



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS; ANGUL CIRCLE,
AT/PO- HAKIMPADA, ANGUL- 759143, ODISHA, Phone-06764-296010 (O), 296011(Res),
Email Id: rccfangul@gmail.com.

Memo No. 1980 /5F-FC-19/2026 dated 30.04.26

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o. the Principal Chief Conservation of Forests & HoFF, Odisha.

Sub: -

Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 57.73 hectares of forest land by MCL, Angul, for the Bharatpur OCP under Talcher Range of Angul Forest Division.: - **Submission of EDS reply as per observations raised by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India on dt.05.05.2025.**

Ref:-

- (i) Letter dated 05.05.2025 of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division).
- (ii) Memo No.10818/FE&CC dated 9.5.2025 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt. of Odisha.
- (iii) Your Memo No.10611/9F(MG)-445/2025 dated 15.05.2025.

In inviting a reference to the memo cited above on the subject this is to inform that Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division) have communicated 20 nos. of EDS in respect of the above proposal vide memo under reference (i). Accordingly, the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division vide his Memo No.4343 dated 27.04.2026 (**Copy enclosed**) has submitted point-wise compliance on the EDS raised by Govt. of India, MoEF & CC. The point-wise compliance is furnished below:-

Point No.- i.	As reported by the State Govt. that the total area of the proposed expansion mine is 1556.94 Ha out of which the total forest land is only 222.41 Ha. However, an area of 177.77 ha has already been diverted for Bharatpur OCP. The proposed expansion is for additional area of 629.52 ha which involves of 44.64 ha of Forest land and 13.09 ha looks like forest which is to be diverted. As per the records available with the Ministry only 134.41 ha of forest land has been diverted earlier vide letter No. 8-87/2012-FC dated 07.02.2014. Now proposed area is 57.73. Total area = 134.415 + 57.73 = 192.145 ha. Balance area 222.41 - 192.145 = 30.615 ha for which the status is not known. The State Govt. shall provide the all details of the balance area and earlier approvals if obtained.
Reply	In compliance to the above, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has intimated that the forest land diverted for Bharatpur OCP is 177.77 ha, which was diverted in two phases: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The MoEF & CC, Government of India, issued the Stage-II order for diversion of 71.64 ha of forest land vide their letter No. 8-348/98-FC dated 02.04.1997 in the first phase.2. The MoEF & CC, Government of India, issued the Stage-II order for diversion of 134.41 ha of forest land vide their letter No. F. No. 8-

