

कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (कक्ष भू-प्रबंध), वन भवन, तुलसी नगर, म.प्र., भोपाल

क्रमांक/एफ-1/823/2021/10-11/4411
प्रति,

भोपाल, दिनांक 4-10-23

वन महानिरीक्षक (एफ.सी.)

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, अलीगंज,

जोरबाग रोड़, नई दिल्ली-110003

विषय:- वन मंडल सिंगरौली के परिक्षेत्र बैढ़न के ग्राम मुहैर व पड़री के कक्ष क्र. RF-276, & PF-277, 278, 279 के रकबा 622.783 हे. वनभूमि के स्थान पर पुनरीक्षित रकबा 139.86 हे. वनभूमि में ब्लॉक-बी ओपन कास्ट कोयला उत्खनन हेतु NCL का व्यपवर्तन का आनलाईन प्रस्ताव क्र. FP/MP/MIN/44294/2020

संदर्भ:- भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली का पत्र क्र. 08/2021-FC दिनांक 01/09/2023

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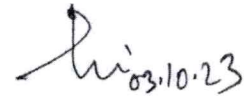
विषयांकित परियोजना के संबंध में आपके द्वारा पत्र क्र./08/2021-FC दिनांक 01/09/2023 से 01 पर जानकारी चाही गई है। चाही गई 01 बिन्दु की जानकारी निम्नानुसार है:-

(i) The AC after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that more than 66% of the reserve forest area which involves about 46,571 trees is proposed for dumping the overburden. The dumping of the overburden is not a site specific activity therefore the State Govt. shall explore the other alternatives over non-forest land for the same. Since, only bare minimum forest land can be allowed to be diverted therefore the State Govt. shall examine this aspect in detail and give its recommendations along with a detailed report accordingly.

• उपर्युक्त बिन्दु के सम्बन्ध में इस कार्यालय के पत्र दिनांक 04/09/2023 से वन मंडल अधिकारी, सिंगरौली को प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु लेख किया गया था जिसके परिप्रेक्ष्य में NCL द्वारा पत्र क्रमांक 115 दिनांक 19/09/2023 से उक्त बिन्दु के सम्बन्ध में 15 बिन्दुओं का विस्तृत प्रतिवेदन मंडल अधिकारी, सिंगरौली को प्रस्तुत किया गया है। वन मंडल अधिकारी, सिंगरौली ने अपने पत्र क्रमांक/4841 दिनांक 21/09/2023 से NCL के प्रतिवेदन पर अपनी अनुशंसा कर इस कार्यालय में प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

• अतः वन मंडल अधिकारी, सिंगरौली द्वारा की गई अनुशंसा से सहमत होते हुये वन मंडल अधिकारी, सिंगरौली का प्रतिवेदन पत्र 4841 दिनांक 21/09/2023 सहपत्रों सहित आगामी कार्यवाही हेतु संलग्न प्रेषित है।

संलग्न:- उपरोक्तानुसार।



(एच.एस.मोहन्ता)

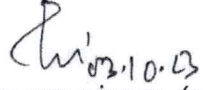
अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (भू-प्रबंध)
मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

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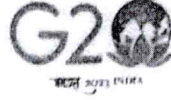
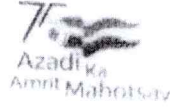
पृष्ठांकन क्र./एफ-1/823/2021/10-11/4412
प्रतिलिपि:-

भोपाल, दिनांक 4-10-23

- 1 मुख्य वन संरक्षक, रीवा वृत्त, रीवा, मध्यप्रदेश
 - 2 वन मण्डल अधिकारी, सामान्य वन मण्डल, सिंगरौली, म.प्र.।
 - 3 महाप्रबंधक, नार्दन कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड, ब्लॉक-बी परियोजना, पोस्ट गोरबी,
जिला-सिंगरौली मध्य प्रदेश।
- की ओर सूचनार्थ अग्रेषित ।


अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (भू-प्रबंध)
मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

नॉदर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड
(मिनी रत्न कंपनी)
(कोलइण्डिया लिमिटेड की अनुषंगी कंपनी)



Northern Coalfields Limited
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ब्लॉक-बी परियोजना/Block-B Project

CIN- U10102MP1985GOI003160

An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & ISO 45001 Certified Company

