

**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Forests,**  
**For Branch,**  
**Aranya Bhavan, Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City**  
**Kolkata-700 106**

No. 113-For/O/L/10T-14/2022

Kolkata, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

From: Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

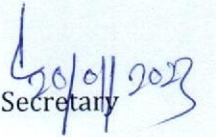
To: The Inspector General of Forests (C)  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office  
IB-198, Broadway Road, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,  
Kolkata-700 106

**Sub:** Proposal for diversion of 38.38 ha of forest land in favour of Eastern Coal Field Ltd., for Tilaboni UG Coal Mine Project under Durgapur Forest Division

Sir,

With reference to your letter no. IRO/KOL/WB/Min/41301/2019/326 dt. 26/7/2022 on the subject noted above, I am directed to forward herewith copy of reply sent by Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980 for your information and taking necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

  
Deputy Secretary

No. 113/1(1)-For

Kolkata, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, West Bengal

Deputy Secretary



Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests

**Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force**  
Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector – III, Kolkata.: 700 106  
Phone - Fax:: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : [nfcawb@gmail.com](mailto:nfcawb@gmail.com)  
Visit us at: [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in)

No. 10562 / L & LT/2M-38/2021

Dated: 17.01.2023.

To : The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
Department of Forest.

Sub.: Tilaboni Coal Mine Project of ECL involving 38.38 ha. of forest land in Durgapur  
Division.  
(Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/41301/2019).

Ref. :

1. The Govt. of India, MoEF & CC letter No. IRO/KOL/WB/Min/41301/2019/326 dated 26.07.2022.
2. The Eastern Coal Fields Ltd. letter No. GM/BA/ENV/22-23/27 dated 05.12.2022.

Sir,

ECL in above referred letter has submitted replies (enclosed) to EDS raised.

- (1) ECL has stated that it has only applied for leasehold area of Mine No. 1. After deducting 1.60 ha. of forest land (Tilaboni beat office complex and approach road) from 39.98 ha. of forest land available as per records of BL&LRO, balance 38.38 ha. of forest land has been requested for diversion against Mine No. 1 only.
- (2) Given the subsistence predicted due to mining ECL has agreed to pay for NPV and CA over double the area of degraded forest land (76.8 ha.) with maintenance for 10 years.
- (3) While the project apparently is for underground mining precautionary measures should be adopted to reduce impact of mining. Even with subsistence, underground mining potentially has less environmental impact compared with open cast coal mining.

The proposal may kindly be forwarded to Govt. of India for consideration of grant of Stage-I approval please.

Yours faithfully,

*VJ 17/1/2023*  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Nodal Officer, FCA

Encl.: As stated above.

No. 10563 / L & LT/2M-38/2021

Dated: 17.01.2023.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action, to :-

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South East Circle, W.B.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.  
The General Manager (Env.), Eastern Coal Field Ltd., Borachak House, Sitarampur,  
Burdwan, Pin-713359.

DS(RKD)

*VJ 17/1/2023*  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Nodal Officer, FCA



**EASTERN COAL FIELDS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)  
Office of the General Manager  
Bankura Area



P.O. Ukhra, PS. Andal  
District : Paschim Burdwan  
West Bengal-713363  
CIN- U10101WB1975GOI030295  
Ph. No. 0341-2665491/492/493/494  
Fax No. 0341-2665366

Ref. No.: 0.14/1887/E/22-25/02

Dated: 05.12.22

To,  
The Divisional Forest Officer,  
Durgapur Division, Aranya Pally,  
Shastri Avenue, Durgapur, West Bengal - 713212

**Subject: Diversion of 38.38 Ha of forest Land for Tilaboni UGP -reg.**  
**Ref:- Proposal no. FP/WB/MIN/41301/2019 in the PARIVESH Portal**

Dear Sir,

In reference to the above subject and EDS raised in the PARIVESH Portal on 08.09.2022, following points are submitted for your kind consideration please.

