



**The Singareni Collieries Company Limited
(A Government Company)
Kothagudem Area.**

Application for prior approval u/s.2 of the Forest (C) Act 1980 for diversion of 649.3014 Ha. of Forest Land (from Underground rights to Surface rights) in Compartment Nos.2(part), 3(part), 4(part), 5(part)&11(part) of Ramavaram RF, Ramavaram Range, Kothagudem Forest Division for Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine, Bhadradi Kothagudem District.

FORM – 'A'

**Form for seeking prior approval under section 2 of the proposals
by the State Governments and other authorities.**

PART-I

1. Project details:

i) Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the Forest land is required.

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is a Government Company jointly owned by Government of Telangana and Government of India in the 51:49 ratio. It is the only Coal producing Company in the South India and meeting the coal requirements of various industries located. The activities of SCCL are spread over in Khammam, Jayashankar Bhupallpally, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Peddapalli, Manchiryal, Komaram Bheem (Asifabad) Districts. The SCCL is presently having 45 Coal Mining Leases spread over in the above six districts. In these mining leases, SCCL is operating 27 Underground and 20 opencast mines and produced 70 Million Tonnes of coal in 2020-21.

In order to meet the ever-increasing demand for Coal and to achieve the targets fixed by the Government of India from time to time, SCCL has embarked upon large-scale expansion of coal mining to increase coal production. Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine is one of the new Project identified in Ramavaram RF, Ramavaram Range of Kothagudem Forest Division.

At present there are two Underground mines viz., Venkatesh Khani No.7 Incline (384.40 Ha. R.F) and PVK No.5 Incline (789.78 Ha. R.F) for which forest permission was obtained for underground rights for 1174.18 Ha. vide MoEF, Government of India vide Lr.No.8-277/85-FC, dated 17.02.2009 with validity for 20 years i.e. till 16.02.2029.

Sl. No	Purpose of RF diverted	Extent (in Ha.)	MoEF Letter No.	Validity till
1.	Venkatesh Khani No.7 Inc.	384.40	Lr.No.8-277/85-FC, Dated.17.02.2009	16.02.2029
2.	Padmavathi Khani(PVK) No.5	789.78	-Do-	-Do-
3.	Surface use for installation of Borewell in existing Padmavathi Khani No.5 Inc.	2.85*	Stage-I clearance granted by MoEF vide letter No.letter No.8-277/1985 –FC (VOI), Dated: 22-06-2018.	Pending with the MoEF,Gol/ Forest dept., for issue of final approval.
	Total:	1174.18		*2.85 Ha. is the surface area of UG Mine of PVK-5 Incline.
4	Tella vagu (Stream) diversion to avoid seepage of water into UG Mine	11.96	MoEF vide letter no.FCA/16.1/70/AP/MIN/07 dated.31.08.2005 Original course of stream was filled up with soil and planting done with local species Rs.82,55,700/- towards NPV and Rs.8,80,500/- towards CA charges	

This diversion of 11.96Ha. of RF land was up to 30.08.2015. It was part of 2nd renewal of Mining Lease of 1466Ha. of Forest land granted vide GOMs No-324 Dated:12.12.2008 valid upto 26.04.2029.

However after 2015 SCCL, as well as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad has requested the MoEF&CC, Regional Office, to clarify whether it was permanent diversion, because no future mining is required and original course of Nallah was filled-up and planted with local species. In absence of any clarification SCCL has presumed it as a permanent diversion of nallah. However at this stage Venkatesh Khani No.7 Incline Underground mining is treated under violation category and SCCL has obtained TOR (Terms of Reference) vide MoEF&CC, Gol F.No. 23-73/2018-IA(III) dated.19.06.2019 including this area of 11.96 Ha. As such this land is added in the proposal for the obtaining E.C. (Environment Clearance). However, no Underground Mining / surface use of 11.96 ha except Mine closure activities at the end of Mining process in Venkatesh Khani Underground Mining is proposed.

Similarly, permission under F (C) Act-1980, was also obtained for doing Opencast Mining on the name of Goutham Khani Opencast project(GKOCP), details of which are as follows:

Sl. No.	Purpose of RF diverted	Extent (in Ha.)	MoEF Letter No.	Validity till
1.	1 st Renewal of GK OCP (Phase-I)	161.31	MoEF Letter No.8-117/2002 – FC, Dated: 01-02-2010.	31.01.2030
2.	GK OCP (Phase-III)	154.96	MoEF Letter No.8-62/2005 –FC, Dated: 09/15-07-2008.	14.07.2028
	Total:	316.27		

Similarly, an area of 124.965 Ha. was also diverted and it is under process with Forest department/ MoEF, Gol, for renewal. Details of these diversions are as follows.