ब्लॉक-बी परियोजना, पो: गोर्बी जिला - सिंगरौली (म.प्र.)-486892/Block-B Project, Post - Gorbi, Distt - Singrauli (M.P.) PIN - 486892
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क्र.: एनसीएल/ब्लॉक-बी/महा.प्र./2023/115

दिनांक 19/09/2023

माफ़ नियो
10,

Divisional Forest Officer,
Office of Forest Division, Waidhan
District - Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh)

विषय :
21/9

वनमण्डल सिंगरौली के परिक्षेत्र वैदन अंतर्गत ग्राम मुहेर व पडरी के कक्ष क्रमांक RF 276 & PF 277, 278, 279 के कुल रकबा 139.86 हेक्टेयर वन भूमि में नार्दन कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड ब्लॉक बी ओपेन कास्ट को कोयला उत्खनन हेतु व्यपवर्तन का ऑनलाइन प्रस्ताव क्रमांक FP/MP/MIN/44294/2020 के संबंध में।

- संदर्भ : 1. MoEF&CC, New Delhi's letter no. 8-08/2021-FC dated 01.09.2023
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Land Management)/NO(MP), Bhopal's letter no. F-1/823/2021/10-11/4047 dated 04.09.2023.

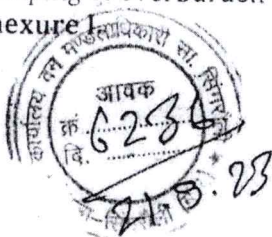
Dear Sir,

With reference to above subject, following information has been sought by MoEF&CC vide letter no. 8-08/2021-FC dated 01.09.2023 in above-mentioned proposal for diversion of 139.86 ha forest land for Expansion of Block-B Opencast Project (OCP) of NCL:

"The AC after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that more than 66% of the reserve forest area which involves about 46,571 trees is proposed for dumping the overburden. The dumping of the overburden is not a site specific activity therefore the State Govt shall explore the other alternatives over non-forest land for the same. Since, only bare minimum forest land can be allowed to be diverted therefore the State Govt. shall examine this aspect in detail and give its recommendations along with a detailed report accordingly."

The proposed 139.86 ha forest land for expansion of Block-B Opencast Project of NCL is the bare minimum possible requirement due to various technical and other reasons which has been deliberated in detail as below:

1. Expansion of Block-B Opencast Project to enhance coal production capacity from 5.47 MT to 10.00 MT per annum was approved by Coal India Limited's Board of Directors which is going to help in achieving the ambitious target of 1.0 Billion tonne coal production assigned by Ministry of Coal. For this expansion, additional 343.21 ha land is required for coal excavation and dumping of overburden (OB). 'KML' map of location of Block-B Opencast Project enclosed as Annexure I



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- After rejection of earlier proposal of 631.39 ha forest land by MoEF&CC on 29.06.2022, re-assessment was carried out by CMPDIL and the forest land requirement has been revised to 139.86 ha which is bare minimum and unavoidable requirement. As per the Mining Plan for expansion of project, leasehold area has been increased from 1339.00 ha to 1756.77 ha which involves additional 139.86 ha forest land and remaining non-forest land. Out of 139.86 ha forest land, area proposed for coal excavation and for overburden dump is 45.86 ha and 94.00 ha respectively which is bare minimum and unavoidable for continuous operation of the project.
- This revision has been worked out by increasing the height of proposed as well as existing overburden dumps from 90 m to 120 m by increasing benches of overburden dumps from 3 to 4, and flushing of existing internal dump with external dump proposed over 94 ha forest land thus resulting in accommodation of maximum quantity of overburden in bare minimum land area. Dumping of overburden over any other virgin land will require at least 4 times area of present proposed forest land area due to its inadequacy for flushing with existing overburden dumps of mine.
Further more, proposed 94.00 ha forest land for dumping of OB is unavoidable since the height of overburden dumps is being increased from 90 m to 120 m, which will require a base of wider area for enhanced safety of dumps.
- Due to the geological conditions of Block-B opencast project, the overburden to be removed from the mine cannot be dumped internally as the gradient of the coal seam is having steep slope of 22° towards dip side which does not allow to increase height of internal overburden dump & shall result in accommodating lesser quantity of overburden (Cross Section of steep gradient of mine is enclosed - **Annexure II**). Hence, it has been planned to dump the overburden over 94.00 ha forest land located at South-West boundary of mine which will be flushed with present internal dump to accommodate maximum possible overburden in bare minimum land.
- Details of proposed additional land for coal excavation and overburden dumping for expansion of project is as follows (KML map of land proposed for expansion of project enclosed - **Annexure III**): -

