



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF  
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No. **20827** /9F (MG)-49/2023  
Dated, Bhubaneswar the **18<sup>th</sup>** ~~September~~ **Oct** 2024

To

**The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC Division)**  
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
New Delhi.

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhnyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for Expansion of Kulda Open cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh district of Sundargarh Forest Division.**

Ref: (i) Letter No.8-7/2024-FC dated 11.06.2024 of Scientist 'D' Govt. of India, MoEF & CC(FC Division), New Delhi.  
(ii) Memo No.10466/FE&CC dated.18.06.2024 of OSD-cum-Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department, Odisha.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the aforesaid office letters on the captioned subject, this is to inform that the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has submitted the necessary compliance on your observations pointed out under reference which has been recommended by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

***Observation No. (i):- 7306 trees has been reported as project affected trees in the online proposal while the inspection report of the DFO mention the same as 30441. The same needs to be rectified by the user agency by providing the correct number of trees involved in the project..***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that 30,441 no. of trees have been enumerated both in forest and non-forest land over 295.62 ha. The detailed enumeration of trees are as follows:

Sl. No.	Type of Land		No. of trees enumerated
01.	Forest Land	1) Lalma Reserve Forest	<b>20912</b>
		2)(a) Revenue Forest (Tumulia village)	1050
		(b) Revenue Forest (Kulda village)	807
		(c) Bankibahal Forest (Kulda village)	866
			<b>2723</b>
02.	Non Forest Land	3) Govt. Non Forest land Kulda village	<b>363</b>



	4)(a) Tenancy Non-Forest Land, Kulda village	2013
	(b) Tenancy Non-Forest Land, Tumulua village	2632
	(c) Tenancy Non-Forest Land, Bankibahal village	1798
		<b>6443</b>
<b>G. Total:-</b>		<b>30441</b>

Further, as reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, 7306 nos. of trees have been reported as project affected trees in the online proposal which seems to have been arrived out of the table mentioned in the Point No. 4 (ii) Species-wise local/scientific names and girth-wise enumeration of trees of Part-II submitted by him. The DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has also uploaded 30441 nos. of trees in Part-II of Parivesh Portal. The uploading screen shot of Part-II submitted by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

**Observation No. (ii):-** *Compensatory afforestation, as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023, should be raised over non-forest / revenue forest land or the lands accredited under ACA can also be swapped in lieu of CA. The state government may, therefore, inform the details of mined out and reclaimed non-forest lands available with M/s. MCL and possibility of using them as CA.*

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, as per schedule-II, Sl. No.- 3(ii) of Van (Sanrankshan Evam Samvardhan) Amended Rules 2024, recent notification issued by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi on dated. 20.09.2024, degraded forest land over 305.59 ha (Effective area – 286.96 ha) has been identified in Pandripani RF, Sidarmunda RF, Punjipahar RF and Panikholia RF under Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Forest Division i.e. twice the extent of project area of forest land over 134.69 ha under PARIVESH-1.

The detailed status of degraded forest land for CA is furnished below which has been enclosed at **page No.144/DP(Vol-1)**.

Sl. No.	Name of the Reserved Forest	Legal Status	Area in ha.	Effective area in ha.
1.	Pandripani RF	Reserve Forest/p	64.10.	56.30
2.	Sidarmunda RF	Reserve Forest/p	53.56	53.56
3.	Punjipahar RF	Reserve Forest/p	131.54	121.00
4.	Panikholia RF	Reserve Forest/p	56.39	56.10
	<b>Total</b>		<b>305.59</b>	<b>286.96</b>

Accordingly, the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division had prepared site specific CA scheme as per approved onetime cost norm basis an average of 500 seedlings per ha. with 18 months old seedlings to be planted thereof with a provision of required soil moisture conservation activities, watering and fencing etc. with maintenance of up to 10 years. The DSS analysis report furnished by DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and countersigned by RCCF, Rourkela Circle had been enclosed at page No.147-155/DP (Vol-1). The CA scheme had been approved by the PCCF, F(FD NO Act.) with financial outlay of Rs.9,02,61,000/- (Rupees Nine crores two lakhs and sixty one thousand) only which is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. All other relevant records related to CA scheme had already been enclosed in the DP.



**Observation No. (iii):-** As per analysis of the land use details given in the proposals following discrepancies have been observed and same be clarified.

