

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 16th March, 2023

To,

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

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 382.131 hectares of forest land for Bunder Diamond Mining Project in favour of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Limited, District Chhatarpur, State of Madhya Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/45288/2020) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

This is in reference to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) & Nodal Officer, FCA, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/622/2021/10-11/4063 dated 30.11.2022 on the above mentioned subject.

In this regard, the Hon'ble NGT in Original Application No. 34/2021(CZ) & 40/2021 along with I.As. No. 60/2022 & 62/2022 vide order dated 24.01.2023 has directed as under:

The applications are pending before the Hon'ble High Court with the same prayer and relief. There should not be any multiplicity of judicial proceedings. After the necessary approval by the Competent Authority, if grievances survive, the applicant will have opportunity to challenge the order according to the procedure before appropriate forum. Both applications i.e. Original Application Nos. 34/2021 & 40/2021 alongwith I.As. No. 60/2022 & 62/2022 as filed are premature and not maintainable. Thus, dismissed.

The related matter is pending in the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur bearing Writ Petition No. 9742/2021 in Ramit Basu Vs Union of India and Ors.

Further, the subject cited proposal for diversion of 382.131 ha forest land was considered by the FAC in its meeting dated 27.12.2022. The FAC observed that the instant project can potentially disrupt the landscape character vis-a-vis tiger dispersal around Panna landscape. Further, the instant proposal may be taken up for consideration only when Ken-Betwa river interlinking project is finalized, the tiger dispersal in the area post construction of Ken-Betwa link project is studied and

a detailed study is done to assess other alternatives. Keeping in view the location of the proposed area, the recommendation of NTCA(National Tiger Conservation Authority) and the non-site specific components of project, it has been decided that the proposal cannot be accepted in its present proposition.

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 and Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.