Sr.No.	Component	Forest Land (ha) (including Safety zone)	Non-forest land (ha)	Remarks
1	Land for Overburden dumping area	94.00	429.10 (Existing external OB dump) and 296.54 (Existing Internal OB dump)	Out of total 528.39 Mm3 OB to be removed, 442.07 Mm3 OB will be accommodated in existing area of NCL dumps and rest 86.32 Mm3 OB shall be accommodated in proposed 94.00 ha forest land.
2	Proposed land for coal excavation	45.86	203.35	

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It is evident from the above facts that out of the proposed 343.21 ha land for mining purposes, 249.21 ha land is proposed for coal excavation (45.68 ha forest land and 203.35 ha non-forest land) and 94.00 ha land is proposed for overburden dumping, which is only 27% of total proposed 343.21 ha land. While it is only 5% of total leasehold area 1756.77 ha.

Proposed 94.00 ha forest land sought for overburden dumping is only 16% of the total forest land involved in 1756.77 ha leasehold area of mine (Already diverted - 447.00 ha and proposed 139.86 ha). Due to geological and technical conditions, the requirement of forest land for overburden dumping is being sought for the first time by NCL Block-B Opencast project.

6. In compliance to the directions as per above referred letter of MoEF&CC, surrounding areas of Block-B Opencast project were re- assessed. Non-forest land is available in some parts around the periphery of Block-B opencast project; however it is not suitable for overburden dumping due to social, environmental protection and technical reasons as deliberated below. Details of lands surrounding the periphery of Block-B project is as follows (KML map indicating the lands adjacent to boundary of the mine enclosed - **Annexure IV**): -

(i) **Area in East Direction:** As per **Annexure - IV**, coal bearing land of Muher sub basin of Singrauli Coalfields is located in eastern part of the project. Overburden cannot be dumped over this land as it is the coal bearing area and is under consideration for expansion of Nigahi Project and Phase-II expansion of Block-B Project of NCL.

(ii) **Area in South Direction:** As per Annexure - IV, only forest land is located up to 5-6 Km distance in Southern direction of the project. Further in South-Eastern direction, Muher-Amlohri Coal mine of M/s. Sasan Power Ltd. is located. Hence overburden cannot be dumped in this area.

(iii) **Area in Western Direction:** As per Annexure IV, railway track is located at the western direction of Block-B opencast Project leasehold which connects existing Block-B 'Coal Handling Plant' (CHP) to Katni-Chopan Railway line. Moreover, there are approx 13 populated villages inside 3 km radius towards western side. The details of villages along with their population as per 2011 census is as follows: - Padari - 2115, Chakuar - 191, Thurua - 307, Sigahi - 291, Solang - 1762, Rajkhad - 541, Haraiya - 328, Naudhiya - 377, Mahdeiya - 1520, Ramgarh - 419, Bastwali - 273, Kasar - 3142 and Gondwali - 4226. As per 2011 census, population is more than 15,000 in villages around 3 km area on western side. Main livelihood of above villagers is agriculture. Population has been increased in these villages due to resettlement in this region from different places.

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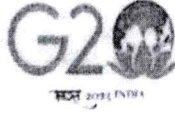
Beyond 3 km, Trimula Industries is located due to which non-forest land is not available. About 15,000 village population has to be resettled for overburden dumping.

Land area of about 4 times the area of proposed 94 ha forest will be required to accommodate the overburden quantity as proposed flushing with internal dump would not be possible because this area will not be adjacent to existing overburden dump. Besides this, additional land for safety zone and rehabilitation of 15,000 villagers will be required, which is not available in the surrounding area. Furthermore, transportation and dumping of overburden at distant sites from quarry area will result in additional pollution load. Hence, considering aforesaid reasons, dumping of overburden at locations distant from quarry area is not feasible.

