



सत्यमेव जयते  
महाराष्ट्र शासन

Office of The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, (HoFF) Maharashtra State,  
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State,  
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.

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Speed Post/Email

No. Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/I.D.12417/3062-22-23  
Nagpur -440 001 Dated 10/02/2023.

**Sub:** Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pounill) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State- Regarding.

**Ref:** Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change letter no. FC-III/MH-165/2021-NGP/11158, dt. 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Please find enclosed a copy of letter under reference. The Govt. of India vide letter under reference has raised 7 queries on the proposal mentioned under subject above. It is requested to submit point wise reply in English to this office at the earliest.

Encl: As above

*(Signature)* 10/2/23

(Naresh Zurmure)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer  
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests (T)  
Chandrapur Circle.

Copy fwe to Principal Secretary (Forests) Revenue and Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32 for information.

Copy fwe to Area General Manager, Western Coalfields Limited, Ballarpur Area, P.O. Sasti, Dist. Chandrapur 442 706 along with letter under reference.

क्रमांक कक्षा-3(1)/जमीन/प्र.क. 122-23/8268  
चंद्रपूर, दिनांक :- 93-02-23

प्रतिविषय: उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चोहा वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर यांना माहिती व आवश्यक कार्यवाहीस सादर. केंद्र शासनचे पत्रातील 1 वे 7 मुद्द्यांची पूर्तता करून पूर्तता अहवाल तात्काळ या कार्यालयास सादर करावा ही विनंती.

E:\OFFICE\CHANDRAPUR\_CIRCLE\DIVERSION OF 12.07 HA SAKHARI IRAWATI\_ID\_12417.DOCX

*(Signature)*  
मुख्य लेखपाल  
मुख्य वनसंरक्षक यांचे कार्यालय  
चंद्रपूर बववृत्त, चंद्रपूर





भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS  
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office  
Ground Floor, East Wing  
New Secretariat Building  
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001  
apccfcentral-ngp-mef@gov.in

F.No. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP /11158

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

✓ To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Revenue and Forest Department,  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk  
Madam Cama Marg  
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032.

**Sub: Diversion of 12.07 ha forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd., Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project at Village- Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, Distt- Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.**

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-3616/CR-01/F-10 dated 10.06.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/LD- /1715/15-16 dated 15.12.2015 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal was forwarded to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for approval of the competent authority. Now the proposal has been returned with a request to submit the additional information on the following points:

- i. Mining Plan for enhanced capacity of 1.55 million tonnes per annum has been approved by the Board of Directors of WCL on 29.05.2010. However, a copy of the same is not available in the proposal. A copy of mining plan for enhanced capacity along with the undertaking from the User Agency that the land use provided in the proposal is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan.
- ii. Mining Plan has been approved in the year 2010 while the proposal for approval under the FC Act, 1980 has been received after a gap of almost 12 years. Reasons for exorbitantly delay needs to be furnished.
- iii. It is indicated in the proposal that the mining operations in the lease area are ongoing. However, it cannot be ascertained whether the mining operations in the additional area required for enhanced capacity are also being taken up by the user agency. Exact detail of the same may be furnished by the State Government.
- iv. Land use proposed in the forest land cannot be ascertained from the detail available in the proposal, same need to be submitted.
- v. As per detail provided in the Part-I, the total project area has been indicated as 820.70 ha while the same is mentioned as 1140.59 ha in the deliberation of REC dated 14.10.2022. Exact position in this regard may be informed by the State Government.
- vi. To mitigate the impact of project activity on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakh has been recommended by the State Government, same need to be approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and specific comments in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna need to be submitted.

Chandrapur  
14/2/23



- vii. The specific comments from the State Government on why this case should not fall under category of *fait accompli*, since mining is on in NFL and now the UA is asking for mining in forest land need to be submitted.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This issues with the approval of Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,

(N. K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)

Copy to:

- i. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- ii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. User agency.
- iv. Guard file.

Sd.  
(N. K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)