

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of mining lease over 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project by M/s WCL in compartment No 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/MIN/6704/2014) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-2019/C.R.310/F-10 dated 08.11.2024 on the above cited subject. In this regard, the following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. DSS analysis revealed that the KML files of mineral evacuation / transportation route have been submitted in line feature instead of polygon due to which the same cannot be examined through DSS tool. Moreover, it has not been clarified by the State Govt. whether any forest exist in the mineral evacuation / transportation route or otherwise.
- ii. It has been informed that approx. 46.10 Ha area out of 80.77 Ha is bearing coal and the said area will be used for Coal Extraction and remaining area will be used for movement of men, machineries and other mining operations. Therefore, it needs clarification whether any alternative have been examined by the user agency to avoid the requirement of 34.67 ha Forest land for Non-site specific use such as for movement of men, machineries and other mining operations or otherwise.
- iii. As per Para 7.8 (i) (e) of the Chapter-7 given in the Consolidated guidelines & Clarification issued under (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 status of compliance of the conditions of all previous FCs duly certified by the concerned Regional Officer of the MoEF&CC has not been submitted.
- iv. DSS analysis revealed that the area of KML file of the forest land within the lease is found to be 369.194 ha. However the complete KML file of total 379.35 ha forest land within the mining lease has not been submitted.
- v. The copy of approval of forest land in the safety zone has not been submitted by the State Govt. in pursuance of Para 7.9 (iv) of the Chapter-7 given in the

Consolidated guidelines & Clarification issued under (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- vi. DSS analysis revealed that the KML file of the safety zone in polygon format has not been submitted.
- vii. It has been reported that the 40.46 ha Forest Land was approved and handed over by Revenue & Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra State vide FLD/3679/1453-F3 dated 23.05.1980 and being utilized for mining purpose i.e. backfilling and temporary infrastructure. However, validity of the said approval on 40.46 ha forest land which was given to M/s WCL has not been submitted. Moreover, it needs clarification whether any non forestry activity is carried out on the said forest land after expiry of validity, if yes, whether the user agency has obtained approval under the Van Adhiniyam, 1980 for 40.46 ha forest land or otherwise.
- viii. The KML file has been submitted for an area of 9 ha of forest land instead of 36 ha originally surrendered/ handed over to the State Forest Department. Therefore the complete KML file of 36 ha forest land handed over needs submission.

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

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 29-11-2024 16:51:47

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.