

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of 143.05 ha of already diverted forest land for Coal Mine for Selected Dhoru Opencast Mining Project in favour of M/s. Central Coalfields Limited in Bokaro District of Jharkhand State (Online No. FP/JH/MIN/40575/2019)–regarding..

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-39/2024-44 V.P. dated 03.01.2025 on above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the said proposal, the following shortcomings has been observed:

- i. As per the provisions under Van (Sanrakshn Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam), 1980 it has been mentioned that all mining projects for which diversion of forest land have been approved before 27.05.2015, the UA should have obtained approval of forest land in the safety zone. The State Govt. shall provide details in this regard and intimate the status of diversion of forest land involved in the safety zone of the mining lease/project.
- ii. The Chapter-7, Para 7.8 (i) (e) issued under Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 says that "any proposal for diversion of forest for mining involving any forest land in respect of which diversion has been approved earlier will invariably be submitted along with the present status of compliance of the conditions of all previous FCs duly certified by the concerned Regional Officer of the MoEF&CC and the same needs submission. The State Govt. shall provide the detailed compliance report to the concerned Regional Office for further needful in this regard.
- iii. The CCF, Bokaro his Site Inspection Report has reported the project area and its surroundings beings undulating with a series of hillocks of over burden and hillocks are prone to erosion. Further. it has been mentioned that

a site specific wildlife management plan and soil conservation plan needs to be submitted by project proponent. The State Govt. shall offer its comment in this regard.

- iv. The DFO, Bokaro in its Site Inspection Report has reported that the Selected Dhori Group of Mines is a brownfield opencast coal mining project which has been under operation prior to pre-nationalization era. However, complete report indicating total project area, details of approval obtained of the forest area within the project, approval yet to be obtained of the forest land within Project, current production capacity, enhanced production and reason for delayed submission of forest validity extension/ renewal proposal after the lapse of approx. 18 years have not been clarified. The same needs submission.
- v. The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposed land use in the instant proposal commensurate with the mining plan and submit a comparative analysis of the proposed land use vis-a-vis the land use in the approved mining plan.
- vi. Instant proposal was granted approval under Adhiniyam, 1980 in the year 1996 for a period of 10 years till 2006. Therefore, the present status of mine along with details of non-forest activity, if any carried out by the user agency in violation of the Adhiniyam, needs to be intimated and in case the violation has been committed, action taken report shall be submitted.
- vii. The State Government shall submit the details of CA along with the KML file regarding CA carried out against past approvals.
- viii. An area of 7.43 ha of forest land has been proposed for colony & other infrastructure, which is non-site specific activities. Therefore, the State Govt. shall provide the detailed justification as to why these activities could not be carried out on the non forest land.
- ix. DFO, Bokaro in its Site Inspection Report has reported that the compliance of the some of the conditions imposed in past approvals is pending at M/s CCL level. The State Govt. shall submit the detailed report in this regard.
- x. It has been reported that the areas around the mine are important from wildlife point of view and thus buffer area is significant from ecological & wildlife perspective. Therefore, comments from the CWLW shall be provided.
- xi. The Status of reclamation measures undertaken by the user agency in their lease area in case of earlier approvals as per the Progressive Mine Closure Plans and gaps if any, shall be intimated by the State. Further, in case of instant proposal, the details of proposed reclamation/back-filled area at the end of mine life has not been given in the project report. The same needs submission.
- xii. Details of coal evacuation plan and involvement of forest land, if any, shall be intimated.
- xiii. The details of the validity of the entire mining lease along with detailed chronology of approvals of the mining lease shall be submitted.
- xiv. The State Government has not submitted the Cost Benefit analysis as per the guidelines and in prescribed format. The same needs to be submitted.
- xv. Sattelite imagery shows the presence of Settlements, Mined out area and infrastructure related to mining etc. within the forest land sought for renewal. The State Government shall furnish their comments in this regard.
- xvi. The user agency has not uploaded the KML file of mining lease boundary

along with the KML file showing all other previously approved forest land. The same need to be furnished.

In view of above, it is requested to furnish the information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.