

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: March, 2024

To,

The Additional Secretary (Forests),
EFS&T Department,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van Sanrakshana Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. SCCL for non-forestry use of 649.3014 ha forest land in Ramavaram RF of Ramavaram Range of Kothagudem forest division for grant of mining lease for proposed Venkateshkani OCP from underground rights to surface rights in Kothagudem area in Bhadradri Kothagudem District (Online proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020)

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Telangana's letter No.232/For.I (1)/2021 dated 01.03.2024 forwarding the additional information in response to this Ministry's letter dated 21.11.2023 and to say that the after the examination of the additional information, it has been observed that complete compliance of the observations of the Advisory Committee is not yet been done. Following information is required to be submitted by the State Government for further action in the instant matter:

- i. The Ministry vide letter dated 21.11.2023 had noted that the different User Agencies whose proposals are processed under FCA,1980, are depositing amounts related wildlife conservation plan w.r.t. their respective proposals in the Biodiversity Conservation Society of Telangana (BIOSOT) account of Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana. AC decided that State Govt. shall deposit such entire amount in CAMPA immediately as the process adopted by State Government is not as per rules.
However, the State has replied that the WLCP amount of ₹7.31 crore in respect of the instant proposal will be transferred after Phase-I approval. The reply of the State is not tenable as the observation was not restricted for the instant proposal only. Therefore, it is requested that the SG shall provide the list of all proposals (involving Forest Clearance) with the details of funds deposited in BIOSOT till date and all such funds including accrued interest shall immediately be transferred to the CAMPA account without further delay. A detailed report in the prescribed format (for CAMPA deposits) may also be provided for confirmation of the said funds.
- ii. Further, following discrepancies/lacking information have also been noticed in respect of the compliance of the linked proposals which needs to be clarified

by the State Government:

A. Diversion of 124.00 ha of Forest land for OCP GKOC Phase-II, Kothagudem in Ramavaram RF, Kothagudem Division of Bhadradi Kothagudem District.

- a. It is noted that out of 124 ha NFL identified for CA earlier, only 42.96 ha is available and rest CA area i.e., 81.04 ha is under encroachment by the local tribes. The State Govt. shall provide the copy of the notification of remaining 42.96 ha of NFL in Sy No. 116 of Rasannagudem village as RF/PF.
- b. Further, it is also noted that the SCCL has now provided 142.07 ha NFL in lieu of 81.04 Ha of encroachment in earlier CA land and 61.66 Ha overlapped CA land of SRLIP. In this regard it is to be clarified that the required land of 61.66 ha for SRLIP is being provided by SCCL only and the same is being accepted against the SRLIP by the State Govt. Moreover, it is also noticed that the NFL area of 61.66 ha now proposed for SRLIP proposal is having good vegetation, However, to compensate the loss of trees, CA scheme on double degraded forest land along with KML file site suitability certificate etc. may be provided. If the same has been done already for the SRLIP proposal then all details may also be provided.
- c. It is also noted that due to the proposed diversion area, the plantation in 9.31 ha area has been lost and plantation in alternate DFL site of 9.31 ha is proposed. In this regard it is also noticed that the Ministry vide letter No. 8-17/19998FC (Vol) dated 01.09.2023 (pg. 1394/c) ha sought the comments of the State on 9.31 ha DFL land in which plantation was done and the same has been taken in the diversion of the instant proposal. In the reply of the same the State Govt has provided the same reply vide letter dated 23.02.2024. The CA scheme, KML file and site suitability certificate etc. for the same may be provided.

B. Diversion of 154.96 ha of Forest land in Kothagudem Forest Division (Ramavaram RF Compt.11, 12 & 13) for Gauthami Khani OCP, Phase-III in Kothagudem District in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

- a. The copy of the notification of the non-forest land as RF/PF for CA area is required.

C. Diversion of 261.31 ha of forest land for renewal of Gauthami Khani Opencast Mining Project (Phase-I) for surface use in Bhadradi Kothagudem District- Kothagudem Division in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited. Stage-II clearance letter & date: No.8-117/2002-FC, dated 01/02/2010 Proposal No.: FP/TG/MIN/4921/2002

- a. The details of the KML file, expenditure incurred etc. where the CA plantation has been carried out on the identified DFL shall be provided.

In view of the above the Government of Telangana is requested to furnish the above information for further consideration of the proposal under Adhinyam, 1980.

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. DDGF (C) Regional Office, Chennai, of MoEF&CC.
4. IGF (C) Sub-office, Hyderabad, of MoEF&CC.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, of MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. User Agency.