- (iv) **Area in North Direction:** As per enclosed Annexure-IV, main market of Mahdeiya and Gorbi is located in north direction of project which caters to the needs of residents of nearby area. Besides this, National Highway (NH-39), Mahdeiya Railway Station, Mahdeiya Railway Siding and Mahavir Coal Industry are located in this direction. Beyond the above infrastructure, abandoned Gorbi mine of NCL is located where fly ash filling is in process in compliance to the directives of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and MoEF&CC by Vindhyachal TPP of M/s NTPC and Anpara TPP of M/s UPRUVNL. Beyond this area in North direction, only forest land is located.
7. No forest land has been diverted for the purpose of overburden dumping by Block-B project till date. However, present proposed 94.00 ha forest land is adjacent to the mine boundary and technically suitable for overburden dumping as it will facilitate the flushing of the existing internal dump. Due to this, pollution arising out of transportation of overburden will be effectively controlled. Besides this, there is no suitable land available up to 5-6 Km distance where overburden can be accommodated. Hence, this proposed 94.00 ha forest land located in South - West direction which at present appears as degraded forest land of eco class 3, will be a suitable solution on technical basis.
8. As per tree counting report on proportionate basis submitted by Forest Department, there are 31,288 nos. of pollard condition tree and shrubs in proposed 94.00 ha forest land (girth 0 to 150 cm). Out of this, only 19,178 nos. of trees are having girth more than 30 cm, which were predominantly observed to be pollard condition and shrubs during counting. Remaining 12,111 nos. of trees are small and shrubs (Tree counting details of 139.86 ha forest land is enclosed - Annexure V & VI).

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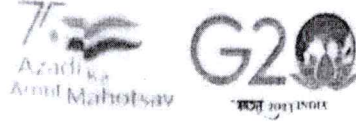
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9. The proposed 94 ha area will be biologically reclaimed by planting more than 2,35,000 nos. of saplings of native species through Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam (MPRVVN) at the rate of 2,500 nos. of saplings per ha. Furthermore, top soil conservation and grassing will also be taken up. As per Mining Plan, after completion of overburden dumping on 94.00 ha forest land, biological reclamation will be carried out and further this forest land will be handed over back to Forest Department, Madhya Pradesh by FY 2034-35.
- 10.
11. Block-B Project is committed for environment protection and till date about 5.29 Lakhs nos. of plant saplings have been planted over plain and OB dump area of 210.36 ha since its FY 2006-07. Plantation, protection & maintenance is being looked after by Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam. More than 35 lakhs nos. of plant saplings will be planted over 1404.81 ha area out of total leasehold area 1756.77 ha by the end of life of Block-B opencast project.
12. At present Coal Handling Plant (3.5 Mtpa Capacity) with capital investment of Rs. 234.02 Crores is in operation at the project. Laying work of railway line of 5.25 Km length linking existing CHP to Katni-Chopan Railway line was completed in 2021 with capital expenditure of Rs. 76 Core (appx.). Further, work order after tendering process has been issued for construction of one additional CHP (4.5 Mtpa capacity) and HEMM Workshop with Rs. 150.00 Crore (approx.) and Rs. 68.00 Crore (approx.) capital investment respectively and work of their erection is in progress. In addition to this, to achieve the coal production of 10.00 Million tonne per year, procurement of HEMMs of about Rs. 67.00 Crores has been proposed.
13. There will be negative impact on the social and economic status of the nearby area on discontinuation of operation of the project. Employment of thousands of people will be affected who are directly or indirectly dependent on the project, which will cause negative impact on the livelihood of nearby area. Besides this, supply of required quantity of coal to the linked thermal power plants will also get affected and consequently affect power generation. Also about 95.18 Million Tonne coal reserve will be left unextracted which will be a national loss.
14. Block-B opencast project is producing and supplying 5.47 Million Tonne coal per annum to power plants & other consumers to help in meeting the energy demand of the nation. As on 01.04.2023, coal reserve of about 15.54 Million tone only is left in the present EC lease boundary of the Block-B opencast, and will exhaust within next 2 years. The proposed forest land is bare minimum and unavoidable, not agreeing for approval of proposed diversion of forest land will result in discontinuation of operation of the Block-B project.

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15. For the FY 2023-24, NCL has been assigned the target of 133.00 Million Tonne under 1.00 Billion Tonne target of Coal India Limited. For this, Block-B opencast project has been assigned the target of 7.50 Million Tonne which could not be achieved in lack of approval of proposed diversion.

In view of ensuring the energy security of the nation with minimal environmental damage the proposed diversion of 139.86 ha forest land is the minimum area of land which needs to be diverted for continuation of Block-B Project.

Hence, it is being requested to kindly recommend and forward the present diversion proposal of 139.86 ha forest land for expansion of Block-B Project.

Enclosure: As above.

