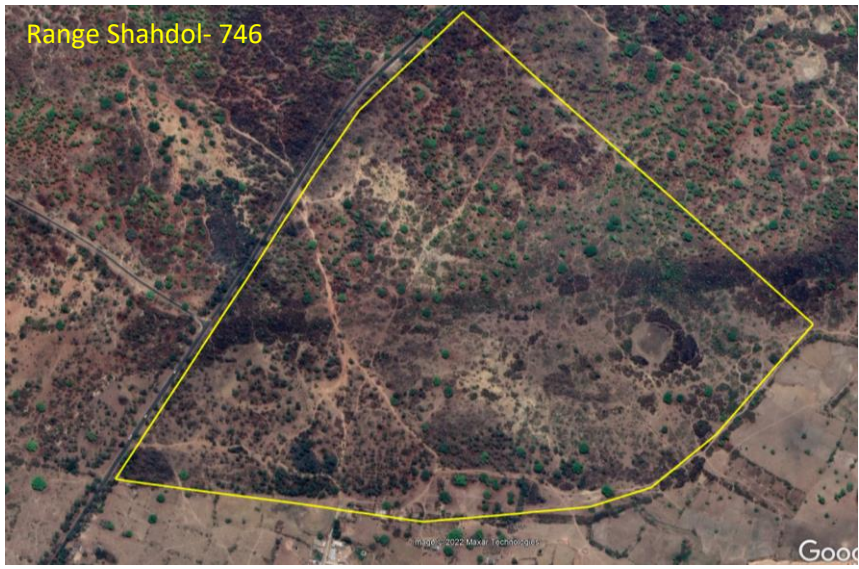
Prashant Tiwari
Senior Technical Associate,
DSS Cell (FC)
16/10/2022

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Range Shahdol- 746



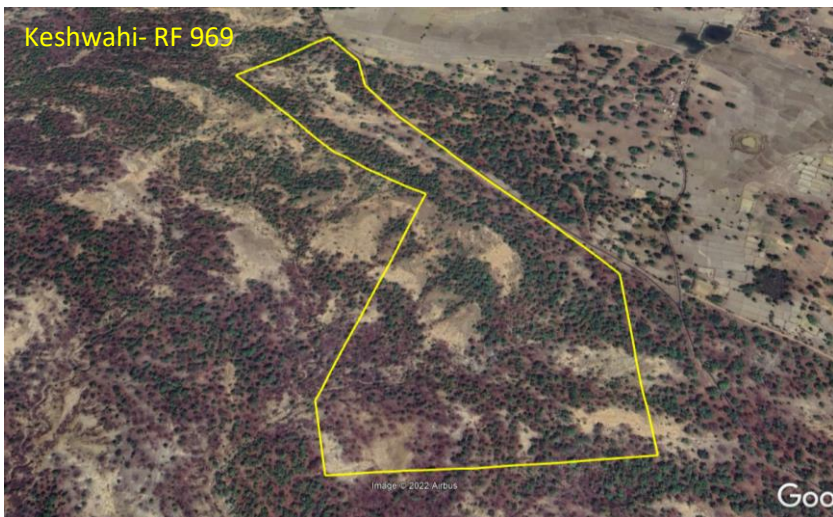
Range Shahdol- 754



Keshwahi- PF 964



Keshwahi- RF 969

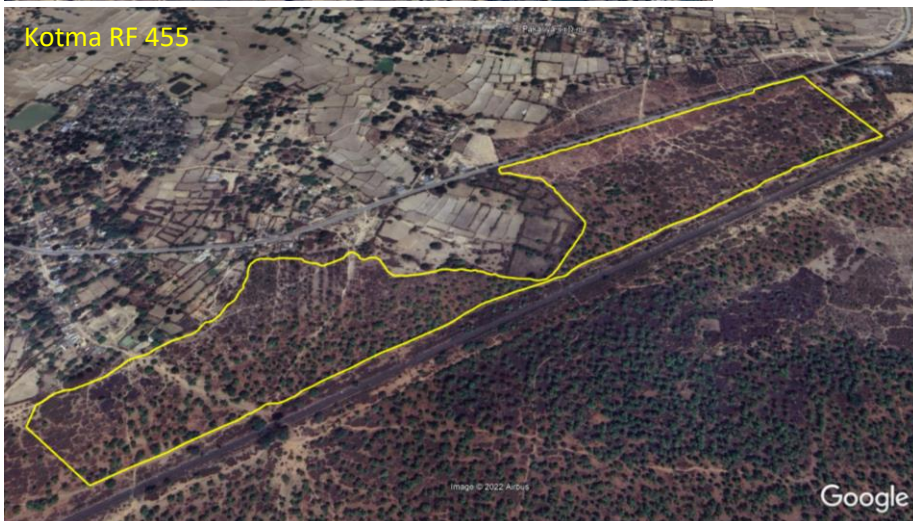


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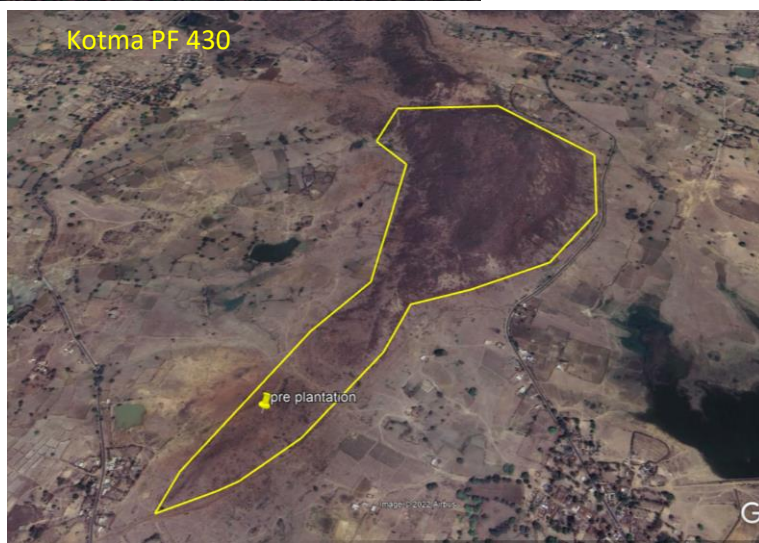
Keshwahi- RF 1013



Kotma RF 455



Kotma PF 430



Jaitpur RF 875

