

Government of Odisha
Forest and Environment Department

10F (Cons) 91/2016/ 24458 /F&E dated 12.11.18
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From

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS
Special Secretary to Government

To

The Asst. Inspector General of Forests,
Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change,
(F.C.Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh, Aliganj Road, New Delhi -110003

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 29.41ha. of forest land (20.89 ha fresh forest land and 8.52 ha of forest land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha of Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd) in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundergarh District, Odisha for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY)by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited(Proposal No. FP/OR/IND/16495/2015)

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to letter No. 5-ORC291/2016-BHU dt. 1.11.2016 of the Eastern Regional office addressed to the MoEF&CC, GoI and to say that Ministry vide their letter F.No. 8-176/1997-FC(Vol.) dt. 28.3.2017 had communicated the observations of the FAC made in their meeting held on 28.2.2017 and requested the State Government to submit information/documents to the Ministry for consideration of the above forest diversion proposal. On the request of F&E Department, the PCCF, Odisha vide his letter No. 22374 dt. 5.11.2018 has furnished the point wise compliances of the observations, the details of which are indicated below.

Observation No.(1): State Government shall submit copy of R&R Plan duly approved by the competent authority.

Compliance: In compliance to the above observation of FAC, the User Agency has submitted the R&R Plan of Basundhara Washery duly approved by the Collector, Sundargarh and communicated vide letter No.15 dtd.03.01.2018 of Land Acquisition Officer, Sundargarh which is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.

Observation No.(2): The layout of proposed washery shall be changed to the extent that the patch of forest coming under proposed land for diversion could be avoided.

Compliance: In compliance to the above observation of FAC, it has been reported that the proposed Basundhara washery is linked to Kuida OCP and it lies adjacent to the said mine. The selection of the site for setting up of the Basundhara Coal washery

is owing to its proximity to the Kulda OCP, the railway line and the availability of water from Basundhara (E) Quarry. Total extent of forest land sought to be diverted in the instant proposal to establish coal washery is 29.41ha (20.89 ha fresh land and 8.52ha of forest land to be re-diverted out of already diverted forest area of 227.89ha of Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Cola Fields Ltd). In view of observations made by the FAC in the above context, the DFO, Sundargarh Division has reported that a field survey of the patch of forest which was to be avoided as suggested by the FAC, was conducted by the survey team of MCL along with Range Officer, Gopalpur Range. It was found that a patch forest is having an area of 3.02ha. which is Revenue forest land. In the above context, it is to state that it was earlier reported that 958 no. of trees comprising of 749 no. of trees in forest area and 209 trees in non-forest land has been enumerated in all in the entire project area. As per the latest survey, it has been ascertained that total no. of trees existing in the patch of revenue forest area of 3.02ha. in question is only 109. The DFO, Sundargarh Division has further reported that as per the plan of action, the total no. of trees to be removed from the above mentioned patch of forest land for the construction of Conveyor Belt line is 06 nos. whereas no. of trees likely to be cut for construction of road comes to 22nos, which is considered very minimal.

Further, it has been reported by DFO, Sundargarh that as per Infrastructure Master Plan of BG area IB Valley coalfields, Basundhara area is lying adjacent to the proposed Basundhara Washery. Also Coal Washeries for Siarmal OCP to the tune of 40 MTY and Garjanbahal OCP to the tune of 10 MTY(both belonging to MCL) are to come up in the near future for which acquisition of land is already in progress. The Master Plan Map of Basundhara Area showing all the mines and rail infrastructure submitted by the General Manager, MCL, Basundhara Area is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-II** for reference.

Based on the report of the DFO, Sundargarh Division and RCCF, Rourkela, it has been reported by PCCF, Odisha that if the location of Basundhara Washery is changed towards the left, it would cover more forest area than the forest area being proposed for diversion in the existing location. Besides, it's location can also not be changed towards the west due to the fact that other Coal Washeries, as mentioned above, are planned to be set up in the near future. The report of DFO, Sundargarh addressed to RCCF, Rourkela bearing No. 6699 dt.