Yours faithfully,


19.9.2023
General Manager,
NCL, Block-B Area.

Copy to

1. PCCF (Land Management), Tulsi nagar, Van bhavan Bhopal (MP) for kind information
2. CCF Circule Rewa, Van Vibhag, Rewa (MP) for kind information
3. Director (T/P&P), NCL HQ Singrauli (MP) for kind information
4. TS to CMD, NCL HQ Singrauli (MP) for kind information
5. GM (Env/Forest), NCL HQ Singrauli (MP)
6. GM (CP), NCL HQ Singrauli (MP)

Annexure-I

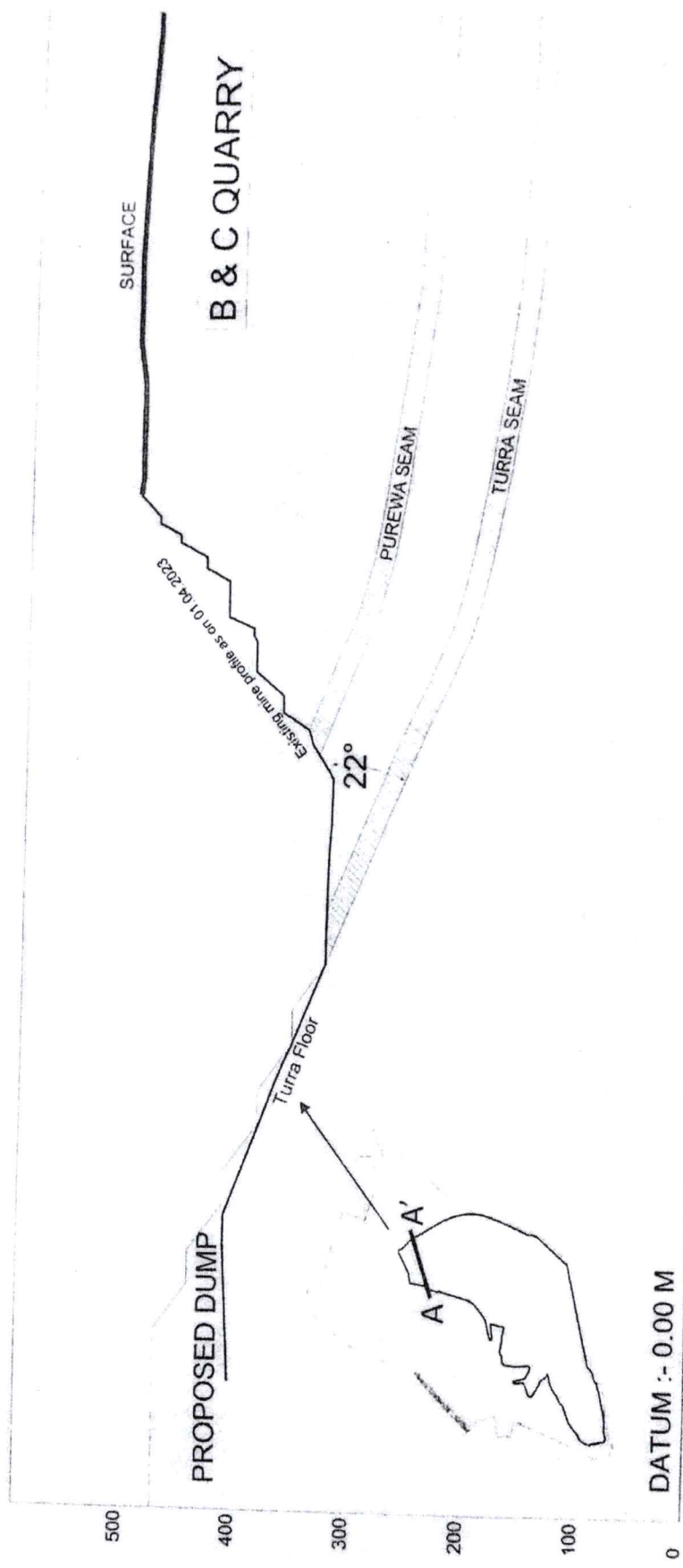


- NCL operates 10 mines in Moher sub-Basin
- Block-B is running mine of Moher sub-Basin of NCL
- Block-B is currently producing 5.47 Mtpa and it is required to produce 10 Mtpa to achieve 1Bt program of CIL.

