

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

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

To

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

**Sub: 01<sup>st</sup> Renewal for diversion of 124 ha. (Surveyed 124.065 ha.) of forest land for coal mining in favour of M/s SCCL for GKOC Phase-II, Kothagudem in Ramavaram RF of Kothagudem Division, Bhadradi, Kothagudem District, Telangana. -regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to attached herewith the copy of the minutes of the meeting held under the chairmanship of the IGF-FC on 02.04.2024 at 11 AM in his chamber with State Nodal Officer and UA on the above-mentioned proposal along with the linked proposals. As per the decision taken in the meeting, certain information related to this proposal is required to be submitted by the State Government of Telangana's as well as UA.

In view of the above, the State Government of Telangana is requested to kindly furnish the information at the earliest to this Ministry, for further processing of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

**Encl: As above**

**Sd-**  
**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The APCCF cum Nodal Officer, FCA, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. The Sub-office, Hyderabad, MoEF&CC.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, of Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

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

**Dated: March, 2024**

**Office Memorandum**

**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 Bhadradi Kothagudem District (Online proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020)**

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the minutes of the meeting held on 02.04.2024 at 11:00 AM under the Chairmanship of the IGF (FC), MoEF&CC, New Delhi for further necessary action.

**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

To:

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 11:00 AM with State Nodal Officer, Regional Office and SCCL authorities.**

The meeting was held in the chairmanship of the IGF (FC) and he welcomed all the participants. The following proposals were discussed:

- i. 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 Bhadradi Kothagudem District (Online proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020)

- ii. Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited for 1<sup>st</sup> Renewal of diversion of 124 ha. (Surveyed 124.065 ha.) of forest land of GKOC Phase-II, Kothagudem for use of this de-coaled area for dumping of OB to be generated from adjoining mines in Ramavaram RF of Kothagudem Division, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana (Online Proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/32497/2018)

The list of the officers who were present in the meeting are annexed as **Annexure-I**. The discussions and decisions wrt the above mentioned proposals are as follows:

- i. During the discussion it has been noticed that the instant proposal is for converting the underground mining to open cast mining. The underground mining was approved earlier for 1174.18 ha of forest land and now out of 1174.18 the UA is seeking 649.3014 ha for OC mining. As informed by the UA that at present there is a good forest on surface which is now required to be diverted and 3,49,423 trees (as per part II of the form 1) have to be felled. The SCCL has informed that they have only extracted about 30% of coal available so far from underground mining and ~70% of coal is still remaining. In this regard, the SCCL shall provide relevant documents and justification.
- ii. As per the present proposal of VK OC, OB is required to be dumped in the adjoining void area of the GKOC Phase-II (Area 124.0 ha) and GK OCP, Phase-III (area 154.96 ha). During the discussion it been observed the proposal of 649.3014 ha of proposed VK OC is as per amalgamation of Kothagudem, mining lease for which revised mining plan has been approved. Accordingly, it is noted that following three proposals are required to be dealt simultaneously:
  - a. Venkateshkhani Mine from underground rights to surface rights (649.3014 ha). Which is under consideration in the Ministry [**File No. 8-05/2021-FC**].
  - b. Renewal and land use change of GKOC Phase-II (Area 124.0 ha). Which is under consideration in the Ministry. [**File No. 8-17-1998-FC (Part)**].
  - c. Proposal for land use change of GK OCP, Phase-III (area 154.96 ha) for which FC validity is valid up to 2034 is required to be submitted by the State Govt. Further, the Nodal Officer (VSESA), 1980, Govt. of Telangana and SCCL has agreed to submit the proposal for change in land use along-with the compliance report for the same.
- iii. The SCCL has also stated that after filling of OB dump in void area of GKOC Phase-II (Area 124.0 ha) they will be surrender the said area after technical and biological reclamation to the SFD which is ecological beneficial.
- iv. The SCCL has also stated that they will not use the already technically and biologically reclaimed area of GKOC Phase-II (Area 124.0 ha) and GK OCP, Phase-III (area 154.96 ha) for OB dump of 649.3014 ha VK OC mines and same shall be surrendered to the SFD. The details of the same shall be provided by the SCCL & SFD to the Ministry.
- v. The SCCL has informed that GK OC Phase-I (area 261.31 ha) out of 261.31

ha of forest land an extent of 140.0 ha has been back filled with over burden and plantation was taken up. The balance area of 121.0 ha is having infrastructure (4 ha) and void and over burden (65.13 ha). Out of reclaimed area of 140.0 an extent of 100 ha was handed over back to the SFD in 2010. Therefore, it has been agreed in the meeting that the SCCL shall hand over the balance area (leaving the infrastructure and access roads) to the SFD. Accordingly, SCCL shall submit a reclamation plan and surrender schedule.

- vi. The SCCL shall also provide the latest approved amalgamated mining plan.
- vii. Further, regarding the issues wrt to CA land of GKOC Phase-II (Area 124.0 ha), the Nodal Officer has agreed to notify the 42.96 ha non-forest land in Sy No. 116 of Rasannagudem village, Paloncha Forest Division. The same shall be expedited and documents in this regard shall be provided to the Ministry.
- viii. Further, at the time of the submission of the land use proposal of GK OCP, Phase-III (area 154.96 ha), the State and SCCL authorities shall ensure that proposed NFL falling in the State of Andhra Pradesh notified as RF/PF under IFA, 1927 or local act of the State. The State Nodal officer, Govt. of Telangana and SCCL shall co-ordinate with the Andhra Pradesh SFD. In addition, the IGF (Central) of sub-Office Hyderabad shall inspect the NFL land proposed in Andhra Pradesh and submit his report to the Ministry.
- ix. Further, the reply to EDS raised by the Ministry vide letter dated 19.03.2024 shall be examined separately.

### **Annexure-I: List of Participants**

#### **1. From MoEF&CC:**

1. Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, IGF
2. Shri Dheeraj Mittal, AIGF
3. Shri Rakesh Kumar, TO (F)

#### **2. From Regional Office Chennai:**

1. Shri V. Genner, DDGF (Central)
2. Shri Trinad Kumar, IGF (Central)

#### **3. From State Forest Department**

1. Shri Mohan Chandra Pargaien

#### **4. From SCCL:**

1. Shri N. Balaram, C&MD
2. NVK Srinivas, Director (Operations)
3. Shri GV Reddy, Director (Planning & Projects)
4. Shri Neeraj Kumar Ojha, Resident Manager
5. Shri Suresh Kumar, Additional Manager