**Observation No. (iii)(a):-** State Government's forwarding letter mentions total forest area involved in the Kulda OCP as 354.06 ha while from the perusal of approval granted in the past, the total forest area comes out to be 362.58 ha (227.89 + 134.69). The State Government therefore, while rectifying this discrepancy should clarify the exact involvement of forest area in the extant proposals as well as in the approvals granted in the past.

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the total forest land involved in Kulda OCP is **354.06 Ha.** including 134.69 ha of area involving in the present proposal. However, an area of 8.52 ha has been re-diverted from infrastructure area of Kulda OCP for Basundhara Coal Washery, vide Letter No. 8-176/1997-FC (Vol.), dated 11.03.2019 of GoI MoEF & CC, (FC Division) New Delhi from an area of 227.89 ha which has been diverted earlier for kulda OCP vide letter No. F.No.-8-176/1997-FC dated 08.08.2007 (Copy of both approvals enclosed in **Annexure-III**). Therefore, the total forest area for Kulda OCP as per the current mining plan will be  $(227.89 - 8.52) + 134.69 = 354.06$  Ha.

**Observation No. (iii)(b):-** As per detail provided in the Mining Plan (Page-1 of Chapter-2), the total lease area has been revised to 921.305 ha from the 634.20 ha used in Phase-I i.e. additional increase of 287.10 ha is involved in the phase-II. R&R Plan indicates the total area involved in the expansion project as 284.10 ha while as per proposal submitted online and approved Mining Plan, the total incremental area is indicated as 295.62 ha. Discrepancy may be rectified by the State.

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the total incremental area for the expansion project is **295.62 Ha.** The details provided in the mining plan are correct and are as follows:

Sl. No.	Particulars	APPROVED LAND OF KULDA OCP 21 MTY, REVISION-3			INCREMENTAL LAND REQUIRED FOR KULDA EXPN OCP, 21 MTY			APPROVED LAND OF KULDA OCP 21 MTY, (REVISION-3) + INCREMENTAL LAND REQUIRED FOR KULDA EXPN OCP, 21 MTY			TOTAL LAND AS PER MP&MCP OF KULDA EXPANSION OCP (REVISION-4) = APPROVED LAND OF KULDA OCP 21 MTY, (REVISION-3) + INCREMENTAL LAND REQUIRED FOR KULDA EXPN OCP 21 MTY - 8.52 HA REDIVERTED FOREST LAND FROM INFRASTRUCTURE AREA OF KULDA		
		A			B			A + B			(A + B) - 8.52		
		Land in ha			Land in ha			Land in ha			Land in ha		
		Forest	Non-forest	Total	Forest	Non-forest	Total	Forest	Non-forest	Total	Forest	Non-forest	Total
<b>A. MINE LEASE AREA</b>													
1	Quarry excavation area	187.16	134.755	321.91	110.92	107.15	218.07	298.075	241.905	539.98	298.075	241.905	539.98
2	Infrastructure including Safety zone (7.5m around mine boundary), road/hallah diversion, Embankment.	36.615	115.178	151.793	9.84	49.28	59.12	46.455	164.458	210.913	(46.455-8.52) = 37.935	164.458	202.393
3	External OB dump	4.12	156.382	160.502	13.93	4.5	18.43	18.05	160.882	178.932	18.05	160.882	178.932
	<b>Total Mine Lease area required</b>	<b>227.89</b>	<b>406.315</b>	<b>634.205</b>	<b>134.69</b>	<b>160.93</b>	<b>295.62</b>	<b>362.58</b>	<b>567.245</b>	<b>929.825</b>	<b>354.06</b>	<b>567.245</b>	<b>921.305</b>
<b>B. OUTSIDE M.L. AREA</b>													
1	Residential colony	0	37.5	37.5	0	0	0	0	37.5	37.5	0	37.5	37.5
2	Rehabilitation site	0	22.9	22.9	0	0	0	0	22.9	22.9	0	22.9	22.9
	<b>Total Outside Mine Lease Area</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>60.4</b>
	<b>Total Project area</b>	<b>227.89</b>	<b>466.715</b>	<b>694.605</b>	<b>134.69</b>	<b>160.93</b>	<b>295.62</b>	<b>362.58</b>	<b>627.645</b>	<b>990.225</b>	<b>354.06</b>	<b>627.645</b>	<b>981.705</b>



As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh in view of the above, this clarification shows that it is only the difference of 8.52 ha which has been accorded re-diversion out of 227.89 Ha in the existing land use of Kulda OCP for Basundhara Coal Washery thereby decreasing the total area from 634.205 Ha to 625.685 Ha. & with an increment of 295.62 Ha, the total mining lease area will be **921.305 Ha.** (625.685 + 295.62).

