

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 17th January, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 151.095 ha forest land including 142.075 ha forest land in Forest Compartment No. RF-827 & RF-828 of Burhar Range of South Shahdol Forest Division and 9.020 ha Revenue forest land under various Khasra's for Bikram Coal Block Open cast & underground Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s Birla Corporation Limited under Shahdol District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/49537/2020)- reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/829/2021/10-11/4243 dated 20.12.2021 forwarding a fresh proposal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After examining the proposal, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. High resolution satellite imagery shows the presence of Agricultural land and Settlements/ built up area within the forest land proposed for diversion as well as within the Mining lease boundary. The same needs clarification.
- ii. High resolution satellite imagery shows that plantation activities have been carried out in the past within the forest land proposed for diversion. The same needs clarification.
- iii. The KML file of safety zone comprising 6.881 ha has not been found uploaded on PARIVESH.
- iv. As per SoI Toposheet Map, one CA patch in the village: Lachhanpura, District: Sagar is falling in the Protected Forest. The same needs revision.
- v. In the purpose wise breakup 3.123 ha is proposed to be used for mining infrastructure. The detail along with justification for not using non-forest land for this purpose may be specified.
- vi. The Cost Benefit analysis is required to be revised as per the guidelines of the Ministry and keeping in view the revised rates of the NPV.
- vii. As per Part-1 the project is located within a scheduled area, therefore the feasibility of the same is required to be examined by the state Govt. in view of relevant acts, rules

and orders of Honorable courts.

viii. As per the proof of ownership submitted the NFL proposed for CA is not free from all encumbrances as the same is mortgaged to a bank. Along with the willingness of the owners of the NFL it has to be ensured that the proposed land is free from all encumbrances.

ix. State Govt will also ensure to submit the copy of the approved Mine reclamation and Mine closure plan in respect of Open cast and Underground mining areas.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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