



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF
PLOT NO.GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR,
BHUBANESWAR-751023

Letter No.

/9F (MG)-372/2021

Dated, Bhubaneswar, the

April, 2022

To

**The Inspector General of Forests, Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (FC Division)**
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003



Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of Land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Coal Mining Project in district Jharsuguda (Odisha)- Compliance to observation of MoEF & CC, GoI- reg

Ref: F.No.8-280/1989-FC dated 29.12.2021 of GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division) New Delhi

Sir,

In inviting reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), New Delhi have made certain observations vide letter under reference in respect of proposal for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of Land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Coal Mining Project in district Jharsuguda (Odisha) under Jharsuguda Forest Division. The User Agency has complied all the observations raised by Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi. The point wise compliance has been prepared basing on the reports of DFO Jharsuguda Forest Division and the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle is as mentioned below:

(i) There seem to be ambiguity in the total project area and mining lease area as indicated in the tabular and textual detail of the State Government's forwarding letter. Therefore, to have better comprehension, an area change matrix, indicating the exact total approved lease/ project area in the past area being proposed for Integrated project may be provided by the State including the break-up of forest land.

Compliance: In view of the above, the RCCF Sambalpur Circle has reported that the total area allotted by Ministry of Coal is 4133.333 ha as per approved Mining Plan, area earmarked for existing Lakhanpur OCP, Belpahar OCP and Lilari OCP. Now, as per approved Mining Plan total Mining Lease area is 4399.246 ha and Project area is 4742.877 ha proposed for Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari OCP. The copy of statement of approved mining plan is enclosed as **Annexure-A**. The details of tabular statement with area change matrix is furnished below:

TOTAL APPROVED PROJECT AREA OF EIXISTING PROJECT (in Ha.)						
Name of the Mine	Revenue Forest	Reserve Forest	Govt Forest	Govt (Non-Forest)	Tenancy Land	Total
Belpahar OCP	277.874	-	277.874	672.153	494.026	1444.053
Lakhanpur OCP	393.828	44.843	438.671	947.106	1099.223	2485.000
Lilari OCP	162.200	-	162.200	16.720	25.360	204.280
Total	833.902	44.843	878.745	1635.979	1618.609	4133.333

BREAKUP OF APPROVED PROJECT AREA OF EXISTING PROJECT						
Purpose	Forest Land (in Ha.)			Non-Forest Land (Ha)		Total (Ha.)
	Revenue Forest	Reserve Forest	Total	Govt. Non-Forest	Tenancy	
Mining	306.945	43.835	350.780	826.154	863.968	2040.902
7.5 mtr. SZ	5.066	0.680	5.746	8.686	4.815	19.247
OB Dump	3.375	-	3.375	48.310	47.045	98.730
Top soil storage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary reject	-	-	-	-	-	-
Road	12.750	0.061	12.811	31.011	43.850	87.672
Rail	51.504	-	51.504	33.871	17.930	103.305
Drain / Nallah	-	0.267	0.267	10.500	12.580	23.347
Coal stock	-	-	-	42.767	21.661	64.428
CHP / WB	-	-	-	4.550	6.760	11.310
W/S building	-	-	-	51.904	28.593	80.497
Offices	6.660	-	6.660	8.750	10.737	26.147
300/500 m blasting Zone & others	409.909	-	409.909	336.593	128.550	875.052
Out side blasting Zone, earlier inside Mining Lease	37.693	-	37.693	68.070	422.971	528.734
Residential Colony/ Rehabilitation site	-	-	-	164.813	9.149	173.962
Approved Project Area	833.902	44.843	878.745	1635.979	1618.609	4133.333
Area added in the proposed Integrated Project	39.746	77.897	117.643	315.422	176.479	609.544
Total Project Area of proposed integrated Project	873.648	122.740	996.388	1951.401	1795.088	4742.877
Area out side the ML Boundary to be subtracted	37.693	-	37.693	227.752	78.186	343.631
ML area of proposed integrated Project	835.955	122.74	958.695	1723.649	1716.902	4399.246