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Annexure -

Mine Cross-section



DATUM :- 0.00 M

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Block-B QCP- Forest Land



Kain



1	Ba fall Alada	Area-74.590Ha	PLANT DENSITY-184/Ha
2	PF-278	Area-11Ha	PLANT DENSITY-385/Ha
3	PF-279	Area-34.86Ha	PLANT DENSITY-385/Ha
4	RF-276	Area-11Ha	PLANT DENSITY-385/Ha
5	RF-276	Area-34.86Ha	PLANT DENSITY-385/Ha
6	Forest Clearance of 447 Ha vide letter no-8/59-2005, Dt-14.09.2005		

Land Description	Already Acquired land (Ha)	Additional Land Acquired (Ha) (10Mtpa)	Total (Ha)
(1) Forest Land	447	139.86	586.86
(2) Non Forest land	1083.96	85.95	1169.91
(a) Govt Land	620.96	22.45	643.41
(b) Tenancy Land	463	63.50	526.50
Total	1530.96	225.81	1756.77

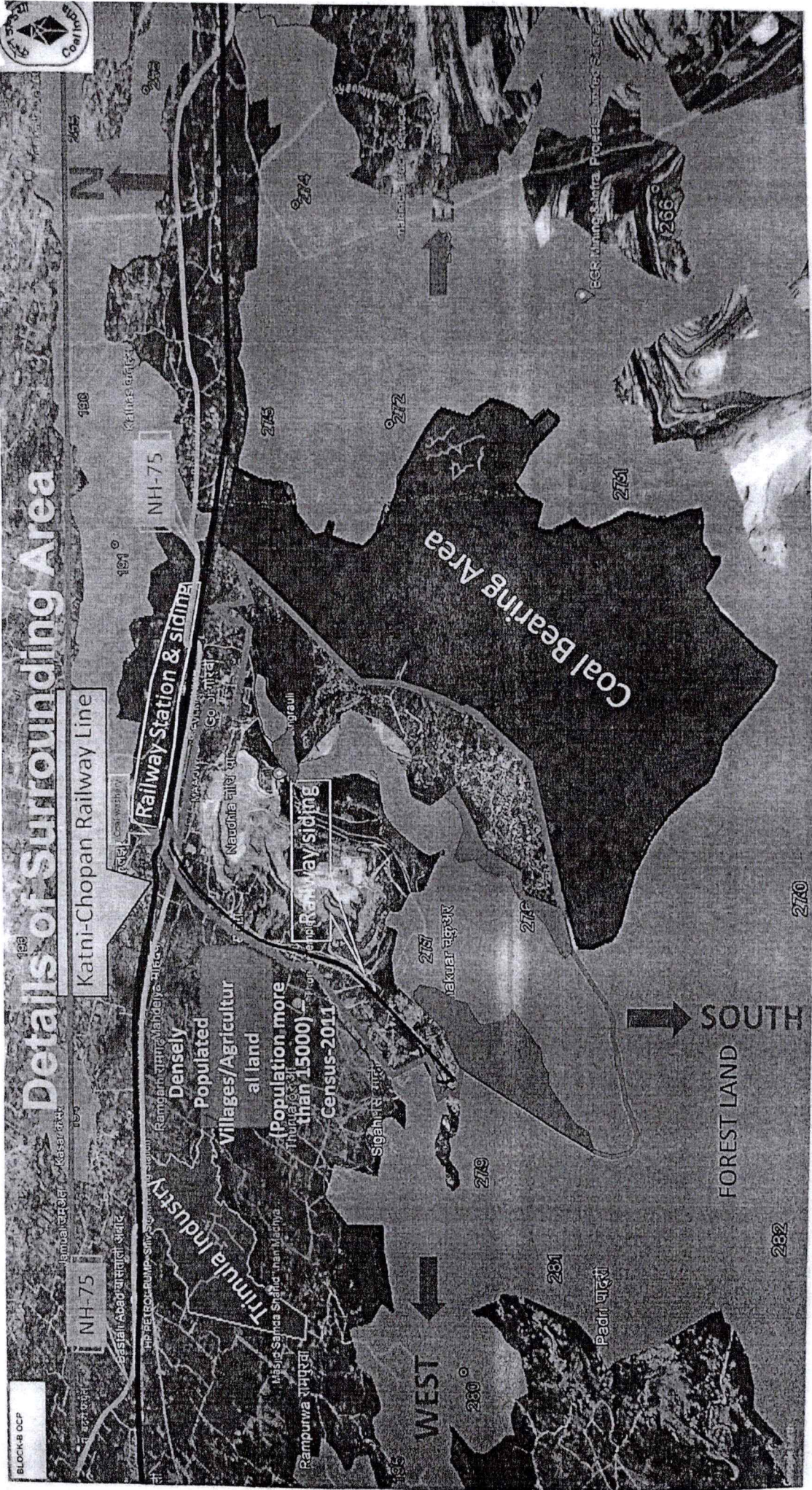
Note:- 16% of Forest Land will be used for dump in total Forest Land (586.86 HA)