27.9.2018 along with field verification report, tree enumeration list is enclosed as **Annexure-III.**

In view of above, observation of FAC for changing the layout of proposed washery involving a patch of revenue forest area of 3.02ha. may not be insisted upon.

Observation No. (3): *CA site shall be revised.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, it is to state that the CA scheme furnished along with forest diversion proposal involving an area of 58.82ha.(twice of 29.41ha. of forest land proposed for diversion as per para 3.2(vii) of FC Act guidelines) in REGEDAKHOL RF of Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Forest Division in ANR mode of plantation of 200 trees/ha. can have only 11764 plants (58.82ha x 200 seedlings). In view of observations of FAC as well as recent guidelines dt. 8.11.2017 of MoEF&CC in the matter of CA, planting of 1,000 nos. of seedlings per ha pertaining 20.89ha of fresh forest land being diverted is required to be raised/planted. Therefore 9,126(20,890-11,764) no. of plants are to be raised as against this forest diversion proposal over more extent of degraded forest land to be identified by Forest Department. Accordingly a patch of degraded forest land of 51.194ha.(effective area of 46ha. for raising plantation) has been identified in Singaribahal RF of Hemgiri Range of Sundargarh division and subsequently verified through DSS. The DFO, Sundargarh has furnished the suitability certificate pertaining to degraded forest land so identified. As per DSS report, additional requirement of 9,126nos. of plants can be raised in ANR model@200 seedlings per ha. The DGPS survey of the forest patch in Singaribahal RF has also been carried out and duly authenticated by ORSAC. The DGPS map of degraded forest land and treatment plan are attached to the additional CA scheme along with its shape file. The shape file of degraded forest land identified in Regedakhhol RF is also attached to the CA scheme for reference.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh has prepared a site specific compensatory afforestation scheme in ANR plantation mode of 200 plants per hectare for identified degraded forest land under his jurisdiction which has been technically approved by Addl. PCCF(Forest Diversion) & Nodal officer, FC Act with a financial outlay of Rs.28,43,800/- including the cost of maintenance of Compensatory afforestation of 10 years as per latest wage rate of Rs. 224.30/- per day. Besides plantation, the scheme has provisions for vegetative fencing and soil

conservation measures. The species selected for plantation under the scheme are Amla, Bahada, Neem, Karanja, Dhaura, Sissoo, Kasi, Asan, Bel, Bija, Arjuna Bamboo etc. The User Agency shall bear the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme. The duly approved CA Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

In view of the above position of compliance, it is requested that GoI, MoEF&CC may kindly consider the same and take further steps for according Stage-I(in-principle) approval for diversion of 29.41ha. of forest land (20.89 ha fresh forest land and 8.52 ha of forest land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha of Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd) in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundergarh District, Odisha for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY) by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and communicate their order to this department for necessary at this end.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

Handwritten signature
9.11.2018
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24459/F&E., Dated- 12.11.18

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Eastern Regional Office, A-3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information & necessary action .

Handwritten signature
9.11.2018
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24460/F&E., Dated- 12.11.18

Copy forwarded to the Pr.C.C.F., Odisha /Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(WL) & CWLW, Odisha for information & necessary action with reference to letter No. 22374 dt. 5.11.2018 of PCCF, Odisha to F&E Department.

Handwritten signature
9.11.2018
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24461 /Dated. 12.11.18

Copy forwarded to the Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha/Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela/ Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division for information and necessary action.

Handwritten signature
9.11.2018
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24462 /Dated. 12.11.18

Copy forwarded to the Steel & Mines Department /Industries Department/Collector, Sundargarh for information and necessary action.

Handwritten signature
9.11.2018
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24463 /Dated. 12.11.18

Copy forwarded to the General manager, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, Basundhara Area, At/PO Basundhara, dist. Sundargarh , Odisha for information and necessary follow up action.

Handwritten signature
9.11.2018
Special Secretary to Government