	<p>87/2012-FC dated 07.02.2014 in the second phase.</p> <p>Out of the total diverted area of 206.05 ha (71.64 + 134.41), an area of 3.64 ha was counted twice. In Phase I, this area was diverted as revenue forest, and in Phase II, it was re-diverted as reserve forest. Further, an area of 24.64 ha was transferred to Jagannath OCP vide EC letter No. J-11015/177/2015-IA-II(M) dated 09.09.2020 (Jagannath OCP) and EC letter No. J-11015/630/2007-IA.II(M) dated 27.05.2021 (Bharatpur OCP). Hence, the effective diverted area is $206.05 - 3.64 - 24.64 = 177.77$ ha.</p> <p>The forest land in the expansion area of Bharatpur Expansion OCP is 44.64 ha. However, as per the directives of the Forest Department, an area of 13.09 ha of non-forest Government land has been included for forest diversion under the category of "look-alike forest land." Since this 13.09 ha is recorded as non-forest Government land, it has been categorized as non-forest land in the approved Mining Plan (MP), Mine Closure Plan (MCP), and land schedule. Therefore, the total forest area within the 1556.94 ha project area is 222.41 ha (177.77 ha already diverted + 44.64 ha proposed for diversion). Copies of the Stage-II orders for 71.64 ha and 134.41 ha of forest land, along with the EC orders issued by the MoEF & CC, Government of India, are enclosed herewith as Annexure-I.</p>
Point No. ii	<p>The Ministry vides its letter no. 8-87/2012-FC dated 07.02.2014 has granted Stage-II approval for diversion of 134.41 ha of forest land for Bharatpur open cast mining. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage-II approval duly verified by the Regional Office of MoEF & CC along with CA details like survival % and implementation of RWMP and SSWMP.</p>
Reply	<p>In compliance to the above EDS, the Stage-II compliance report, along with all connected documents for diversion of 134.41 ha of forest land, has been submitted by the user agency to the Regional Office of MoEF & CC, Government of India, and is enclosed herewith as Annexure-II.</p> <p>The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) for the diversion of 134.41 ha of forest land has been carried out over 269.00 ha of double-degraded forest land at Mankadchua RF under Talcher Range of Angul Forest Division. The current survival percentage is approximately 75%, as intimated by the Range Officer, Talcher Range, vide their Memo No. 550 dated 10.04.2026 (copy enclosed for reference). The user agency has deposited the following amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand Order No. 4028 dated 30.05.2013 towards CA: ₹65,69,000 (deposited on 22.07.2013; UTR No. SBINH13203341427) • Demand Order No. 7672 dated 13.10.2013 towards SSWLCP: ₹7,40,11,680 (deposited on 16.10.2013; UTR No. SBINH13291318969) • Demand Order No. 3656 dated 10.05.2013 towards RWLMP: ₹94,45,500 (deposited on 22.07.2013; UTR No. SBINH13203341427) • Demand Order No. 7857 dated 21.10.2013 towards RWLMP: ₹1,08,62,970 (deposited on 22.10.2013; UTR No. SBINH13296302362) <p>Besides, the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan (SSWMP) is enclosed herewith as Annexure-III. Further, the supply order for procurement of three vehicles has already been awarded, and the supply order for procurement of solar lights will be awarded within a week, as per the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan (SSWMP).</p>
Point No. iii	<p>The KML file of 134.415 ha forest land which has been diverted earlier and CA area is required for detailed analysis of the proposal.</p>

Reply	In compliance to observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has submitted the KML file of 134.415 ha of forest land that has already been diverted. The KML file of the CA land has been submitted on a pen drive, which is enclosed herewith.
Point No. iv	Status of reclamation measures undertaken by the user agency in their lease area in case of earlier approval as per the Progressive Mine Closure Plans shall be furnished by the State.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has intimated that the reclamation status of Bharatpur OCP is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technically reclaimed area: 216.56 ha • Biologically reclaimed area: 190.00 ha A copy of the approved Mine Closure Plan and photographs in support of this are enclosed herewith as Annexure-IV .
Point No. v	The DFO, Angul Forest Division in online Part-II has reported that the type of forest land proposed for diversion falls under Eco-Value Class-III while State Government in their forwarding letter reported the type of forest land proposed for diversion falls under Eco-Value Class-I. This is contradictory and need clarification and required correction.
Reply	In compliance to the above, it is clarified that the forest area proposed for diversion actually falls under Eco-Value Class-I, as per the approved Working Plan of the Divisional Forest Office, Angul Division, Angul, which is enclosed herewith. The mention of Eco-Value Class-III in Part-II submitted by the DFO, Angul, is a typographical error.
Point No. vi	Bangaru Jhor/ nalla his flowing through the expansion mine lease area. State Government shall submit NOC from the Water Resources Department.
Reply	In compliance to the above EDS, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has submitted an undertaking to furnish the NOC from the Water Resources Department prior to Stage-II approval. The same is enclosed herewith as Annexure-V .
Point No. vii	Cost benefit ratio has been estimated to be 1:125.097 which seems to be on higher side. The same may be examined and CB analysis as per prescribed format and parameters shall be prepared and submitted.
Reply	In compliance to the above EDS, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has submitted the revised cost-benefit analysis, which is enclosed herewith as Annexure-VI .
Point No. viii	Elephant Movement is reported in the area proposed for diversion. Therefore, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Odisha needs to be provided by the State Government to the Ministry.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, all mitigative measures in this regard have been incorporated in Chapter V (Animal Passage Plan) of the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, which has been duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. The approved SSWLCP is enclosed herewith.
Point No. ix	As per the information uploaded in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal the number of trees has been mentioned as 2997 trees, whereas State Government in their forwarding letter reported the total 12297 nos. of trees enumerated. This is contradictory and need clarification.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, it is clarified that the total number of trees involved in this project is 20,564 (Revenue Forest and "look-alike" forest land: 12,297; Government non-forest land: 5,270; Notified forest land:

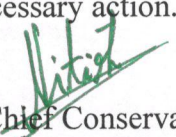
	2,997).The detailed tree enumeration report, duly certified by all concerned authorities, is enclosed herewith as Annexure–VII.
Point No. x	State Government has reported that no families and no SC/ST families are displaced due to diversion of 57.73 ha of forest land. However, The DFO, Angul Forest Division has reported in his Part-II that total 1024 number of families has been displaced due to instant proposal. Further, State Government has recommended that proposal subject to condition that “Livelihoods plan for at least one village near to the Mining lease area shall be prepared and implemented by the User Agency at project cost in consultation with the DFO, Angul Forest Division”. This need clarification.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has submitted the detailed Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) status in this regard, which is enclosed herewith as Annexure–VIII.
Point No. xi	The component wise KML file (including safety zone) of proposed forest land is not available. This need to be provided.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has submitted the component-wise KML file, including the safety zone, of the proposed forest land. The file has been provided in a pen drive and is enclosed herewith.
Point No. xii	As per DSS analysis, Non-forestry work such as solid structures, road etc. is visible in the proposed forest patches. The State Govt. shall offer their views /comments that why it should not be considered violation of the Adhinyam,1980.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has intimated that the solid structures and roads are encroachments illegally constructed by local villagers to claim higher compensation in lieu of the land. The matter has already been brought to the attention of the District Administration and the State Government to take action for their removal as per the law in force.
Point No. xiii	The action taken by the State w.r.t. Violation (if any) shall be submitted.
Reply	In compliance to the above observation, no work has been carried out by the user agency inside the mining lease area. Further, the legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Forest – 1.25 ha • DLC Forest – 43.39 ha • Look-alike Forest – 13.09 ha • Total Area – 57.73 ha Upon verification of records, the non-forestry work, such as solid structures and roads, observed within the proposed forest patches falls under the Look-alike Forest and DLC Forest categories. These lands are now settled as tenant land. Therefore, the user agency is not in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the aforementioned purpose.
Point No. xiv	Observation based on high resolution Google Earth imagery: moderately dense vegetation (MDF) is visible in the proposed CA sites. The suitability of CA areas shall therefore be re-examined by the State. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted along with the site suitability certificate from a competent authority.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the Divisional Forest Officer, Dhenkanal Division, has intimated that the identified CA land for this project is suitable @ 500 seedlings per hectare, vide their Letter No. 3043 dated 24.04.2026. The letter, along with the site suitability certificate, is enclosed herewith as Annexure–IX.