Note:- 5.35% Forest land will be used for external dump in total leasehold area of 1756.77 Ha

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Details of Surrounding Area



BLOCK-8 OCP

NH-75

Katni-Chopra Railway Line

Railway Station & siding

Railway siding

Densely Populated Villages/Agriculture all land

(Population more than 15000) Census-2011

Trinela Industry

WEST

SOUTH

FOREST LAND

Coal Bearing Area

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Trees Details

Revised tree calculation sheet submitted by Forest Department in the part-II for 139.86 ha on the basis of tree counting report of beginning proposal 631.39 ha by proportionate estimating method as per directive of APCCF (Land Management).

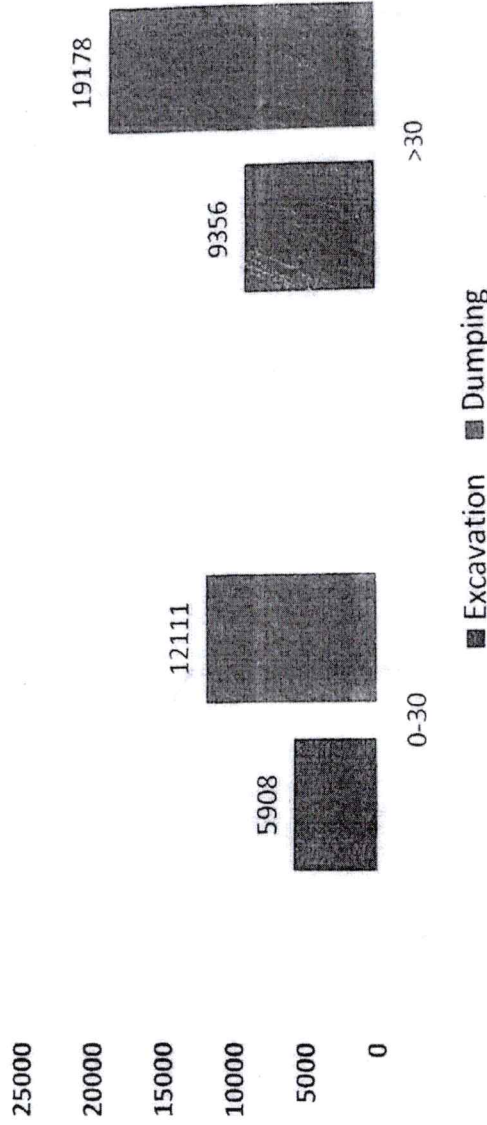
Originally Submitted Report									
Sl. No.	Scientific Name	Local Name	0-30 cm	31-60 cm	61-90 cm	91-120 cm	121-150 cm	>150 cm	Total
1	Shorea robusta	Sal	3520	4720	2772	1396	493	267	13166
2	Tectona grandis	Sagaun	2131	1213	89	9	0	0	3441
3	Terminalia tomentosa	Saja	194	225	21	4	2	2	448
4	Others	Satkatha	12175	11322	3581	1437	545	437	29497
5	Dendrocalamus strictus	Bans (No of Bhira)	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Total Girth Wise			18019	17481	6461	2846	1040	706	46553

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Trees Details



Component Wise Tree	Area	Total No of Trees	Girth wise	
			Girth from 0-30 CM (39%)	Girth More than 30 CM (61%)
Proposed For Excavation	45.86	15265	5908	9356
Proposed For Dumping	94.00	31288	12111	19178
Grand Total			18019	28534



According to the revised mining plan, the complete dense forest area was reduced as much as possible.

- The density of trees in the proposed forest area is very low.
- 90% of the trees on the said land are only in pollard and stub conditions.
- The total number of trees in OB area is comes 31288 out of which only 19178 trees are in matured condition (girth range above 30 cm).
- The actual condition of the land & trees can be seen from drone video.

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