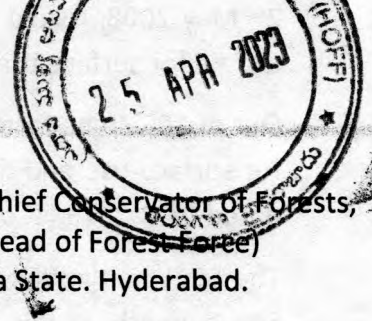


GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT



From :
Sri C.P.Vinod Kumar, I.F.S.,
Kaleshwaram Circle (FAC),
Jayashankar Bhupalpally

To
The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Telangana State. Hyderabad.

Rc.No. 1048/2023/TO, Dated:-13.04.2023.

Sir,

Sub :- TSFD – F(C) Act, 1980 – Regularization of 330.33 ha (330.1826) Ha RF in Upperlakesaram Forest Block in Peddapally Division for Open Cast Mining Operations and other activities of Singareni Collieries Company Limited(SCCL) – Additional Information Sought by GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi – Information submitted – Regarding.

Ref :- 1. MoEF&CC, GoI Lr No. 8-16/2021-FC, dated 29.09.2022
2. PCCF&HoFF, TS, Letter No.FC4/FC29/3/2022, dated 15-10-2022
3. The G.M, RG-III, Ref.No.CRP/EST/F-401A/49, Dt.21.02.2023.
4. FRO Manthani report Rc.No.01/SCCL/MNT/2022-23, Dt.23.03.2023.
5. DFO, Peddapally, Rc.No. 891/S4/2020, Dated:- 04.04.2023.

It is to submit that, the District Forest Officer, Peddapally vide reference 5th cited above, has submitted that, the G.M, RG-III, SCCL vide reference 3rd cited has submitted additional information as sought by the MOEF & CC, GOI, vide reference 1st cited on the proposal for regularization of 330.1826 Ha of Forest land (under possession of SCCL) for RG Coal Mine in Upperlakesoram at Ramagundam, under F (C) Act, 1980. The point wise information of SCCL and District Forest Officer, Peddapally are furnished here under.

i. KML file of 448.90 ha and 288.87 ha (total 742 ha) of the Upperlakesaram Forest Block.

- a) The extent of 448.90 Ha (330.33+118.57) is reduced to 448.7527 ha after DGPS survey (330.1827 Ha + 118.57 Ha.) **KML file of 448.7527 Ha** in soft copy is enclosed (Annexure-I).
- b) Hence, the total area became 742.5827 Ha (330.1827 + 412.40). The balance area of 742.5827 Ha (742.5827 - 448.7527) is 293.83 Ha. **The KML file of 293.83 Ha** in soft copy is enclosed. (Annexure-I), where this area is non RF and given as CA against diversion of RF land in Manuguru.

ii. KML file of 412.40 Ha (104 ha + 308.40 Ha) of Manuguru OCP-IV and its CA sites (288.87 Ha + 123.80 Ha) provided in Upperlakesaram Forest Blocks along with its plantation status and status of these mines.

- a) **KML file of 308.40 Ha** of Manuguru OC-IV is enclosed. (annexure-I)

This area was diverted at MNG for OCP vide MoEF, GoI. Lr No 8-24/88-FC, dt.21.12.1988. Later 104 Ha was withdrawn by SCCL. The CA land was adjusted to another diversion of RF land in Manuguru.

Against this RF diversion, area of 412.40 Ha Non-RF was handed over at Ramagundam to the Forest Department. This was in two bits of 288.87 Ha & 123.80 Ha for which KML & PDF files are enclosed. (Annexure-I) The Forest department has notified CA land handed over (412.40 Ha) as protected forest.

- b) **288.87 ha KML file** in soft copy is enclosed.(annexure-I)
c) **123.80 ha KML file** in soft copy is enclosed. .(annexure-I)
d) **Plantation Status:-**

SCCL vide letter dated 07.02.2005 submitted application for diversion of 412.40 Ha. (247 Ha surface use) which was given as CA land earlier, for the purpose of GDK 9, 10 & 10A

and OC-I and OC-II expansion. The MOEF, Gol, vide reference No. 81-09/2005-FC, dated 2nd May 2008, issued order for diversion of 412.40 ha of protected forest land (including 247 ha for surface use and 165.40 ha for UG rights) - (copy enclosed as annexure-II)

