

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 22nd February, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 14.00 ha Reserved Forest land in Compartment No. 454 of Junnadev Vishala Village of Jamai Range for Bharat Open Cast Coal Mine Phase-II in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited in Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh State (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017/343 dated 25.01.2023 on the above cited subject. In this regard, the following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Government:

- i. The State Govt has now intimated that the total forest area within mining lease is 145.690 ha whereas as the kml file submitted now the total forest area is found to be 150.453 ha. The State Government is requested to examine the extent of forest land within mining lease and do the necessary correction online along with KML file.
- ii. The Chindwara Van Mandal had done plantation over 14.00 ha area as a mitigation measure stipulated for the diversion of 19.5 ha forest land earlier. The State has now submitted that plantation will be carried out at the cost of user agency by the MP Van Vikas Nigam to compensate the same. However, the KML file or detail of land identified for this purpose has not been provided. In this regard the State Govt has to ensure that the area identified for plantation is in line with the condition stipulated for this purpose in the approval accorded for the diversion of 19.5 ha forest land.
- iii. Now the user agency has informed that the 19.5 ha diverted forest land shall be used for over-burden (OB) dumping of waste generated from 14 ha forest proposed for diversion. It is pertinent to mention here that a seasonal nala flows on the western flank of 19.5 ha diverted forest land. Therefore, the State Govt shall examine the matter and submit the justification/proposed safeguards accordingly.
- iv. User agency has now reported that 14 ha forest land is required due to change in technology and extraction of substantial coal which is locked up in protective barrier within 68.704 ha diverted forest land for under-ground mining. However, nothing of this fact was reflected in the Mining plan. Moreover, vital project components like safety zone, external dump, infrastructure, approach road etc. should be reflected in the Mining plan and may be intimated by the State Government.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.