



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

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Dated, Bhubaneswar the

/ 9F (MG) - 49/2023

April' 2025

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

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakhsan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for expansion of Kulda Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division.-GoI Observation regarding.

Ref: (i) EDS raised dated 06.01.2025 by the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi  
(ii) Memo No.1354 dated 13.01.2025 of OSD-Cum-Special Secretary to Government, Govt. of Odisha, FE&CC Department

Sir,

In inviting a reference to EDS raised by GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi cited above on the captioned subject, the compliance based on the reports of the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

**Observation –(i):** The area proposed for CA on DFL is having MDF over 116 ha as per DSS analysis. Further, as informed by the state the area involves road, cultivated land and claims under FRA, 2006, which indicate that the area proposed for CA is neither completely suitable for plantation, nor it is free from encumbrances. The State Govt. shall therefore exclude the area which is not suitable for CA and provide alternate DFL twice in extent to the area proposed for diversion which suitable for raising plantation and is free from all encumbrances. All requisite details with respect to the revised CA area shall be provided.

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has submitted the revised Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over an area of 280.90 ha of Degraded Forest land identified in Sikajore-A RF (74.50 ha), Sikajore PRF (40.0 ha), Tangarpali DPF (14.0 ha), Pandripani RF (64.30 ha), Sidhamunda RF (50.40 ha) and Punjipahar RF (37.70 ha) in Sundargarh Forest Division against the aforementioned project.

The details of the revised scheme alongwith land suitability certificate, DSS analysis report etc. are as follows: (Page No.7, /Revised Scheme)

Name of forest block	Patch No.	Area (in ha)	Area classified			Total
			MDF	OF	NF	
Sikajore-A RF	1	54.00	0	44.0	10.0	54.00
	2	10.50		1.0	9.00	10.00
	3	10.00	0	1.0	9.00	10.00
	<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>74.50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>74.00</b>
Sikajore PRF	1	40.00	0	23.00	17.00	40.00
Tangarpali DPF	1	14.0	0	5.00	9.00	14.00
Pandripani RF	1	64.30	0	7.00	57.00	64.00
Sidarmunda RF	1	18.0	0	17.0	1.0	18.00
		32.4	0	0	32.40	32.40
Punjipahar RF	1	37.70	0	2.00	36.0	38.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>280.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>180.0</b>	<b>280.9</b>

Species are to be planted such as *Adina cordifolia* (Haldu), *Anogeissus latifolia* (Dhaura), *Bombax ceiba* (Simili), *Cassia fistula* (Sunari), *Emblica officinalis* (Anla), *Madhuca indica* (Mahula), *Mangifera indica* (Amba), *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Bija), *Terminalia belercia* (Bahada), *Terminalia tomentosa* (Asana), *Xylia xylocarpa* (Tangan) etc. Basing on the DSS analysis report and field observation conducted by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, it is proposed to adopt planting model i.e. ANR with Gap planting @ 500 plants per ha. The total seedling to be planted is 1,40,450 Nos. (i.e. 280.9 ha X 500). The land suitability certificate has been furnished by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which is enclosed at Page No.6/ Revised Scheme.

The maps of the Degraded Forest land proposed for plantation are as follows:

Name of Forest Block	Patch No.	Range	Toposheet No.	Plate No.	Scale
Sikajore-A RF	1	Lephripada	F44L15	1	1:50,000
	2		F44L15	1	1:50,000
	3		F44L15	1	1:50,000
Sikajore PRF	1	Lephripada	F44L15	1	1:50,000
Tangarpali DPF	1	Ujalpur	F44L16	2	1:50,000
Pandripani RF	1	Gopalpur	F44L16	3	1:50,000
Sidarmunda RF	1	Gopalpur	F44L16	3	1:50,000
Punjipahar RF	1	Gopalpur	F44L16	3	1:50,000
GPS Map of Sikajore-A RF (patch-1) over 54 ha for CA land	1	Lephripada	CA Map	4	1:2000
GPS Map of Sikajore-A RF (patch-2) over 10.5 ha for CA land	3	Lephripada	CA Map	5	1:2000
GPS Map of Sikajore-A RF (patch-3) over 10 ha for CA land	2	Lephripada	CA Map	6	1:2000



GPS Map of Sikajore PRF over 40 ha for CA land	1	Lephipada	CA Map	7	1:2000
GPS Map of Tangarpali DPF over 14 ha for CA land	1	Ujalpur	CA Map	8	1:2000
GPS Map of Pandripani RF over 64.30 ha for CA land	1	Gopalpur	CA Map	9	1:2000
GPS Map of Sidharmunda RF over 54.0 ha for CA land	2	Gopalpur	CA Map	10	1:2000
GPS Map of Punjipahar RF over 37.70 ha for CA land	1	Gopalpur	CA Map	11	1:2000

The financial outlay of the CA scheme over 280.90 ha has been approved by the Addl. PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for Rs.10,99,09,200/- which is enclosed at Page No.24/ Revised Scheme.