1. With respect to the total forest land within the leasehold of Tilaboni UGP, following points are submitted.

As per the Project Report (PR) of Tilaboni UGP which was approved by CHL board in February, 2019, the total project area of Tilaboni UG Project is 869.00 Ha. The entire project area has been divided into Tilaboni Block/ Mine no. 1 and Tilaboni Block/ Mine no. 2. The break-up of land as mentioned in the PR in Chapter-2I Page-1 is given below -

Sl. No.	Particulars	Tilaboni Block Mine No. 1			Tilaboni Exm. Block Mine No. 2 Outside ECL Leasehold	Total
		Within ECL Leasehold	Outside ECL Leasehold	Total Tilaboni Block		
1	Road	3.16		3.16	1.09	4.21
2	Build-up Area	17.20		17.20	36.26	53.46
3	Nala bank	3.16		3.16	21.35	24.51
4	Forest Land	36.14		36.14	2.35	38.49
5	Dung/Waste land	121.37		121.37	34.45	155.82
6	Agricultural land	259.95	30.00	289.95	308.94	598.89
	<b>Total</b>	<b>436.01</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>466.01</b>	<b>403.00</b>	<b>869.00</b>

\*Figures of ECL Leasehold as per colliery record.

Reference 1: Chapter-2I, Page-1 of PR for Tilaboni UGP

The existing mining leasehold area for Tilaboni UG mine is 436 ha (Mine No. 1) which will be required for present mining under the instant proposal of forest diversion. Additional mining leasehold of 30 ha in this Mine no. 1 is agricultural land and will be taken as per requirement. For remaining 403 Ha in Mine No. 2 ECL is not having lease and will be taken up in the future when Mine no. 2 will be implemented.

Based on the records available with BI & LRO (Durgapur-Faridpur) and BI & LRO (Pandabeswar), forest land for Mine No.1 was found to be 39.98 ha. Further, as per letter no 335 UK-8 dated: Ludohra, the 16/09/2021 of Forest Range Officer, Ukhra Range, it was directed to keep 1.60 ha out of 39.98 ha forest land under retention due to presence of beat office complex and entrance road to the beat office on the said forest land. Accordingly, 1.60 ha forest land has been excluded from the

initial application as per advise of the State Forest Department and thus, modified application for diversion of 38.38 ha forest land has been made in the Portal.

2. Your kind attention is also drawn towards the Para 7.8(i)(a) of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 describing the maximum permissible tensile strain in the forest land. In order to comply with the above guidelines,

- a) A subsidence prediction report (through 3-D numerical model) for Tilaboni UG mine has been prepared by Centre of Advanced Studies, Department of Mining Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (Banarus Hindu University), in March 2020. An undertaking has also been given by ECL to implement the recommendations of the said report.
- b) During analysis of the report, the Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India has mentioned that the subsidence prediction report depicts maximum tensile strain in the forest area after 5<sup>th</sup> year of mining as 27.19 mm/m. Also, Nodal Officer, Govt. of West Bengal in its recommendation in Part-IV has mentioned a maximum tensile strain of 91.77mm/m at the end of 25 years.
- c) As surface strain predicted is more than 20mm/m following has been advised by the State Government in the part-IV of the application:
  - ❖ NPV rates will have to be paid at normal rates.
- d) Cost of plantation (including ten years' maintenance) of ten times the specified number of 13085 nos. of trees on the diverted forest land may be levied from the User Agency by way of Compensatory Afforestation (CA). Also, State Forest Department has recommended the proposal with Compensatory afforestation Scheme prepared for double the area of degraded forest land over 76.80 Ha amounting to Rs. 4.72 Crores.

