

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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan**  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
**Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

**To**

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Department of Forest and Environment,  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Subject: Diversion of 14.00 ha Reserved Forest land in Compartment No. 454 of Junnadev Vishala Village of Jamai Range for Bharat Open Cast Coal Mine Phase-II in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited in Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh State (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017) - reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017/588 dated 15.02.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the state Govt:

- i. The State has not given any cogent reason for not agreeing to the recommendation of CF Chindwara who has proposed that the area should not be diverted. The CF has mentioned in his report that Chindwara Van Mandal has done plantation over 14.00 ha area as a mitigation measure stipulated for the diversion of 19.5 ha forest land earlier. Now the same area is being proposed for diversion. The justification and clarification in this regard is therefore required to be submitted.
- ii. The State Government informed that the instant diversion is an extension of Bharat Open Cast Phase-II Coal Mining and is part of original proposal of 68.704 ha and 19.20 ha for which approval was already granted by the Ministry in past. Hence the Cost-Benefit Analysis is required to be submitted.
- iii. The State Govt. has now informed that the Mining lease area is 218.48 ha. However, the mining lease area calculated through the KML file is 216.871 ha. Therefore, correct KML file of Mining lease area needs submission.
- iv. The Satellite imagery from 27.03.2015 to 08.11.2021 (*copy enclosed*) shows Non-forestry activity outside the approved forest area (19.50 ha) as well as the Mining lease boundary. The same may be examined and in case it is on the forest land a detailed justification be submitted to the Ministry.
- v. The Safety zone has not been maintained around the approved forest area of 19.50 ha. This needs clarification.
- vi. The KML file of CA sites after excluding the areas unsuitable for plantation has not been uploaded on PARIVESH portal. The State Govt. may look into the matter and propose suitable areas for Compensatory Afforestation. The Site suitability certificate

for the proposed CA sites is also required to be submitted.

vii. The State Govt. has not provided the Geo-referenced detailed land use plan for entire Kanhan area. The same shall be submitted.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

**Sd/-**

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest and Environment, 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.