Out of 165.40 ha from UG rights, SCCL submitted an application for diversion of 147.42 ha for surface use and the MoEF, Gol, approved the proposal vide letter No.8-109/2005-FC, dated 01-8-2013. (Copy enclosed as annexure-III)

The SCCL had initially deposited an amount of 59.32 lakhs for raising CA and plantation. Subsequently as this area was diverted again, these plantations area came under mining area. In the balance area of 17.98 ha, (17.994 ha as per DGPS survey) of UG rights plantation raised by SCCL over the surface in the year 2012 and the same is being maintained.

e) **Status of Mines:**

- i. In 308.40 ha. presently Praksham Khani Opencast Mine is Under operation
- iii. **KML file of 412.40 ha (247 ha surface use + 165.40 ha UG use) and its mining plan details.**
- a) **KML file of 412.40 ha (247 ha surface use + 165.40 ha UG use) is enclosed .(copy enclosed as annexure-I)**

Mining plan including Mine closure Plan of Ramagundam Coal Mine was approved by the Ministry of Coal, Gol vide Lr No 55026/1/2020-CPIAM, dated 18.08.2020. (Copy enclosed as annexure-IV)

- iv. **KML file of CA land in respect of 247 ha land diverted for surface use and its plantation status.**
- a) *Non Forest Land of 247 ha had been handed over in the year 2001 to the Forest department as CA land in respect of 247 Ha was given as follows: Not pertains to Peddapally District.*

S. No.	Forest Division	Village	Extent (Ha)	Amount paid (Rs) in Lakhs
1	Srikakulam	MulaPeta	13.04	
2		Dharmavaram	86.28	
3		Jeerupalem	51.90	
4		Rushiguda	33.16	
	Sub - Total		184.38	96.797
2	Bhadrachalam (North)	Kadecal	62.62	49.50
Total			247.00	146.297

- v. **KML file of 147.42 ha forest land proposed for surface use and its mining plan and changed land use details.**
- a) **KML file of 147.42 ha is enclosed** (Copy enclosed as annexure-I)
Copy of approval letter of Mining Plan including Mine closure Plan is enclosed. (Copy enclosed as annexure-V).
- b) **The present land use details:**

Sl. No.	Land Use	Extent (Ha.)
1.	Quarry	37.72
2.	OB dumps	57.59
3.	Protection Bund against vagu	1.66
4.	Safe Barrier, Conveyers, Drainage	48.25
5.	Service buildings	0.00
6.	Bokkalavagu & SRSP canal diversion	1.88
7.	Road diversion	0.32
	Total	147.42

vi. **KML file of 118.57 ha forest land which was regulated under the diversion of 147.42 ha.**

118.57 ha surface use KML file in soft copy is enclosed. In this area mining is continued.
(Copy enclosed as annexure-I)

vii. **KML file of 237.45 ha (2*118.57 ha) of NFL against the diversion of 118.57 ha of forest land which was part of 448.90 ha and its plantation status. Also the KML file for the remaining 28.85 Ha NFL-CA area against (147.42 – 118.57=28.85 Ha) and its plantation status.**

a) Non forest land towards CA of 237.45 Ha (2 x 118.57 Ha) was handed over to Forest department as below:

Sl.No.	Extent in Ha.	Location
1	86.727 out of 183.45	Zafarghad (V), Mulugu Range, Warangal North Division (Annexure-VI)
2	30.330 out of 70.00	Polkepad (V), Gopalpet Mandal, Mahaboobnagar Division(Annexure-VII)
3	48.863 out of 55.13	Pinapaka (V), Bayyaram Range, Palvoncha Division (Annexure-VIII)
4	71.53	Esala Thakkallapalli (V), Manthani Range, Karimnagar East Division (Annexure-IX) – Peddapally District
	237.45	

The KML files and plantation status of Peddapally District are submitted herewith.

It has been informed by the Forest Range Officer, Manthani, that in Peddapally Division, CA has been raised is 27.5Ha in Manthani Range during 2014-15 and 2016-17 under DFL. The Plantation is good. The balance area CA Plantation raised in Jayashankar Bhupalpally District.

b) **118.57 Ha of overlapping area is part of 247 Ha. not covered in 147.40 Ha. Hence, Kml of 28.85 ha. cannot be generated.**

viii. **Plantation status of 660.66 ha of DFL against the proposal for diversion of 330.33 ha.**