Though ECL will take all the precautions and recommendations given in the Subsidence Prediction Report and an undertaking has also been given in this regard, in light of the above recommendations of the State Government and ECL undertakes to abide by the recommendations of the State Govt. and agree for the following:

- i) Net present Value rates as applicante will be deposited.
- ii) Compensatory Afforestation scheme over double the area of degraded forest land over 76.80 Ha amounting to Rs. 4.73 Crores as prepared by DFO, Durgapur, Govt. of West Bengal will be implemented paid.

The Tilaboni Project is an underground mining project causing less adverse impact of mining on the environment. Further, all necessary precautionary measures will be undertaken to reduce the impact of mining on the forest land. As such, above points are submitted for your kind consideration for further processing of Stage-I Forest Diversion proposal of Tilaboni UG.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

General Manager  
Bankola Area

Eastern Coalfields Limited

Accepted  
11/12/2022

**ADDITIONAL NOTE: REPLY TO EDS RAISED AT PARIVESH PORTAL**

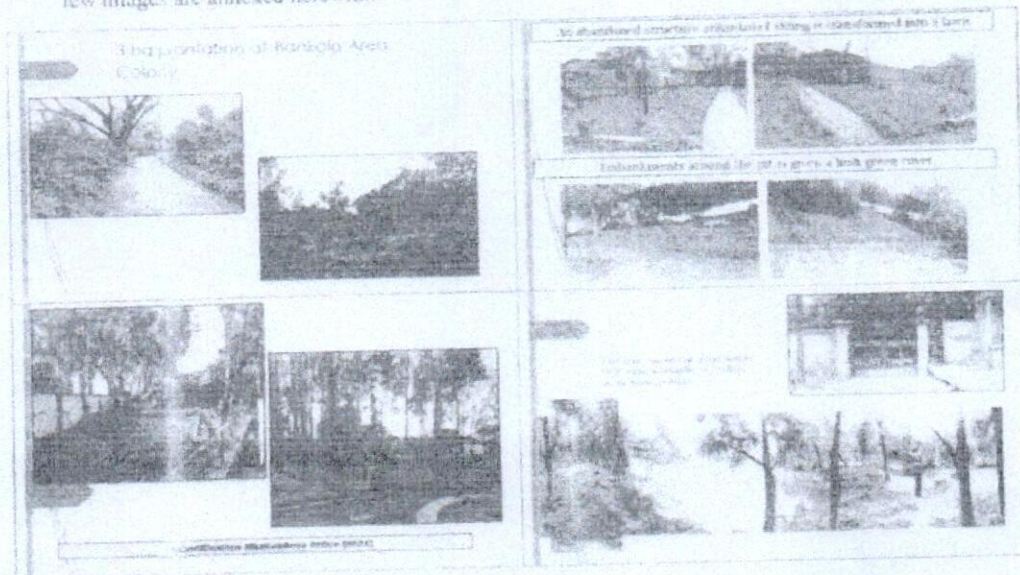
In addition to our response Ref GM/BA/env/22-23/27 dated 05.12.2022. The details are furnished below

Plantation done adjacent to Tilaboni UG under Bankola Area by Green Projects Wing, WBFDCL (erstwhile WBWDCL)

Year	Location	Area Covered (ha)	Saplings Planted (nos.)
2022-23	Plain Land under Khandra Colliery	4 ha	10,000
2021-22	Subsided Land at Shyamsundarpur Colliery	10 ha	25,000
2020-21	Subsided Land at Shyamsundarpur Colliery	10 ha	25,000
2016-17	Subsided Land at Sankalp Khani under Bankola Colliery	12 ha	30,000
2015-16	Roadside Plantation at Nakrakonda-Kumardih B colliery	5 ha	12,500
2013-14	Orchard plantation at Bankola Area Colony under Sankarpur Colliery	3 ha	1,200

Beautification and Parks developed adjacent to Tilaboni UG under Bankola Area

Parks and Landscaping have been developed at various places in vicinity to Tilaboni UG. A few images are annexed herewith.