Sl. No.	Purpose of RF diverted	Extent (in Ha.)	MoEF Letter No.
1.	1 st Renewal of GK OCP (Phase-II) (Extent increased as per DGPS Survey and Authentication by PCCF, Hyderabad).	124.065	MoEF Letter No.8-17/98-FC, Dated: 08-02-1999 (for original diversion of 124.00 Ha.)
2.	Surface use for installation of Borewell Padmavathi Khani No.5 Inc.	0.90	1 st renewal of File No.8-277/1985FC(vol.I) Dated: 15-10-2019 (Stage-I Letter).
		124.965	

In the present proposal, it is proposed to utilize parts of the existing forest area of the UG Mines of VK-7 incline and PVK-5 Incline by converting underground mining into opencast and continuing part UG Mining in 469.6336 Ha. This amalgamated mine will be called as Venkatesh Khani coal mine with revised Environmental Clearance to be obtained.

The details of the lands covered in the project area as follows:

S.No	Description	Extent In Ha.	Remarks
1	Total Project Land	2403.17	
2	Forest Land	1568.22	
3	Non-Forest Land	834.95	

4	Present Proposal	649.3014	This is covered in 1174.18 Ha. for Underground Mining MoEF Rc No.8-277/85-FC dated.17.02.2009
5	Continuing Underground Rights for Underground Mining	469.6336	
6	Sand Stowing and bore wells	2.85	
7	Already Diverted land	316.27	
8	Under process	124.065	
9	Under Process	0.9	
10	Thella vagu diversion	5.20	This is covered in 11.96 Ha. for Thella Vagu diversion vide MoEf Lr.No. FCA-16.1/70/AP/MIN/07 dated.31.08.2005. Rs.82,55,700/- towards NPV and Rs.8,80,500/- towards CA charges
	Total	2403.17	

Sl. No.	Name of the UG Mine	Extent of RF land proposed for conversion (in Ha.)	RF Area proposed for continuation under UG	RF Area from Underground to Surface Rights (Pumps)	Total
1.	Venkatesh Khani No.7 Inc.	237.8569	146.5431	0	384.40
2.	Padmmavathi Khani(PVK) No.5	411.4445	375.4855	2.85	789.78
		649.3014	522.0286*	2.85	1174.18

* - This area of 522.0286ha. is kept under the proposal to cover up mine closure plan of 52.3950 ha. However, the actual area under the project will be only 469.6336 ha. under Underground Rights.

The balance extractable coal reserves of PVK No.5 & VK No.7 Inc is 190.11 Million Tonnes of which about 64.18 Million Tonnes is located in Forest Land in Compartment Nos.2(part), 3(part), 4(part), 5(part) & 11(part) of Ramavaram RF, and the balance of 125.93 Million Tonnes is in Non forest land. However, mining (OC) will simultaneously starts both in forest and Non forest land as per the approved Mining Plan.

The proposed fresh diversion of forest land for surface use from underground to opencast is 649.3014 Ha for which this permission is requested. However, this area will be mainly used for quarry and excavated material will be taken into the left over quarry as well over burden dumps of the GKOCF for which already permission is available and in stage of processing for final renewal approval. At appropriate time (before two years after expiry of permission) proposal will be submitted for

continuation of mining activities (dumping of excavated material of proposed Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine.

The total project area of Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine is 2403.17 Ha. This area is covered in 2 existing Mining Leases granted under MM (D&R) Act, 1957. The details of Mining Leases as per MMDR Act 1957 are as follows.

Fig in Ha.

Name of Mining Lease	Lease Area	NFL	FL	
			Surface rights	UG rights
Kothagudem Mining Lease (2 nd Renewal)	5158.00	3692.00	291.82	1174.18
GK OC Mining lease(1 st renewal)	261.31	0.00	261.31	0.00

The total Forest land is required for mining and its allied activities. The proposed diversion of 649.3014 Ha. of Forest Land is falling in the 2nd renewal of Kothagudem Mining Lease over an area of 1174.18 Ha. Forest Land granted by MoEF, Gol vide Letter No.8-277/85-FC, dtd.17.02.2009 (under F.C. Act, 1980) for underground mining. In compliance to the conditions stipulated by MoEF, Gol, SCCL vide Letter No.KGM/EST/98/130, dtd.27.05.2009, deposited Rs.36,75,18,340 was deposited through DD No.713038 Dated.18.05.2009 in favour of ADHOC CAMPA, ACC No. CA1578 Cooperation Bank, New Delhi towards 50% of NPV charges for the entire Mining Lease area of 1174.18Ha. including the area of 649.3014 Ha. of Forest Land ,now proposed for diversion.