Further, the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division reported that at the time of preparation of R&R plan, the total expansion area was taken to be 284.10 Ha. as per the initial authenticated land schedule. However, the total area was increased from 284.10 ha to 295.62 Ha, due to some boundary adjustments and addition of plots which eventually did not affect the number of families to be rehabilitated as MCL has a policy of providing R&R to the complete villages coming in the project area.

***Observation No. (iii)(c):- Compensatory An area of 8.52 ha from the already diverted forest land of 227.89 ha is also being used in the extant expansion proposal, which amounts to modification of approval dated 08.08.2007. The State Government therefore, needs to provide a KML file of the already approved area and area being utilized in the extant extension proposal. Change in the land use of other components of the existing project, if any also be informed by the State Government.***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an area of **8.52 Ha** has been re-diverted from Infrastructure Area of Kulda OCP for Basundhara Coal Washery, vide Letter F.No. 8-176/1997-FC (Vol.) dated 11.03.2019 of the MoEF & CC from the area of 227.89 Ha, which was earlier diverted for Kulda OCP vide Letter F.No.8-176/1997-FC Dated 08.08.2007 of GoI, MoEF. The change in land use after the re-diversion of 8.52 ha is as follows:

Purpose	Break up of existing land use (Ha)				Break up of diverted forest land after re-diversion (change in land use) (Ha)			
	Revenue Forest	Classified Forest	Reserve Forest	Total	Revenue Forest	Classified Forest	Reserve Forest	Total
<b>Mining</b>	136.435	45.71	5.01	187.155	136.435	45.71	5.01	187.155
<b>OB Dump</b>	4.12	0	0	4.12	4.12	0	0	4.12
<b>Infrastructure</b>	21.837	0	0	21.837	13.317	0	0	13.317
<b>Embankment</b>	10.408	0	0	10.408	10.408	0	0	10.408
<b>Road</b>	3.436	0	0	3.436	3.436	0	0	3.436
<b>Diversion</b>								
<b>Nallah</b>	0.935	0	0	0.935	0.935	0	0	0.935
<b>Diversion</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>177.171</b>	<b>45.71</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>227.891</b>	<b>168.651</b>	<b>45.71</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>219.371</b>

As desired, the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division submitted the KML files in respect of already approved area and area being utilized in the extension proposal and also change



in land use of other components of existing project which have been furnished in a CD enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

***Observation No. (iv):- Examination of the cost benefit analysis revealed that the loss of the EG&S has been estimated by taking the NPV value corresponding to the lower canopy vegetation density. The DFO in Part-II indicated the canopy density of RF and of Revenue Forests as 0.6 and 0.4 respectively while the corresponding values taken for the estimation of loss of EG&SS are 0.5 and 0.3 respectively. As estimation of most of the parameters is based on the value of NPV, it will therefore, be appropriate that entire CB analysis may be revisited by taking into account the correct canopy density as mentioned in the online Part-II.***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that entire Cost Benefit Analysis has been revised by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division by taking into account the correct canopy density as mentioned in the online Part-II. In the revised calculation, the total cost of the project is Rs.13,877.87 lakhs and the total benefit to the society is Rs.7,31,675.23 lakhs.

Hence, the cost benefit ratio is 1:52.72 which is enclosed as **Annexure-V**.

***Observation No. (v):- The State Government in its forwarding letter, advertng to submission made by the DFO, mentioned the peak rated capacity of the mine is 21 MTPA while approval dated 10.06.2020 of the Board of Directors of the MCL for Mining Plan, submitted online, mentioned the capacity as 18.75 MTPA. The State Government may therefore confirm if any revised approval for enhancing the capacity of the mine to 21 MTPA conveyed by the BOD of MCL.***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Mining Plan of Kulda Expansion OCP has been revised from 18.75 MTPA to 21.00 MTPA, as the User Agency has already obtained an Environmental Clearance for a capacity of 21.00 MTPA for the existing Kulda OCP vide Letter bearing F.No.J- 11015/10/1995-IA-II(M) dated 24.05.2022 of GoI. MoEF & CC, (Impact Assessment Division), New Delhi which is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**). The copy of revised and authenticated Mining Plan (21.00 MTPA\_Revision-4) is enclosed herewith as Annexure -VIA.