BREAKUP OF THE PROPOSED AREA (LEASE AND PROJECT) FOR INTGRATED PROJECT(40MTY)						
Purpose	Forest Land (in ha.)			Non Forest Land (in ha.)		Total (in ha.)
	Revenue Forest	Reserve Forest	Total	Govt. Non-Forest Land	Tenancy Land	
Mining	657.254	122.400	779.654	1336.475	1449.355	3565.484
7.5 mtr. SZ	7.786	0.340	8.126	9.107	6.862	24.095
OB Dump	-	-	-	15.230	7.420	22.650
Top soil storage	4.937	-	4.937	0.774	40.078	45.789
Temporary reject	-	-	-	138.797	41.731	180.528
Road	12.750	-	12.750	26.949	25.132	64.831
Rail	78.295	-	78.295	49.664	21.534	149.493
Drain / Nallah	-	-	-	19.798	7.600	27.398
Coal stock	-	-	-	10.785	-	10.785
CHP / WB	-	-	-	20.198	18.891	39.089
W/S building	-	-	-	76.744	84.265	161.009
Offices	6.660	-	6.660	12.359	11.452	30.471
Area to be developed & maintained as green belt	68.273	0.000	68.273	6.769	2.582	77.624
Total Mining Lease Area	835.955	122.740	958.695	1723.649	1716.902	4399.246
Land outside Mining Lease	37.693	0.000	37.693	227.752	78.186	343.631
Total Project Area	873.648	122.740	996.388	1951.401	1795.088	4742.877

(ii) Existing land use of 541.622 ha, diverted in the past, may be indicated by the State. In case the area has already been decoaled, status of its reclamation and handing over back to the Forest Department may be intimated by the State.

Compliance: In view of the above, the RCCF Sambalpur Circle has reported that all three mines have been proposed to be integrated into one mine and planned up to the lower most workable coal seam. In the existing Lakhanpur OCP & Lilari OCP only uppermost Lajkura Seam is excavated leaving Rampur and Ib seam in the lower. Therefore, the above two projects has not been totally decoaled and now planned to be decoaled totally by working in the lower seams in the proposed integrated project. Belpahar OCP is being decoaled totally by working only available lower coal seams, but backfilling is going on over existing OB dump by increasing the dump height as per approved Mining Plan. Therefore after final decoaling, backfilling and biological reclamation will be carried out as per approved Mining Plan of 40 MTY Integrated OCP and then process to handover the reclaimed area will be started. The Reclamation & phase wise reclamation plan has already approve in the DP at **Page No.399/434/DP.**

Purpose	Break up of Existing land use (in Ha)			Break up of Diverted Forest land after Re-Diversion (Change of Land use) in Ha.		
	Revenue Forest	Reserve Forest	Total	Revenue Forest	Reserve Forest	Total
Mining	278.865	19.856	298.721	419.756	44.843	464.599
7.5m safety Zone	3.085	0.680	3.765	3.017	-	3.017
OB Dump	3.375	-	3.375	-	-	-
Rail	51.504	-	51.504	49.659	-	49.659
Road	15.784	0.061	15.845	12.750	-	12.750
Drain / Nallah	1.900	0.267	2.167	-	-	-
Coal stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHP / Weigh Bridge	-	-	-	-	-	-
Work Shop building	6.660	-	6.660	6.660	-	6.660
Offices	-	-	-	-	-	-
Area retained for future expansion	135.606	23.979	159.585	-	-	-
Total	496.779	44.843	541.622	496.780	44.843	541.622

The details of existing land use of 541.622 ha diverted earlier is furnished below:

Name of the Project	Mining (in ha)	7.5 mtr SZ (in ha)	Infrastructure (in ha)	SZ area retained for future expansion (in ha)	Total Area (in ha)
Lakhanpur OCP	191.041	0.965	6.079	35.345	233.430
Belpahar OCP	74.120	2.800	46.300	-	123.430
Lilari OCP	33.560	-	4.400	124.240	162.200
Sub-Total	298.721	3.765	56.779	159.585	518.850
M/s OPGC*	-	-	22.772	-	22.772
	298.721	3.765	79.551	159.585	541.622

*As reported by UA it may be noted that 22.772 ha of forest land was diverted in the leasehold area of existing land use of above three Projects of the MCL.