The present application is falling in Compartment Nos.2 (part), 3(part), 4(part), 5(part) & 11(part) of RF in Ramavaram R.F. of Kothagudem Division. The excavated material generated from the proposed OC mine will be transported through Non forest land for dumping into existing old mine of Goutham Khani Opencast. In the process the National Highway-30, passing through the non forest land to the extent of 3.20 Kms will be diverted as per norms of the NHA after obtaining suitable no objection certificate. Further, most of the forest area proposed for diversion either falls in to open forest, scrub forest or having grasses and degraded, wherever, better density is there it is because of plantations raised by the SCCL over the surface of the ongoing UG Mines.

The new mine(opencast) is proposed to meet the increasing demand of the coal and to sustain the productivity of SCCL, since in next 5 years there will be reduction in production of about 29 million tones because of closure of exhausted mines.

Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine is planned to produce 6.3 (OC 5.3 + UG 1.0) Million Tonnes of coal per annum (peak production) with a net capital out lay of about Rs.480.00 Crores and has a life of 40 years including pre-mining and post mining activities. The Mining plan including Mine closure plan has been approved by Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India vide Lr. No. 38011/12/2017-PCA, dated 27.01.2020.

Further, the Nation will be benefited by achieving increased coal production by exploiting coal reserves of the project and also gets benefited financially by way of Royalty, excise Duty, Sales tax and electricity supply continuously. Further, this project will also contribute benefit to the society by way increased direct and indirect employment resources resultant improvement in standard of living and rise in per capital income of the population of surrounding villages of this area.

The Safety Zone area around the proposed Forest Land to be diverted for mining purpose is 7.07Ha. having 7.5 Mtrs. width.

- i) **Map showing the required Forest Land, boundary of adjoining Forest on a 1:50,000 scale map.**
Map on R.F1:50,000 Scale showing the boundary of Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine, Forest Land 649.3014Ha. required for diversion, covering Survey of India (Topo sheet) No.65 C/10 & 65 C/11 shown on Plan No. 2.
- ii) **Cost of the project.**
About Rs. 480.00 Cr.
- iii) **Justification for locating the project in forest area.**
The Coal reserves are available in Forest Land, which is site specific.
(Annexure -I)
- iv) **Cost-Benefit analysis**
Cost Benefit ratio is 1: 20.10 Details furnished in Annexure – IX(a) & IX(b).
- v) **Employment likely to be generated.**
Direct employment : 401persons.
Indirect employment : 1000 persons.

2. Purpose- wise break-up of the total Land required: (Fig. in Ha.)

Sl. No.	Purpose	Forest Land
		To be diverted From U/G Rights To surface Rights
1	Quarry	573.4251
2	Berm/ Toe wall, inspection road,Drains,Power transmission lines, Safe Barrier Etc.	75.8763
Total		649.3014

S(a)

Change of land use of existing forest diversions in the proposed Project is as follows

Sl. No	DESCRIPTION OF FOREST LAND	Extent (Ha.)	Present Land use				Proposed Land Use (in Ha.)			
			QUARRY AREA	EXTERNAL DUMP	Others (BUILDINGS, ROAD, DRINAGE, BUND, PIPE LINE, STOWING PLANT ETC, Vagu diversion & UG Mining)	TOTAL FOREST LAND	QUARRY AREA	EXTERNAL DUMP	land use remained as same	TOTAL FOREST LAND
1	PHASE-1 (GKOC)	161.31	103.47	12.57	45.27	161.31	0	161.31	0	161.31
2	PHASE-2 (GKOC)	124.065	124.065	0	0	124.065	0	124.065	0	124.065
3	PHASE-3 (GKOC)	154.96	75.53	60.54	18.89	154.96	0	154.96	0	154.96
4	Submersible Pumps	0.9	0	0	0.9	0.9	0.23	0	0.67	0.9
5	Submersible pumps	2.85	0	0	2.85	2.85	2.14	0	0.71	2.85
6	Underground Mining	1174.18	0	0	1174.18	1174.18	649.3014	0	469.6336	1118.935
7	Thella Vagu	11.96	0	0	11.96	11.96	0	0	5.2	5.2
TOTAL		1630.225	303.065	73.11	1254.05	1630.225	651.6714	440.335	476.2136	1568.22

However, fresh surface breaking of underground land is only 649.3014ha. for this proposal.