*[Signature]*  
 7/12/2022  
 General Manager  
 Environment & Forest  
 Eastern Coalfields Limited

*[Signature]*  
 General Manager  
 Bankola Area  
 Eastern Coalfields Limited

**Return of land already diverted land by Eastern Coalfields Limited:**

- Eastern Coalfields Limited is operating its mines in the states of West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- Ramahal OCP is one of the projects of ECL operating in the Godda District of Jharkhand. For this said project 17.64 Ha of forest land was diverted in the year 1993. The said land has been biologically reclaimed by ECL and has been handed over to the State Forest Department on 30.01.2019 (Copy attached as Annexure-I).

**Reclamation effort by ECL**

Bio-reclamation and massive tree plantation has been one of the key thrust areas of ECL to improve the environment and physical landscape

ECL is having MoU with West Bengal Forest Development Corporation (WBFDC) to raise the green belt of about 100.00 Ha/ annum with its subsequent maintenance for 04 years. Till 30.10.2022, ECL has brought more than 3000 Ha of land under green cover by planting more than 06 Million trees in and around mining areas. Out of which plantation over 44.61 Ha degraded land has been done in Bankola Area of ECL in last 10 years. In the next 05 years, ECL has planned to plant 1.62 Million trees over more than 700 Ha land. The survival of saplings is being ensured by joint inspection in presence of officials from the State Forest Department and also through satellite surveillance. Beside existing 26 Nos of gardens/ parks, ECL has planned to develop three more parks in Raniganj Coalfields.



OB Dump Plantation at Shankarpur OCP, Kenda Area,



Orchard Plantation, Sodepur Area, ECL



Bhanjra Ecological Park, ECL



Gunjan Ecological Park, ECL

*S. Maitra*  
31/10/2022  
Environment Deptt: ECL, HO



Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, कोलकाता/ Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata  
IB-198, Sector - III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700106  
Phone-033-2335-5713/7938, Fax-2335-5904, E-mail: iro.kolkata-mefcc@gov.in



No.IRO/KOL/WB/Min/41301/2019/326

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,  
Department of Forests,  
Government of West Bengal,  
Aranya Bhawan, Block-LA, 10-A, Sector - III,  
Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700106.

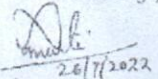
**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 38.38 ha forest land in favour of Eastern Coal Field Limited (ECL) for Tilaboni UG Coal Mine Project under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal -reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of West Bengal letter No.889-For/O/L/10T-14/2022 dated 17.06.2022 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As per the proposal, the forest land involved in the Underground Coal Mine Project is 38.38 ha. However, as per records, under the Tilaboni Underground Mine Project of ECL, the total forest land involved is 41.53 ha (39.98 ha in Mine-I and 1.55 ha in Mine-II) out of the total lease area 869 ha. In this regard, it is to inform that para 7.2 of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 elaborates "in case of new mining leases/ projects having forest land in part or in full, approval under FCA for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease/ project is to be obtained before execution/ renewal of mining lease/ project". Therefore, User Agency has to apply for diversion of entire forest area under mining lease.

Further, it is to inform that para 7.8.(i).(a) of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 elaborates in respect of underground mining in stratified deposits in forest areas that "the maximum tensile strain of 20 mm per meter and thereby the surface cracks of width of about 200-300 mm is to be permitted in forest areas". In this proposal, the value for the maximum tensile strain in forest area after 5<sup>th</sup> year of mining is predicted as 27.19 mm/m, which implies that underground mining is not admissible in the forest land proposed for diversion. In view of the above, the State Forest Department is requested to clarify in this regard for further consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

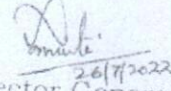


(Dr. S. Hare Krishna Murti)

Assistant Inspector General of Forest

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Aranya Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, 700098.
2. The APPCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal, Aranya Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, 700098.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.
4. The GM (Env), ECL, Borachak House, Sitarampur, Burdwan-713359.
5. Guard file

  
26/11/2022

Assistant Inspector General of Forest