



The Singareni Collieries Company Limited  
( A Government Company )  
Kothagudem Area.

Ref. No.KGM/EST/F/34/443

Date: 21.09.2021

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Head of Forest Force,  
Govt. of Telangana,  
Aranya Bhavan,  
HYDERABAD.

Madam,

Sub: Application for grant of prior approval for 1<sup>st</sup> renewal of 11.96ha. of forest land in Ramavaram RF, Ramavaram Range, Kothagudem Forest Division of Bhadradi Kothagudem District being used re-alignment of Tellavagu (Nallah) at VK-7 Incline (proposed Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine) of SCCL, Kothagudem Area – Reg.

- Ref: 1. MoEF Lr.No. A/16.1/70/AP/MIN1073, Dtd.31.08.2005.  
2. SCCL Lr.No. CRP/EST/F/106/904, Dtd.12.08.2008.  
3. PCCF Lr.No. 56743/2005/F4, Dtd.19.02.2009.  
4. CF, Khammam Lr.No. 1638/2003/M11, Dtd.03.09.2009.  
5. PCCF Lr.No. 56743/2005/F4, Dtd.31.10.2009.  
6. CF, Khammam Lr.No. 1638/2003/M11, Dtd.18.05.2013.  
7. SCCL Lr.No. CRP/EST/F/106/1199, Dtd.01.11.2013.  
8. Adv(F) Lr.No. Adv(F)/SCCL/13-14/63, Dtd.04.11.2013.  
9. Adv(F) Lr.No. Adv(F)/Hyd/2018/10, Dtd.30.05.2018.  
10. PCCF Lr.No. 56743/2005/FCA-5(iii), dtd.13.06.2018.  
11. ADF/SCCL/HYD/2018/04, Dtd.28.01.2019.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is brought to the kind notice that the Singareni Collieries Company (SCCL) – Government Company) is operating Venkatesh Khani No.7 Incline underground mine since 1955 in Ramavaram RF. It was felt essential to divert a seasonal rivulet by name "Tellavagu" flowing over the UG mine. This was in order to avoid seepage of rainwater and causing inundation and safety risk to the men working underground etc.

2. Accordingly, SCCL has submitted proposal for diversion of 11.96Ha. forest land. The MoEF, GoI, vide letter 1<sup>st</sup> cited, orders were accorded for diversion of the RF land for a period of 10 years from 31.08.2005 to 30.08.2015 for re-alignment of Tellavagu Nallah.

3. Accordingly, after making the required payment towards C.A, NPV etc. this nallah was diverted. Out of 11.96Ha, area of 5.20Ha. is covered in VK-7 Incline UG mine and 6.76Ha. outside the mine but within the lease hold area.
4. It is further brought to the kind notice that 11.96Ha. of forest land is part of Kothagudem Mining Lease involving VK-7 Incline, PVK-5 Incline and GKOC which is valid up to 26.04.2029 subject to validity of entire forest land diversion within the lease hold area. The mining activity is carried out as per the approved mining plan. The underground mining below the original course of stream was completed during 2016. However UG mining in VK-7 Incline mining operations of which Tellavagu is a part was closed by March 2021. However the mining closure plan as per mining closure plan will take further 2-3 years. As such it remained part of the lease area.
5. Moreover, the SCCL requires Environment Clearance for the Venkatesh Khani UG mine for which Term of Reference was issued by MoEF&CC, Gol, vide F.No.23-73/2018-IA(III), dated.19.06.2019. It is also brought to the kind notice that for getting the Environment Clearance, the pre-requisite is obtaining permission for diversion for entire RF area under the mine. But the permission granted for diversion of Tellavagu nalla expired during 2015.
6. However, SCCL vide reference number 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> cited requested to arrange to take up the issue with the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, through State Govt. to modify the condition relating to period of diversion as a Right of Water Course since the diversion of vagu is permanent in nature and its Mining Lease period is valid up to 26.04.2029.
7. At this juncture, owing to the exhaustion of reserves in VK-7 UG & GK OC mines and for sustenance of coal supplies of Power Plants of KTPS, NTPC, RTPP, VTPS etc, SCCL has planned to formulate expansion proposal called as "Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine" (By conversion of part of VK-7 Incline UG & PVK-5 Incline UG mines in a phased manner & amalgamation of GK OC for utilization of decoaled area for dumping of OB from land conservation point of view).
8. A mining plan to this effect was already approved by MoC, Gol, vide Lr No.38011/12/2017-PCA, dated.27.01.2020. In this regard, the Renewal of Right of Water Course for 11.96Ha. Forest Diversion is very much essential for processing of Environmental Clearance as per MoEF&CC guideline F.N.11-362/2012-FC, dated.01.02.2013 i.e. prior approval of under F (c) Act for the land of 11.96 Ha.
9. It is to submit that the SCCL is the only coal mining company in Southern India and supplying coal to the major power utilities viz. TSGENCO, APGENCO, KPCL and Maha GENCO and NTPC. Apart from power utilities, coal is also being