The status of plantation in the 660.66 Ha of DFL against the proposal for diversion of 330.33 Ha was submitted by the Conservator of Forest, Warangal Circle, Warangal, to the Principal Conservator of Forests &HoFF, Telangana, vide letter Rc.No.74/2016/TO, Dated. 11.05.2022. **KML files of 660.66 Ha are enclosed.** (Copy enclosed as annexure-I)

ix. **State Govt. may provide the current status of the mines i.e. 247 ha and 165.40 ha.**

a) MOEF, Gol vide reference No. 81-09/2005-FC, dated 2nd May 2008, issued order for diversion of 412.40 ha of protected forest land (including 247 ha for surface use and 165.40 ha UG rights) which is used for the following Mines i.e. RGOCP-I , Vakilpalli UG Mine, GDK 10 A Incline and Adriyala Longwall Mine.

b) Further, out of 165.40 ha, surface rights was granted for 147.42 ha by the MoEF, Gol vide Lr. No.8-109/2005-FC, dated 01-8-2013 and presently used for following Mines: i.e. GDK 10& 10A incline, Adriyala Longwall Mine & RGOCP-II .

c) The remaining 17.98 ha (17.994 Ha as per DGPS survey) with UG rights - RG Coal Mine (GDK 10 &10 A Incline)

The Mining plans of all these mines have been approved and mining is going on as per the approved Mining Plans. (Copy of approved Mining Plan for all these Mines is enclosed as annexure –VI)

x. **The approved mining plan of the instant proposal i.e. 330.33 ha may be submitted.**

The Mining plan including Mine closure Plan of instant proposal which is part of Ramagundam Coal Mine was approved by the Ministry of Coal, Gol vide Lr.No.55026/1/2020-CPIAM, dated 18.08.2020 is enclosed. (Copy enclosed as annexure-VII)

1982125/2023/ADMIN SECTION PCCE

The State Government is requested to identify the areas outsider notified forests for the CA purpose as per the decision taken in FAC meeting held on 27.01.2021 for the instant proposal. Further, the State Government is also requested to submit the KML files, CA suitability certificate and CA scheme.

It is brought to the kind notice that the MoEF, Gol, had granted Stage-I for 147.42 Ha of Surface rights from UG vide F.No 8-109/2005-FC (vol), dated 19.07.2012, and amended on 23.07.2013. Subsequently granted stage-II vide F.No- 8-109/2005-FC(vol), dtd 01.08.2013. While granting Stage-I, the MoEF, imposed penal clause regarding 448.90 Ha (118.57+330.33) for penal C.A; which is as follows:

a. Condition for 330.33 Ha.

"State Government shall create and maintain penal compensatory afforestation from funds realized from the user agency over degraded forest land twice in extent to the portion of the 448.90 ha of forest land in the Upperalakesaram Reserved Forest Block kept under possession by the SCCL without obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, after excluding the 118.57 ha (overlapped in 412.4 ha) of forest land which was utilised by SCCL for creation of compensatory afforestation (CA) considering it as non-forest land for which penal CA has separately been stipulated [i.e. $2X(448.9-118.57 = 330.33)=660.66$ ha]"

The SCCL has submitted that the Forest department has identified double the extent of degraded forest area of 660.66 Ha (330.33x2) in Bhagirathi RF of Warangal Division (then) now in Bhupalpalli Division towards CA for the regularization of 330.1826 Ha..

Further, The SCCL has also paid an amount of Rs.14, 47, 81,601 (Rs Fourteen crores fort seven lakhs eighty-one thousand and six hundred one only) through RTGS into CAMPA account (No- SBHYHI3067304841) for raising the compensatory afforestation in 660.66 Ha of degraded forest land. (Copy of CA Scheme, Site Suitability Certificate are enclosed as annexure-VIII)

Hence, the penal CA charges for the current Regularization proposal area of 330.1826 Ha were paid in the year 2013 itself to an extent of 660.66 Ha of degraded Forest land. It is further submitted that already penal CA has been imposed.

The SCCL has started doing in this area thinking this land as Non-RF and fault of doing mining in RF without prior permission now may not be imposed again. As the SCCL is no way responsible for such action and at no time in the past any notice was issued by the Forest Department as they themselves were not clear about the land otherwise they ought to have not accepted the land as CA.