Further, the status of reclamation at the end of December, 2021 is furnished below:

	Lakhanpur OCP	Belpahar OCP	Lilari OCP	Total
Area Excavated (Ha)	171.18	51.25	32.54	254.97
Area Decoaled (Ha)	164.78	45.49	16.79	227.06
Backfilled Area (Ha)	127.22	3.10	15.32	145.64
Backfilled Area Biologically reclaimed (Ha)	12.41	2.24	6.35	21.00

(iii) Status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted in the past over an area of 541.622 ha may be intimated by the State.

Compliance: In view of the above, the RCCF Sambalpur Circle has reported that the compliance of the conditions stipulated in all the proposals approved earlier over an area of 541.622 ha pertaining to Lakhanpur OCP, Belpahar OCP and Lilari OCP have enclosed herewith as **Annexure-B (i), (ii) & (iii), Annexure-C (i) & (ii), Annexure-D (i) & (ii)** respectively. The details of Stage-II approved project are furnished below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Area (in ha)	File No.	Date	Annexures
1.	Lakhanpur OCP	Diversion of 233.43 ha	8-280/89-FC	8.10.1990	Annexure-B (i)
		<i>Re-diversion of 84.399 ha</i>	8-280/89-FC (Vol-1)	19.01.2012	Annexure-B (ii)
		<i>Change in Land use plan of 25.238 ha</i>	8-280/89-FC (Vol-2)	02.11.2018	Annexure-B (iii)
2.	Belpahar OCP	Diversion of 103.52 ha	8-104/91-FC	02.06.2000	Annexure-C (i)
		Diversion of 19.70 ha including 2.80 ha SZ	8-104/91-FC (Vol-1)	15.09.2014	Annexure-C (ii)
3.	Lilari OCP	One time clearance over 162.20 ha	8-281/89-FC	31.07.1990	Annexure-D (i)
		<i>Stage-II clearance over diversion of 12.70 ha of forest land assigned for Safety Zone in earlier approval of 162.20 ha</i>	8-281/89-FC (Pt.1)	01.06.2006	Annexure-D (ii)
Total		641.187 ha			

Total area of 641.187 ha includes re-diversion of 84.399 ha and land use change plan of 25.238 ha of Lakhanpur OCP and diversion of 12.70 ha of forest land assigned for Safety Zone in earlier approval of 162.20 ha of Lilari OCP has to be excluded from total area diverted. Moreover Stage-II approval as already issued earlier in favour of OPGC, Ltd for an area of 22.277 ha. was also included in total area. Thus for approval of 541.622 ha. (641.187 – 84.399-25.238-12.70+22.772) status of compliance as furnished by RCCF, Sambalpur is enclosed above.

(iv) Proposal also involves re-diversion of 171.774 ha from the already diverted area of 541.622 ha where 26,265 trees will be felled. The State Government may therefore intimate the status of payment of NPV in respect of 171.774 ha of forest land proposed for re-diversion by the user agency.