supplied to cement captive power plants, steel and other consumers through fuel supply agreements. Further, SCCL is supplying coal to small and medium scale units.

10. Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine is one of the upcoming Open cast and Underground Coal Mine. It is proposed as relay Project of GKOC (Goutham Khani Open Cast mine) by amalgamating VK-7 (Venktesh Khani Underground Mine), PVK-5 UG (Padmavathi Khani UG) and GKOC mines to produce 5.3 Million Tonnes of Coal from Open Cast and 1.00 MT from underground mine. It is a conversion of existing VK No.7 Incline into Open cast in initial years and extending OC working onto PVK No.5 Incline by 2030-31.

11. Till such time, PVK No.5 Incline UG Mine will be operated (as UG mine) with Continuous Miner Technology at a depth of 300 M to 450 M along with OC operations independently up to 2029-30. The opencast workings will be operated up to 300 Mtrs depth line and from 300 Mtrs to 450 Mtrs depth line underground workings will be operated in PVK No.5 Incline. Overburden to be excavated from this OC is proposed to be dumped in the voids of GK OC Mine (which is going to be closed for coal mining by March 2022). This project area is located in Chunchupalli Mandal in Bhadrachalam District of Telangana State.

12. The proposed VK Coal Mine of 2403.17 Ha. area consists of 2241.86 Ha. (FL 1466+ NFL 775.86) of land covered in 2<sup>nd</sup> Renewal of Kothagudem Mining Lease (5158 Ha.) obtained vide G.O.Ms.No.324, dt.12.12.2008 and is valid up to 26.04.2029 and 161.31 Ha. of land covered in 1<sup>st</sup> Renewal of Goutham Khani OC Mining Lease (261.31 Ha.) obtained vide G.O.Ms.No.211, dt.08.08.2008 and is valid up to 18.09.2034.

13. This land of 11.96 Ha is required as it is part of the project and Mining lease and hence to obtain Environment Clearance for Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine, this renewal is requested.

14. Therefore, present application is submitted for 1<sup>st</sup> renewal of linear diversion of 11.96 Ha. of forest land which was already diverted for Tellavagu stream. Since the diversion of stream is permanent in nature, it is very essential for processing of Environmental Clearance, MoEF&CC guidelines F.No.11-362/2012-FC dated.01.02.2013.

15. The present proposal is for application for grant of prior approval for 1<sup>st</sup> renewal of 11.96 Ha. of forest land in Compt. No. 7 of Penuballi Beat and Compt. No.8 Mussalivari Beat of Ramavaram RF, Ramavaram Range, Kothagudem Forest Division of Bhadrachalam District being used re-alignment of Tellavagu

(Nallah) at VK-7 Incline (proposed Venkatesh Khani Coal Mine) of SCCL, Kothagudem Area.

16. The eight sets of application (in Form-B) duly filled in Part-I for prior approval u/s. 2 of the Forest (C) Act 1980 for diversion of 11.96Ha. of Forest land in Ramavaram RF, Ramavaram Range, Kothagudem Forest Division of Bhadradri Kothagudem District.

17. Therefore, it is requested to kindly arrange to process and forward the application to MoEF&CC, Gol, through Govt. of Telangana for prior approval u/s. 2 of the Forest (C) Act 1980 for grant of prior approval for 1<sup>st</sup> renewal of 11.96Ha. of forest land in Ramavaram RF, Ramavaram Range, Kothagudem Forest Division of Bhadradri Kothagudem District.

Yours faithfully,



General Manager,  
Kothagudem Area

*General Manager*  
**The S.C.Co.Ltd.,**  
KOTHAGUDEM AREA

Encl: As above

Copy to:

The Conservator of Forests, Kothagudem Circle, Kothagudem – for favour of information

The District Forest Officer, Bhadradri Kothagudem District - for favour of information

The Forest Divisional Officer, Kothagudem - for favour of information.