Point No. xv	As reported by the State Govt. that Jagannath open cast mine is on the eastern side of Bharatpur mine Jagannath mine was going to be exhausted. In order to add life to Jagannath mine, a part of planned Bharatpur mine was transferred to Jagannath mine. In order to obtain environmental clearance for extended Jagannath mine, the boundaries of Bharatpur mine had to be adjusted as per new common boundary and obtain approval of revised mining plan. In this regard the State Govt shall provide the details whether any forest land has been transferred to the Jaganath mines, if yes necessary approval copy shall be provided along with status of compliance with due verification from Regional Office.
Reply	<p>In compliance with to the above observation, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has intimated that the diverted forest land available in Bharatpur OCP is 177.77 ha, which was diverted in two phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The MoEF& CC, Government of India, issued the Stage-II order for diversion of 71.64 ha of forest land vide letter No. 8-348/98-FC dated 02.04.1997 (Phase I). 2. The MoEF& CC, Government of India, issued the Stage-II order for diversion of 134.41 ha of forest land vide letter No. F. No. 8-87/2012-FC dated 07.02.2014 (Phase II). Out of the total diverted area of 206.05 ha (71.64 + 134.41), an area of 3.64 ha was counted twice: diverted as Revenue Forest in Phase I and re-diverted as Reserve Forest in Phase II. Further, an area of 24.64 ha was transferred to Jagannath OCP vide EC letter No. J-11015/177/2015-IA-II(M) dated 09.09.2020 (Jagannath OCP) and EC letter No. J-11015/630/2007-IA.II(M) dated 27.05.2021 (Bharatpur OCP). <p>Hence, the effective area of diverted forest land is $206.05 - 3.64 - 24.64 = 177.77$ ha. The forest land in the expansion area of Bharatpur Expansion OCP is 44.64 ha. However, as per directives of the Forest Department, an area of 13.07 ha of non-forest Government land has been included for diversion under the category of "look-alike" forest land. Since this 13.07 ha is recorded as non-forest Government land, it has been categorized as non-forest land in the approved Mining Plan (MP), Mine Closure Plan (MCP), and land schedule. Therefore, the total forest area within the 1,556.94 ha project area is 222.41 ha (177.77 ha already diverted + 44.64 ha proposed for diversion). Copies of the Stage-II orders for 71.64 ha and 134.41 ha of forest land, along with the EC orders issued by the MoEF & CC, Government of India, are enclosed herewith as Annexure-X.</p>
Point No. xvi	The CA Scheme has been prepared @500 plants per hectare whereas as per guidelines atleast 1000 plants per hectare are required to be planted.
Reply	<p>In compliance with the above observation, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has identified additional CA lands as follows to cover the balance seedlings to be planted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deogarh Forest Division: 21 ha (AR plantation over 15 ha. @ 1000 seedlings per ha. and ANR plantation over 6 ha. @ 500 seedlings per ha.) • Rairkhol Forest Division: 104 ha @ 500 seedlings per ha <p>Copies of all connected documents submitted by the concerned DFOs are enclosed herewith as Annexure-XI.</p>
Point No. xvii	The state shall ensure that the land use proposed is commensurate with the approved mining plan. A comparative analysis of the proposed land with the approved mining plan shall be provided.
Reply	In compliance with the above observation, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has ensured that the land use proposed is

	commensurate with the approved Mining Plan. The relevant documents are enclosed herewith as Annexure-XII .
Point No. xviii	The state shall provide the detail as to how the requirement of electricity and water will be met in the instant case. The detail of additional forest land required if any shall also be submitted.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has intimated that the detailed requirements of electricity and water have been addressed in Chapter 8 of the Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan uploaded on the portal. No additional water provision is required.
Point No. xix	The state shall provide the details of mineral evacuation plan, and the requirement of forest land for the same.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, the user agency, i.e., the General Manager, Bharatpur Area, has intimated that the mechanized coal evacuation facility of 20 MTPA (SILO + Conveyor) is already operational at Bharatpur OCP. It is ensured that coal is transported through mechanized loading using an eco-friendly mode of transport. Further, no additional forest land is required for the evacuation system.
Point No. xx	The State Govt. shall also provide the MoM of PSC with part-IV as per the provisions of the Guidelines issued dated 25.01.2024.
Reply	In compliance with these observations, it is submitted that the forest diversion proposal for Bharatpur Expansion was submitted on 27.03.2022, i.e., prior to the implementation of Parivesh 2.0 and the Van Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhinyam, 2023. The proposal was recommended by the DFO, Angul, on 23.08.2023 and by the RCCF, Angul, on 26.11.2024. Subsequently, it was recommended by the PCCF (Nodal-FC & FD Act) on 02.04.2025 and by the OSD-cum-Special Secretary on 11.04.2025. The site inspection report of the IRO, MoEF & CC, was completed on 04.06.2025, and the report was submitted to MoEF & CC on 20.06.2025. Considering the above-mentioned facts, and as the proposal was submitted prior to the implementation date of the PSC, it is requested that this proposal be considered as per the recommendations submitted under Parivesh 1.0.


In view of the above compliances and Annexures submitted by the DFO, Angul Division is forwarded herewith in triplicate for favour of information and necessary action.

Encl: - As above.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Angul Circle

Memo No. 1981 / Dated. 30.04.26

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.4343 dated 27.04.2026.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
Angul Circle

Memo No. 1982 / Dated. 30.04.26

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Bharatpur Area for information and necessary action.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
Angul Circle