- xii. Further, regarding the Upperalakesaram Forest Block (notified as RF in 1944), the IRO Hyderabad informed that the working plan document i.e., the Compartment History (working plan for the period 1992 – 93 to 2001 – 02) it is recorded that the land is having mixed forest with site quality VI and density 0.1 with age class of 10 to 30 years and goes on to mention that natural regeneration is poor and has wildlife bear, wild boar, rabbit and wildcat etc while the fact is that the land was under mining with SCCL from 1970s. In this case, what action the State Government has taken as and when violations were noted by the State Forest Department.**

It is to submit that the Inspector General(Forests) (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MOEF &CC, Hyderabad, had submitted the site inspection report to the Additional Director General of Forests(FC), MoEF & CC, Gol, vide F.No. TSA225/2021-HYD/97, dated 27.10.2021, where in as per the para no.2 of conclusions and Recommendations:

*"The very fact that this land was forest land was not in the knowledge of Forest Department who had accepted it for raising CA against another diversion proposal of SCCL. The records shown during the site visit and discussions reveal that this land was lawfully obtained by SCCL from Revenue Department. **Therefore this is to be considered as a mistake of fact involving errors on the part of Revenue Department, Forest Department***

and SCCL & thus cannot be solely attributed to SCCL. As a matter of fact of the three agencies least is expected to be in the knowledge of SCCL in respect of the status/ownership of this land. In fact, it is SCCL which has pointed out that this is a forest land as per records shown during the visit in presence of the senior officials of the forest department". They were fully unaware that Mining is going on in this area.

In this regard it is submitted that the Forest Range Officer, Manthani, was requested to inspect these areas of the Compartment and submit a report. He has reported that he has conducted site inspection of these areas along with the Officials of the SCCL on 15th March, 2023. He has confirmed that in this area no wildlife is present and open cast mining is going on since long period and the depth in the quarry reached is about 250Meters. It was also informed that adjoining to this areas residential colony like 8-Incline Colony , Police Station 2 Town Godavarikhani, and the SBI bank are there (out of RF), as such no wildlife is present.

I agree with the report of the Forest Range Officer and submitted for kind perusal.

- xiii. **The State Government is requested to provide the details and KML files of the Safety Zone as per Para 7.9 (chapter 7) of the Ministry's handbook of FCA, 1980 & FC Rules 2003 (guidelines and clarifications) 2019 for the instant proposal.**

The safety Zone of the instant proposal is 9.36 Ha.(Area of 1.5 times is 14.04 Ha) After getting Stage-I, Necessary funds for Afforestation in 14.04 Ha of degraded forest land will be deposited as per the demand issued by the forest department. **KML file of 14.04 Ha. Degraded FL Proposed towards one and half times of safety zone area is enclosed (Annexure-I)**

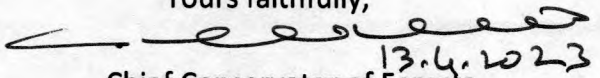
It is submitted that, out of 448 Ha, mining was started in 330 Ha way back in 1974, which was handed over to SCCL by the Revenue department. Further, 118 Ha was considered for CA land by the Forest department, thus accepting as revenue land and this was regularized by diversion by the MOEF &CC, GOI, when 247.00 Ha diversion proposals are accepted vide G.O.Ms.No.74, Dated:-18.06.2018 by EFS & T (FOR) Dept.

The report of the District Forest Officer, Peddapally is enclosed herewith for kind perusal.

This is submitted for favour of kind information and necessary action.

- Enclosures:** 1) The report of GM, SCCL, RG-III.
2) Along with Kml files are enclosed in soft copy in Pendrive as Annexure-I
- i. a) Kml file of 448.7527 Ha.
b) Kml file of 293.83 Ha.
 - ii. a) Kml file of 308.40 Ha
b) Kml file of 288.87 Ha.
c) Kml file of 123.80 Ha.
 - iii. a) Kml file of 412.40 Ha
b) Kml file of 247.00 Ha
c) Kml file of 165.40 Ha.
 - v. Kml file of 147.42 Ha
 - vi. Kml file of 118.57 Ha.
 - vii. Kml file of 71.53 Ha (Bit-I : 28.0 Ha + Bit-II : 48.53 Ha)
 - viii. Kml files of 660.66 Ha (plantation)
 - ix. Kml file of 14.04 one and half times of the Safety Zone area in degraded FL
 - x. Kml file of Safety Zone 9.36 Ha
 - xi. Kml file of CA Plantation 27.50 Ha (Gopalpur Beat-*Bit-I* : 15.00 Ha + Adavisomanpally Beat-*Bit-II* : 12.50 Ha) in two bits in Manthani Range, Peddapally District.

Yours faithfully,


13.4.2023
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Kaleshwaram Circle,
Jayashankar Bhupalpally