

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: April, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for non-forestry use of 431.59 ha of forest land for Amrapali Open Cast Coal mining project in favour of M/s Central Coalfield Limited in Chatra South Forest Division in Chatra District of Jharkhand-reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-4/2022-861/V.P. dated 06.03.2023 on the above subject submitting information as sought vide Ministry's letter dated 05.07.2022 and to say that examination of said proposal in the Ministry revealed the following shortcomings:

- i. The State Government shall provide present status of the offence report issued by the State Forest Department against erring officials for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the user agency.
- ii. The State Government has informed that proposal for 13.70 ha of forest land for construction of Honhe-Sarandhu road has been withdrawn by the user agency. In the withdrawal letter user agency has mentioned that the proposal for diversion of 13.70 ha is a part of instant proposal i.e. 431.59 ha, whereas State Government has informed that only 1.05 ha out of 13.70 ha has been included in the instant proposal, which is contradictory and needs to be clarified.
- iii. The State Government informed that FRA, 2006 compliance certificate issued by DC Chatra for 651.16 ha. of forest land is for 04 (four) different projects including the area of 431.59 ha. of forest land. However, bifurcation of 651.16 ha of forest land as provided by the State Government is not mentioned in FRA certificate. The State Govt. shall ensure that the area involved in the instant proposal is actually covered under the certificate *ibid*.
- iv. The details of four projects mentioned in the FRA certificate including their KML files and the status of the diversion proposals shall also be submitted. The linkage of these projects to each other (if any) shall also be indicated.
- v. With regard to Safety zone maintained by the user agency, the State

Government has informed that the proposed area covered under the instant proposal, not being maintained properly as in anticipation of acceptance of this proposal. Maintenance of the safety zone is an essential condition. The justification for neither complying with it nor seeking its relaxation shall be submitted. The details of safety zone maintained in lieu of diversion of 531.64 ha and activities viz plantation, ANR and afforestation over 1.5 times the area of safety zone shall be submitted.

- vi. The State Government informed that the user agency has to deposit the amount of NPV for many safety zone areas involved in different projects for which no NPV amount had been realized earlier. The detail of all such areas along with updated status of NPV payment shall be submitted.
- vii. The PCCF(wildlife) and CWLW, Jharkhand has suggested that user agency should get prepared on a landscape level in 10 km circumference of the Project proposal area an 'Integrated Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Management and Impact Mitigation Plan'. State Government may obtain undertaking from the user agency in this regard.
- viii. With regard to R&R Plan, the State Government informed that the R & R plan as submitted by the user agency is as per R & R policy 2012 of Coal India Ltd. applicable to all projects of Coal India Ltd. However, the user agency has also been requested by the Divisional Forest Officer to prepare the desired project specific R & R plan and submit the same as earliest as possible. State Government may obtain undertaking from the user agency in this regard.
- ix. As per Mining plan details given at Part-I form PARIVESH, total area of Mining lease reported as 1298.98 ha, out of which 966.56 ha is forest land. Out of 966.56 ha forest land, final approval under the FCA, 1980 has been accorded for 531.64 ha forest land and through instant proposal the user agency has sought diversion of 431.59 ha forest land. Therefore, the State Govt. shall confirm the status of balance 3.33 ha forest land in the Mining lease.
- x. The status of Compensatory Afforestation in case of 531.64 ha forest land diverted earlier shall be submitted. Further in the status of compliance of stipulated conditions submitted by the State Govt it has been mentioned against many of the conditions that the "condition is being complied". The same needs justification as to why the complete compliance has not been done so far.
- xi. The KML file of approved 531.64 ha forest land shall also be provided for analysis purpose.
- xii. As per Satellite imagery it is observed that the construction of metalled Road has been completed in majority area of the 13.70 ha forest land proposal submitted earlier by the user agency. Moreover, construction of new Road is going on in the proposed forest land for diversion. This needs clarification.
- xiii. As per Satellite imagery area of 128 ha additional proposed for CA is having encroachment of Agriculture land, Settlements, Road etc. Moreover, some construction activity is also going on in the Vilage Kurlonga which is proposed

for CA. This needs clarification.

- xiv. The complete KML file of the project area indicating various components like OB, Green Belt Zone, Mining area, infrastructure, roads etc. has not been submitted. moreover, it is not clear whether the Green Belt Zone is different from the Safety zone or is it same.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.