

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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No. /9F (MG) -372/2021

Dated, Bhubaneswar the July' 2023

From

**Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)  
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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 non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in district Jharsuguda in Odisha, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited – Compliance to GoI observations regarding.

**Ref:** Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.03.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the abovementioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), New Delhi has requested to furnish compliance to 3(three) nos. of observations vis-à-vis the meeting by the Advisory Committee (AC) held on 23.02.2023. The point wise compliance basing on the reports of the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division and RCCF, Sambalpur Circle are as follows:-

**Observation (i) :-** The proposal wise KML file of the 541.622 ha forest area which has been already diverted shall be submitted by the State Government.

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has submitted the KML file comprising of forest land already diverted for an area of 541.622 ha in Lakhanpur OCP, Belpahar OCP and Lilari OCP which is enclosed in CD form.

**Observation (ii):-** With respect to the monitoring of the conditions stipulated in the approval granted for 12.70 ha of forest land, the monitoring report submitted by IRO mentions that, action has been initiated by the State authorities in 2004 but updated status has not been provided. The updated status in this regard shall be provided by the State Government.



**Compliance-:** In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that OR case No.113 of 96/97, OR Case No.120 of 97/98, OR case No.125 of 97/98, OR case No.17 of 1999/2000, OR case No.18 of 1999/2000 of Belpahar Range have been booked against the MCL authorities at that time.

Further, the DFO of erstwhile Sambalpur Forest Division has also issued show cause notice against MCL authorities i.e. Sri A.K. Sharma, Ex. C.M.D, MCL, Sri B.N. Mishra, Ex-GM and Sri A.K. Bandopadhyaya, Ex-Project Manager, Lilari OCP. The DFO had also seized two nos. of dumpers under Section-37 and 56 of Orissa Forest Act which were forcibly taken away by the offenders. In this regard, a GR case has also been registered in Belpahar Police Station vide Belpahar P.S. Case No.33-1999/2000.

The details are furnished below:

Sl. No.	Case No.	Current Status	Remarks
1	OR case No.113 of 96/97	*Prosecution Report has not been filed in the Court	As per available records of DFOs office, no prosecution report has been filed in the court
2	OR Case No.120 of 97/98		
3	OR case No.125 of 97/98		
4	OR case No.17 of 1999/2000		As per Site Inspection Report of the DFO, Sambalpur (North) Division on 09.03.2004, cases has been booked vide OR No.17 and 18 of 1999-2000 of Belpahar Range for violations. The Prosecution Report not filed in the Court. PCA has been assured and the UA has paid Rs.20,39,450/- towards Penal CA cost.
5	OR case No.18 of 1999/2000		
6	Belpahar P.S. Case No.33-1999/2000	Pending in the court of the Hon'ble SDJM, Jharsuguda.	As per report of the Inspector In-Charge, Belpahar Police Station, Jharsuguda District.

#### Explanation of (\*)

The RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that as per available records of DFOs office pertaining to Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3 above, no prosecution report has been filed in the court at that time against the OR case No.113 of 96/97, OR Case No.120 of 97/98 & OR case No.125 of 97/98. The required documents for evidence are enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

Against the OR case No.17 of 1999/2000 & OR case No.18 of 1999/2000 of Belpahar Range, pertaining to Sl. No. 4 & 5, the prosecution report has not been filed in the court. In this regard, Rs.20,39,450/- has been paid by the User Agency (MCL) towards Penal Compensatory



Afforestation as mentioned by the DFO, Sambalpur North Forest Division in his Site Inspection Report on dt.09.03.2004. The required document for evidence is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. The penal compensatory Afforestation of 138 ha, four times the area under violation, has been raised over degraded forest land in Grindola RF by erstwhile DFO, Sambalpur Division.

Belpahar P.S. Case No.33-1999/2000 pertaining to Sl. No. 6, the IIC, Belpahar P.S. reported that the case is pending in the court of the Hon'ble SDJM, Jharsuguda and it is ascertain that the case has been charge sheeted for appearance on 24.07.2023. The required document for evidence is enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

**Observation (iii)-:** *With regards to monitoring of the conditions regarding the site-specific Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP), it is mentioned that Plan has been prepared and corresponding financial budget has been deposited by the user agency in to the account of CAMPA during 2011-2012. However, status of implementation of the WLMP and expenditure incurred thereon has not been given. The State government shall provide the detail in this regard.*

**Compliance-:** In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan have been approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha against Lakhanpur and Belpahar OCP and the UA (MCL) has deposited Rs.2,05,00,000/- on 18.05.2011 against Lakhanpur OCP and Rs.3,35,17,000/- on 20.01.2014 against Belpahar OCP towards the activities to be implemented by the DFO, Jharsuguda Division in project impact area. The copy of the approved SSWLCP of Belpahar OCP and Lakhanpur OCP are enclosed as **Annexure-IV**. The PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha has reported that the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has submitted a report on status of implementation of approved SSWLCPs in respect of Lakhanpur OCP and Belpahar OCP of MCL in Jharsuguda district as follows.

1. (a) As per the said report and on verification of the interventions for implementation by the user agency (MCL) as per approved SSWLCP in respect of Lakhanpur OCP, it is seen that the user agency (MCL) has incurred an expenditure of Rs.1,48,57,425/- (against the approved amount of Rs.36,00,000/-) in respect of Lakhanpur OCP on carrying out approved project area interventions except the following components:
  - i. Engagement of Watchers to watch the movement of wild animals.
  - ii. Solar Fencing
  - iii. Engagement of Fire Watchers
- (b) In case of Belpahar OCP, the user agency (MCL) has incurred an expenditure of Rs.19,47,12,15/- (against the approved amount of Rs.1,54,00,000/-) on carrying out approved project area interventions.



2. As regards to impact area activities of the approved SSWLCP in both cases, the same have not been implemented till date. However, the approved interventions will be included in CAMPA-APO 2024-25 for implementation by the DFO in both the projects. The report of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha is enclosed as **Annexure-V** and the report of the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations dated 01.03.2023 of the GoI, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**

Yours faithfully

*[Signature]* - 11/07/23  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. / Dt.

Copy along with the compliance report forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF& CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No.8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.03.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**

*[Signature]* - 11/07/23  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. **13830** / Dt. **11.07.2023**

Copy along with the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.03.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**

*[Signature]* - 11/07/23  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 1095 dated 08.05.2023.

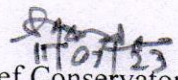
*[Signature]* - 11/07/23  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act



Memo No.

/Dt.


Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 1096 dated 08.05.2023 of RCCF, Sambalpur Circle.

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

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Lakhanpur Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., Po-Bandhabahal Colony, Dist-Jharsuguda for information and necessary action Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.03.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

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