Compliance: In view of the above, the RCCF Sambalpur Circle has reported that the proposal involves re-diversion of 171.774 ha out of total diverted 541.622 ha forest area from SZ and infrastructure of Lakhanpur OCP (42.389 ha), Belpahar OCP (0.745 ha) & Lilari OCP (128.64 ha) for which NPV has already been paid. The details are furnished below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Area to be re-diverted (in ha)	Details of NPV deposited
1.	Lakhanpur OCP	42.389	42.389 ha proposed for re-diversion is from Safety Zone and Infrastructure which forms a part of diverted forest area of 233.43 ha of Lakhanpur OCP. Rs.14,61,27,180/- deposited towards NPV for diversion of 233.43 ha forest land in respect of Lakhanpur OCP out of total payment of Rs.25,52,72,784/-, deposited vide DD No.868538 dt.07.08.2010 which is enclosed as Annexure-E . Further, payment of Rs.1,49,38,573/- of differential NPV over 84.399 ha during re-diversion for mining has been deposited through RTGS mode NEFT No. S175 dated 29.08.2011 in ORISSA CAMPA A/c and differential amount of Rs.50/- deposited on 03.09.2018 in CAMPA account No.34490201010105428 in UBI No.534498 vide transaction No.AA/118736 dt.03.09.2018. The payment details enclosed as Annexure-F (i) & (ii) .
2.	Belpahar OCP	0.745	0.745 ha proposed for re-diversion is from Safety Zone which forms a part of diverted forest land 19.70 ha out of assigned Safety Zone area 174.354 ha. Rs.10,91,45,604/- part payment of total amount of Rs.25,52,72,784/- deposited vide DD No.868538 dt.07.08.2010 for Belpahar OCP towards NPV of 174.354 ha and the payment receipt is enclosed as Annexure-E .
3.	Lilari OCP	128.640	128.640 ha proposed for re-diversion is the part of diverted forest land of 162.20 ha in respect of Lilari OCP. Rs.1,16,84,000/- has been deposited vide DD No.092588 dt.18.06.2005 towards NPV over 12.70 ha forest land for re-diversion out of diverted forest area of 162.20 ha. The payment receipt is enclosed as Annexure-G . Rs.9,35,87,000/- has been deposited for balance 149.50 ha diverted forest area at SBI, Bandhabahal in CAMPA Account No.344901010070194 in Union Bank of India, Sundarnagar Branch, New Delhi. The payment receipt is enclosed as Annexure-H .
	Total	171.77 ha	

(v) An area of 22.323 ha of safety zone has been earmarked out of 417.073 ha proposed for diversion. Status of entire safety zone maintained in respect of 541.622 ha and its present status and afforestation, if any raised in lieu of 1.5 times the area of safety zone needs to be intimated by the State.

Compliance: In view of the above, the RCCF Sambalpur Circle has reported that the break-up of diverted forest land 541.622 ha & SZ area is furnished below:

BREAKUP OF DIVERTED FOREST LAND 541.622 HA AND SAFETY ZONE AREA

Name of the Project	Mining (in ha)	Infrastructure (in ha)	7.5 mtr SZ (in ha)	SZ area retained for future expansion (in ha)	Total Area (in ha)
Lakhanpur OCP	191.041	6.079	0.965	35.345	233.430
Belpahar OCP	74.120	46.300	2.800	-	123.220
Lilari OCP	33.560	4.400	-	124.240	162.200
Sub-Total	298.721	56.779	3.765	159.585	518.850
M/s OPGC	-	22.772	-	-	22.772
	298.721	79.551	3.765	159.585	541.622