***Observation No. (vi):- It is observed that proposed project is in the proximity of the Basundhara river and its tributaries such as Chattajor nallah. Impact of the proposed expansion of mining on Chattajor nallah and mitigation measures, if any, needed to be undertaken needs to be informed by the State.***

**Compliance:-** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as per the EC conditions of all the running projects coming in Basundhara Coalfields like Siarmal OCP, Kulda OCP & Garjanbahal OCP, a river conservation plan for Basundhara river along with all its rivulets like Chhattajor nallah for a span of 25 kms considering the impacts of all the coal mines in the area, has already been prepared and approved by State Water Works Department, Govt. of Odisha in **Sep'2022**. **Accordingly**, the complete work of conservation of Basundhara River and its rivulets has been agreed to be carried out by the State Water Works Department in a phase wise manner on deposit basis, against which a DPR is expected to be submitted by State Water Works



Department. The conservation plan covers the following activities at an approximate cost of Rs. 261 Crores:

1. Construction of embankment along the river
2. Providing Geo-matress on river side slopes for slope protection along with launching apron
3. Providing dub grass turfing on country side slopes for slope protection.
4. Providing Bathing ghats on the banks of Basundhara River.

The copy of River Conservation plan is attached herewith as **Annexure-VII.**

***Observation No. (vii):- The measures proposed by the user agency for the transportation of the excavated coal from the mines to the nearest road / rail head also needs to be furnished by the State.***

***Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Coal evacuation plan has been prepared for Kulda as well as complete projects of Basundhara Coalfields considering all the future expansions as well, which has been attached herewith as Annexure-VIII.***

***Observation No. (viii):- A monitoring report on the status of compliance of conditions, stipulated in the approval dated 8.08.2007 granted over 227.89 ha of forest land.***

***Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted the compliance of FC conditions stipulated in the approval dated 08.08.2007 granted over 227.89 ha of forest land for Kulda OCP which is attached as Annexure-IX. Further, as per the stipulated conditions, the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has inspected the site on 25.07.2024 and details of monitoring report is enclosed herewith as Annexure-IX(A).***

***Observation No. (ix):- The State Proposal involves rehabilitation of 975 families while the R&R Plan submitted online is already being implemented. The State Government may therefore inform if the Plan submitted along with the proposal include the 975 families also and the status of approval of the R&R Plan by the competent authority whether obtained or yet to be obtained.***

***Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement benefits of the complete villages under Kulda Project i.e. Bankibahal, Kulda, Balinga, Tumulia, Siarmal as well as 09 other villages have already been undertaken by the Claims Commission, which has been set up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP© 6933 of 2007. The R&R benefits to the affected families of Bankibahal & Balinga have already been provided under Orissa R&R Policy 1998 and they have been resettled and for rest of the villages i.e. Kulda, Tumulia, Siarmal & some left out cases of village Bankibahal & Balinga, the same have been undertaken under Orissa R&R Policy 2006.***


The number of families affected due to current expansion of Kulda project is 975 families particularly in the villages of Tumulia and Kulda. The approval of R&R plan by the

competent authority has been sought for and is still to be obtained. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to this effect which is attached as **Annexure- X**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations pointed out by Government of India, MoEF & CC, FC Division, New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information & further course of action.

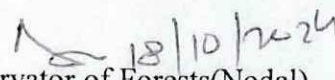
**Encl: As above**

Yours faithfully

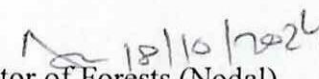
  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. **20828** /Dt. **18.10.2024**

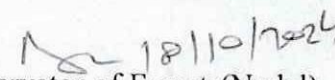
Copy alongwith the compliance report of one set forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Kharvel Bhawan, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-7/2024-FC dated 11.06.2024 of Scientist 'D' Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)  
Memo No. **20829** /Dt. **18.10.2024**

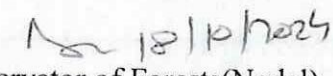
Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 3887 dated 22.08.2024.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)  
Memo No. **20830** /Dt. **18.10.2024**

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 3886 dated 22.08.2024 of the RCCF, Rourkela Circle to his address.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)  
Memo No. **20831** /Dt. **18.10.2024**

Copy forwarded to the Chief General Manager, O/o the Project Officer, Kulda OCP, Basundhara Area, MCL, Sundargarh Odisha-750076 for information and necessary action.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)