

F. No. 8-147/1989-FC (Pt.-I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 28th February, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of additional 230.20 ha of forest land including 3.806 ha of forest land within safety zone in addition to already diverted 350.706 ha of forest land within total project area of 1384.767 ha (as indicated in latest approved Mining Plan) for Samaleswari OCP Expansion (Phase-IV) rated capacity 15.0 MTY of Mahandi Coalfields Ltd. in IB-Valley Area, Brajarajnagar Dist. Jharsuguda, Odisha.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter vide their letter no. 10F (Cons)171/2018/25381/F&E dated 24.11.2018 submitting the above subject proposal seeking prior approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The Shape file of proposed area of diversion along with CA sites, has also been provided, and the same has been analyzed with the help of Decision Support System. On preliminary scrutiny of the Shape file for CA, the following points were noticed:

- a. Total area (461 Ha) proposed for CA falls in Sambalpur, District of Odisha State whereas, as per information given in forwarding letter by the State Government of Odisha, all the proposed CA sites falls under Jharsuguda district of Odisha State.
- b. Out of 461 ha area proposed CA, 243 ha area is characterized with Moderately Dense Forest (MDF), about 53% area is under MDF in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2015) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2013-2014 which may not be suitable for CA.
- c. It is not clear as to whether the area proposed for CA in revenue forest namely Grindola Village shall be mutated in favour of State Forest Department for further declaring as RF or PF under the provisions of section 29 of the Indian forest act 1927.
- d. The terminology used as **PRF** in the proposed CA may be clarified.
- e. The details of forest area proposed for CA in lieu of double the area applied for diversion, are as follows:
 - i. 11 CA patches comprising an area of 133 Ha falls under **Budhikuten-Bhaibahen PRF**, Kolabira Range.

- ii. 2 CA patches comprising an area of 156 Ha falls under **Lamdunguri PRF**, Kolabira Range,
- iii. 1 Patch comprising an area of 172 Ha falls under **Revenue Forest (Patra Jungle)**, Belphara Range, Jharsuguda district of Odisha State.

3. It has also been decided in the Ministry that the degraded forest land proposed by the State Government for the purpose of CA, shall not be accepted if the canopy density of each forest patch is more than 0.4

In view of above, the State Govt. is requested to identify suitable area for admissible CA towards instant proposal and submit it with the clarification on the points raised in para (2) above. The legal status of CA, suitability certificate, Shape file of revised CA and the lease boundary of 1384.767 ha area & 350.706 ha forest area (already diverted) may also be furnished for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

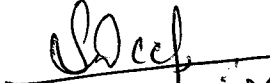
Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 28/11/15

Assistant Inspector General of Forests(FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.


(Sandeep Sharma) 28/11/15

Assistant Inspector General of Forests(FC)