STATUS OF MAINTAINANCE OF SAFETY ZONE

Name of the Project	Safety Zone	Action taken
Lakhanpur OCP	Safety Zone are retained for future expansion (35.345 ha)	17325 Nos. of plants have been planted over safety zone area and thick lush green belt has been developed which is being maintained as green cover over.
	7.5 m Safety Zone (0.965 ha)	An amount of Rs.65,40,000/- towards approved cost of the scheme for fencing, protection and afforestation of the safety zone area (7.5 m strip all along the outer boundary of the area identified to undertake mining) deposited in Odisha State Adhoc CAMPA A/c No.344901010070194 of Union Bank of India, Sunder Nagar Branch, New Delhi-110003 on dt.17.05.2011 through RTGS mode enclosed in Annexure-I
Belpahar OCP	7.5 m Safety Zone (2.800 ha)	An amount of Rs.1,53,08,083/- towards the approved cost of the scheme for fencing, protection and afforestation of the safety zone area (7.5 m strip all along the outer boundary of the area identified to undertake mining in Odisha State adhoc-CAMPA A/c No.344902010105428 of Union Bank of India, Sundarnagar Branch, New Delhi-110003 on 30.12.2013 through RTGS mode. Annexure - J
Lilari OCP	Safety Zone area retained for future expansion (124.24 ha)	The total boundary of Safety Zone has been provided with stone wall fencing at the project cost. Gap plantation has been carried out over blank spaces i.e. 70.10 Ha with 178939 Nos. of plants.

The RCCF, Sambalpur Circle reported that, as per letter No.3062/1F dt.25.08.2007 of the DFO, Sambalpur Division, 324.0 ha. of Compensatory Afforestation has already been raised in Baighara RF & Tabla A & B RF under his Division against diversion of **162.20 ha.** of forest land for Lilari OCP which also includes safety zone. Further, 466.86ha. of CA has already been raised in Chandlidunguri RF against the diversion of **233.43 ha.** of forest for Lakhanpur OCP including safety zone.

In case of Belpahar OCP Rs.2, 46,664/- towards the cost of 4.20 ha (one and half time of 2.80 ha used for safety zone) deposited in Ac. No 344902010105428 of Union Bank of India, Sundarnagar Branch, New Delhi- 110003 on 01.01.2014 through RTGS mode by the User Agency is enclosed as **Annexure-J** for gap plantation in Ullap, PRF by this Division.

(vi) Cost benefit ratio of 1:103 estimated for the project seems to be exorbitantly high. Examination of the same revealed that attributes of cost and benefits estimate revealed that cost parameters have been estimated for area of 417 ha only while estimation of some of benefits parameters has been accounted for the entire project area which seems to be not an ideal situation of comparing benefits and cost to estimate the CB ratio. Estimation of various parameters may accordingly be revisited by the State.

Compliance: In view of the above, the RCCF Sambalpur Circle reported that the DFO Jharsuguda Division has submitted the revised Cost Benefit Analysis which is enclosed as **Annexure-K.**

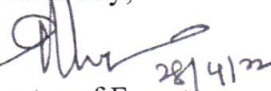
(vii) As the proposed mine involves considerable high capacity of 40 MTPA which may increase the pollution as well as biotic pressure on the surrounding resources, therefore, evacuation plan of coal from the mine head to CHP and further transportation from the CHP to end users may be intimated by the State.

Compliance: The user agency has submitted the evacuation plan of coal from mine head to SILO and further transportation from the SILO to end users as per Approved Mining Plan enclosed in the DP and the same documents has been approved herewith as **Annexure-L.**

In consideration of the above mentioned point wise compliance to the observations of the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi is sent herewith along with the annexures and supporting documents as above for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: **Annexures A-L**


Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No.

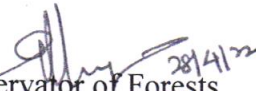
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Copy along with one set of Compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government in FE&CC Department, Kharavel Bhawan, Odisha for kind information and necessary action.

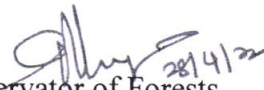
Encl: **Compliance report**


Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No.

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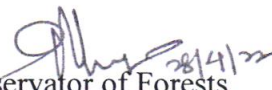
Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (C), MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar for kind information and necessary action.


Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No.

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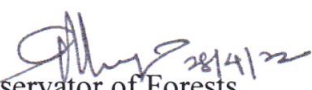
Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Circle for information and necessary action.


Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No.

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Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda Forest Division for information and necessary action.


Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act