

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER; ANGUL DIVISION: ANGUL.**

Memo No. 661 /DRP/2023/Dated. 19.01.24

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Angul Circle, Angul.

Sub: - Proposal for seeking approval of Central Government under section 2 of the forest conservation Act, 1980 for Diversion of 44.64 ha Forest land and 13.09 ha. of Lookalike forest (Total 57.73 ha.) for Coal Mining at Bharatpur Open Cast Expansion Project at Bharatpur Area of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited.  
**: - Submission of compliance report.**

Ref: - 1. Proposal No. FP/OR/Min/153736/2022.  
2. Your memo No. 4985 dt. 09.11.2023.  
3. Letter No. 994 dt. 28.11.2023 of GM, Bharatpur Area.

With reference to the above-mentioned letter No. (3) on the captioned subject, the user agency, i.e., General Manager, Bharatpur Area has submitted its point wise reply to EDS raised by Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul Circle, Angul vide letter No. under reference (2).

1. In the reply, the project proponent has maintained that the process for the forest diversion was initiated and submitted before the notification of FC rules, 2022. It has been considered by the nodal officer and EDS had been raised by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, FC Act. O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar on dt. 27.03.2022. As per the guidelines dated 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 of the MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi, proposal accepted by the Nodal officers before 28.06.2022 will be processed as per the FC rules 2016.

However, as per file No. 8-07/2020-FC dt:12.03.2021 of MoEF&CC, Nodal Officer shall give a certificate that no afforestation/plantation has been taken up under any plan/programme/scheme on the proposed CA land in the last ten Years. However, given the fact that Talcher Coal Mining area involves very large forest area the same would need to be properly compensated, further forest- diversion proposals in the area will be accepted with CA on degraded notified forest area on the following conditions:

- a. State Government issues a certificate that degraded forest land outside notified forests is not available for CA purpose, and
- b. Nodal Officer Certifies that no afforestation / Plantation has been taken up under any plan/programme/ scheme in the degraded notified forest area proposed for CA in the last ten years.

To this effect, user agency has maintained that degraded forest land and non-forest land in the Angul district could not be identified due to various impediments and hence, identified notified forest land in the neighboring district i.e., Dhenkanal and has submitted CA scheme with an outlay of Rs. 5,50,53,200/-. The user agency has not obtained certificate from the State Government to identify forest land outside notified forests for which it has submitted that equivalent biologically reclaimed non-forest land within its mine lease area will be handed over

within 10 years after grant of Stage-II clearance. The user agency affirms that the identification of notified forests at Dhenkanal division with an outlay of Rs. 5,50,53,200/- would compensate the loss of trees by trees and that handing over equivalent biologically reclaimed non-forest land would help compensate the loss on forest cover or loss of "land by land" and increase the notified forest area in the Talcher region/ Angul district which may be considered.

2. The required information at sl. no.16 of the site inspection report is given below.

Non forest land used in the project is included in the D.L.C. Report or not.	As per report of Tahasildar, Talcher non forest land used in the project includes 43.39 ha. of DLC forest land. <table border="1" data-bbox="836 689 1390 846"> <tr> <td>DLC forest</td> <td>43.39 ha.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revenue Forest</td> <td>1.25 ha.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lookalike</td> <td>13.09 ha.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>57.73 ha.</b></td> </tr> </table>	DLC forest	43.39 ha.	Revenue Forest	1.25 ha.	Lookalike	13.09 ha.	<b>Total</b>	<b>57.73 ha.</b>
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Non forest land selected for compensatory Afforestation is included in the D.L.C. Report or not.	Notified forest area of 43.519 Ha at Sunajhari RF under Bhuban Range of Dhenkanal Division and 72.462 ha. in Ramei RF under Sarangi Range of Dhenkanal Division has been identified for CA. Therefore, DLC forest land is not included for CA purpose.								

3. (i) The user agency has submitted that the mismatch of pillar numbers with reference to the DGPS map has been corrected and has also submitted the geo tagged photographs is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

(ii) The user agency has informed that some of the pillars have been damaged/ lost in the intervening period and pillars have been posted at required places which is also submitted along with geo tagged photographs is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

(iii) The proposed expansion mine lease area has been occupied with illegal honeycomb structures, which have also been extended into patches of revenue forest land. The diversion proposal involves 44.64 ha. of revenue forest land which has few encroachments in the form of honey comb structures, village access roads etc. at multiple places. The issue of illegal honeycomb structures is also being dealt in Pragati Portal and also in various review meeting at Chief Secretary and Coal secretary level. The plot wise details of the encroachments has been attached is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations, the subject proposal may be considered for further recommendation.

This for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

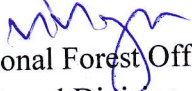
**Encl: - As above.**

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Angul Division



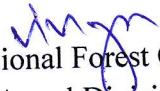
Memo No. 662 / Dated. 19-01-24

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Dhenkanal, Division for information and necessary action.

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Angul Division


Memo No. 663 / Dated. 19-01-24.

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Division & Nodal Officer FC Act O/O the PCCF Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to memo No. 4986 dt. 09.11.2023 of RCCF, Angul.

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Angul Division

Memo No. 664 Dt. 19-01-24

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Bharatpur Area for information and necessary action with reference to your letter No. under reference (3).

  
Divisional Forest Office  
Angul Division