**Observation- (ii):** *The State shall provide the status of the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval dated 11.03.2019 (for 29.41 ha) for Basundhara washery. The status of violations (if any) in the said project shall also be submitted.*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has stated that the Stage-1 FC for Basundhara Washery was obtained on 11.03.2019 & EC was obtained on 31.10.2019. However, as per guidelines from MoC & decision taken in MCL Board, the plan for establishing the washery was dropped in 2020 for the following reasons which are quoted as follows:

Quote:-

As per the gazette notification issued by MoEF & CC vide dated 21.05.2020, use of washed coal having ash percent less than 34% is not mandatory and power plants can use coal without stipulations as regards ash content or distance. During audit of Annual Accounts 2019-20 while going through the "Capital Work in Progress", CAG opined that in light of the recent notification of MoEF & CC, setting up of coal washery seems not beneficial for MCL. Thereafter, two meetings were held with the coal consumers and no firm commitment was made by the consumers for taking washed coal. The matter was also discussed in a meeting chaired by the Secretary, MOC and he gave option to MCL to drop these non-coking coal washeries if they are unable to find consumers.

Unquote:-

However, as per recent decision taken by MCL considering the present market scenario and the requirement of washed coal, a coal washery is again planned to be set up in the same location of appropriate capacity using the same 43.90 Ha land (forest land of 29.41 Ha) for which

Stage-1 Forest Clearance has been obtained in March 2019 and accordingly the proposal is being further processed for obtaining stage-II forest clearance.

Initially, the compliance of Stage-I conditions of Basundhara Washery had been submitted to the center vide letter no. 18864/9F (Misc)-6/2016 dated 1 November 2019 through PCCF(FD & No, FC Act) Bhubaneswar, copy of which is attached herewith as **Annexure 'A'**.

Further, the short comings in respect of Stage-I compliance which were pointed out by MoEF & CC vide letter no. 8-176/1997 FC(Vol) dated 12th December 2019 (**Copy enclosed as Annexure 'B'**) containing 5 points is still pending to be complied by the UA and the same will be submitted after approval of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Bhubaneswar and deposit of the requisite fund in respect of the same in CAMPA account.

***Observation –(iii): The Regional Office shall provide the detailed site inspection report of the CA area with clear recommendations. The Regional office shall also give its comments on the status of the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval dated 11.03.2019 (for 29.41 ha) for Basundhara Washery and violation (if any) in the said project.***

***Compliance:-*** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Site Inspection Report (SIR) from the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, will be submitted as mandated and will include their observations and recommendations.

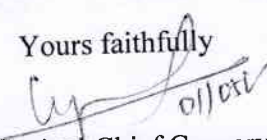
***Observation –(iv): The State has informed that the DFO, Sundargarh Division vide his Memo No.6722 dated 30.11.2024 has stated that as per DSS analysis, an area of 10 ha of water bodies was not included earlier and it is clarified that an area of 929.825 ha is comprised of 4 ha as MDF, 678 ha as Non-forest, 132 ha as open forest, 105 ha as scrub and 10 ha Water Bodies. The possible impact of mining over 10 ha water bodies needs to be examined and state shall provide the justification along with proposed mitigation measures if any for the inclusion of 10 ha water bodies in the project.***

***Compliance:-*** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has clarified that the 10 Ha of water bodies identified in the project area are already existing within the boundaries of the current mining lease of 634.205 Ha. These water bodies are in the form of mine sumps, which have established as part of the ongoing mining operations. These sumps serve an important purpose for the industrial use of the mine, specifically for water storage and management in the mining process.

In view of the above, the compliance to the EDS raised by the Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi dated 06.01.2025 is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

**Encl-As above**

Yours faithfully

  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (C), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to EDS dated dated 06.01.2025 by the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi

*1/5/2025*

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

9705

/Dt. 02-05-2025

Copy alongwith enclosures forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.1354 dated 13.01.2025 of OSD-Cum-Special Secretary to Government, Govt. of Odisha, FE&CC Department

Encl: As above

*1/5/2025*

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.1970 dated 11.04.2025.

*1/5/2025*

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.1971 dated 11.04.2025 of the RCCF, Rourkela Circle to his address.

*1/5/2025*

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to Chief Manager (Mines), Project Officer, Kulda OCP, Basundhara Area, MCL, Sundargarh, Odisha-770076 for information.

*1/5/2025*

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)



Bookending

55-115-180