

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi -110003.

Dated: March, 2023

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Raipur.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Prakash Industries Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 515.581 ha (201.806 ha for Underground mining) of forest land for Coal mining in Bhaskarpara Coal block under Surajpur District of Chhattisgarh State (Online Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/149564/2021)-regarding

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no.10F (Cons) 110/2016/6193/F&E dated 13.03.2023, on the above subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and to say that the preliminary scrutiny of the proposal revealed the following observations:

- i. From the DSS analysis a variation of 21.785 ha of area has been observed in the KML file of Revenue forest land uploaded. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the the revised KML files of the area proposed for diversion.
- ii. Out of 515.581 ha, 201.806 Ha will be used for underground (UG) mining and remaining 313.775 ha for open cast (OC) mining and related activities. From the KML file available on PARIVESH it is not clear which area will be used for underground mining and which one will be used for surface mining. Therefore, the State govt. is requested to submit the KML of forest area proposed for UG and OC for further analysis.
- iii. The KML file of proposed land-use (component wise breakup) including safety zone is not available on PARIVESH. In this regard the State govt. is requested to forward the same.
- iv. Out of total area proposed for diversion approximately an area 28 ha in Protected Forest is seen to have settlement, cultivation land and road as per high resolution Google Earth (GE) images. Further, the same structures are also visible in the proposed revenue forest land. In this regard the State government may offer its comments w.r.t. the encroachment and violation of FC Act 1980.
- v. Observation based on high resolution Google Earth (GE) images shows solid structures in the Mudpar, Dumarkholi, Magaji, Sauni villages identified for CA

land. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to offer its comments and shall also submit a certificate regarding proposed CA land is free from all encumbrances.

- vi. From the Mining plan submitted, it is not clear about the prediction of subsidence and its impact on forests and surface due to under ground mining. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit a numerical modelling in 3-Dimension for subsidence prediction through an expert mining engineer/organization to assess long term damage on surface vegetation due to underground mining.
- vii. Since the proposal includes both open cast and underground mining, the State government is requested to furnish its comments whether in future is there any plan of converting the UG mines to Opencast.
- viii. State Govt. may clarify that the private non-forest land proposed for CA purpose is in the name of User Agency and the papers have been verified by the Competent Authority in the State. Further the order for transfer of the revenue non-forest land is not available. The State is requested to kindly provide the transfer deed/order of the proposed revenue land for the CA purpose.
- ix. The State Govt. is requested to forward the recommendation of CWLW on the approved Wildlife management plan and with regard to the instant proposal.
- x. The land use pattern mentioned in the Part-I of PARIVESH portal and the Land-use plan mentioned in the Mining Plan are different. In this regard the State govt. is requested to offer its comments.

In view of the above, the State Govt. is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information/documents to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
3. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.