A detailed justification note along with land use plan for the requirement of Forest Land for different purposes is enclosed. (Annexure-I).

3. Details of displacement of people due to the project, if any:

i. Number of families.

There is no habitation in the Forest Land applied for diversion.

ii. Rehabilitation plan.

As the Singareni Collieries Company Limited is a Government Company, Rehabilitation & Resettlement plan will be implemented as per the R&R Policy of State Government.

4. Whether clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 required? (Yes/No).

Yes. Necessary clearance under Environment Protection Act will be obtained.

5. Undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and / or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost for protection and regeneration of Safety Zone, etc., as per the scheme prepared by the State Government (undertaking to be enclosed).

SLB

a) Compensatory Afforestation:

The MoEF &CC Ltr No 11-423/2011-FC dt 31.01.2013 has accorded status of CPSU to the Singareni Collieries Co Ltd for the purpose of CA land 649.3014 Ha of Forest Land is proposed for Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine. SCCL will pay the charges of CA for raising CA in double the degraded forest area i.e., 1298.61Ha. (649.3014Ha. x 2). A copy of above letter is enclosed as Annexure VI. An undertaking for payment of CA charges is enclosed.

b) Safety Zone area:

SCCL will take up safety zone gap planting. SCCL furnishes Undertaking to pay NPV and other charges as per the demand issued by the state Forest department (Annexure-VIII).

6. Details of Certificates/documents enclosed as required under the instructions.

1.	Location Plan.	Plate No.1
2.	Topographical map showing the area applied for diversion of 649.3014Ha. Forest Land for Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine (Scale: 1:50,000).	Plate No.2
3.	Part Management Plan of the proposed area for diversion of 649.3014Ha. Forest Land for Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine Compartment No.	Plate No.3
4.	Land Use Plan on 1:10000 scale	Plate No.4
5.	Surface contour plan.	Plate No.5
6.	TOPO plan with DGPS Surveyed authenticated the office of PCCF, Hyderabad with co-ordinates.	Plate No.6
7.	Safety Zone plan.	Plate No.7
8.	Justification note for requirement of Forest Land (649.3014 Ha.) for Surface use	Annexure-I
9.	Certificate stating that the applied area for diversion is bare minimum.	Annexure-II
10.	Certificate stating that no violation of the provisions of F.C. Act, 1980 occurred.	Annexure-III
11.	Certificate stating that no suitable alternative Non-forest land is available.	Annexure-IV
12.	Copy of Administrative approval & Copy of Mining plan Approval	Annexure-V&V(a)
13.	MoEF & CC, Gol letter granting CPSU status to SCCL.	Annexure-VI
14.	Undertaking stating to deposit funds as demanded by Forest Department towards Compensatory Afforestation charges and safety zone area.	Annexure-VII
15.	Undertaking from SCCL to deposit the 50% of Net Present Value (NPV).	Annexure-VIII

16.	Cost-Benefit analysis in respect of Forest Land to be diverted.	Annexure-IX(a) & (b)
17.	Undertaking for payment of Additional Cost of NPV.	Annexure-X
18.	Undertaking for payment of extraction charges for 649.3014 Ha.	Annexure-XI
19.	ROFR Certificate in respect of 2 nd renewal of Kothagudem Mining lease is enclosed as the proposed forest land is falling in the above mining lease.(Undertaking)	Annexure-XII
20.	Details of reclamation of OB dumps and plantation made in GK OC	Annexure-XIII
21.	Details of Bio-engineering structures constructed on OB dumps in GK OC.	Annexure-XIV
22.	Certificate for make and model of DGPS Instrument.	Annexure-XV
23.	Forest Land diverted & its use in SCCL for already diverted cases.	Annexure-XVI
24.	Stage-II Letters of diverted forest lands which are falling in the proposed Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine (1174.18Ha., 0.9Ha, 11.96Ha., 261.31Ha., 124Ha., 154.96Ha. 2.85Ha).	Annexure- XVII
25	Comprehensive report on solid waste management and land reclamation.	Annexure- XVIII

Date:
Place: Kothagudem

General Manager,
The Singareni Collieries Company Limited

KOTHAGUDEM AREA.
General Manager
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