

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 1100 03.

Dated: 17th April, 2020

To,

Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Orissa,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha of RF in Chhendipada & Kankurupal Reserved Forest and 140.180 ha of Village Forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Govt. of Odisha's letter No. 10F (Con)123/19-229/F&E dated 04.01.2020 submitting the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal has been examined in consultation with and Regional Office, Bhubaneswar of this Ministry and observe the following:

- i. With regard to proposed CA towards instant proposal, the following observations are made:
 - a. An area of 1683.00 ha of degraded forest land instead of admissible 1566.55 ha. (783.275 ha.X2) of degraded forest land has been proposed in lieu of proposed diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land. Thus, an additional area of 116.45 ha. (1683 ha-1566.55 ha) degraded forest land has been identified for CA purpose. Exact Degraded forest area should be identified and KML file of the same be submitted accordingly. However, out of total proposed degraded forest land of 1683.00 ha, 57 Ha. (22 ha. in Goudadei RF, Boudh forest division and 35 ha Tikhari RF, Bolangir forest division) is MDF which is not suitable and admissible for CA purpose in accordance with guidelines issued by this Ministry.
 - b. RO in Site Inspection Report (SIR) mentioned that the proposed CA areas do not require planting of 800 seedlings in ANR model due to presence of existing regeneration and tree species with some canopy cover. The observation shall be analyzed and comments may be furnished accordingly.
 - a. As per Google earth imagery, Plantation activities in the following area in past have been carried out in one CA patch namely Goud Dei RF under Boudh Range:

Plantation location	Approx. Area in Ha.	Latitude	Longitude
Site-1	6.6	20°45'51.79"N	84°14'13.87"E
Site2	3.2	20°45'43.93"N	84°14'8.85"E
Total:	9.8		

As above, Goudadei RF patch of 541 ha identified for CA, wherein an area of 9.8 ha is showing planted earlier. Same need to be checked and report in this regards shall be submitted.

Based on the above observations, the State Govt. is requested to review the proposed sites for CA towards instant proposal and to exclude 57 ha MDF and 9.8 ha of earlier planted area from proposed CA. **The revised admissible CA land, alongwith a certificate from the state Government that no afforestation work has been taken up in the proposed CA site under any scheme/plan in the past, may be furnished to this Ministry for further action.**

- ii. It is also observed that the whole area on both sides of State High Way no 63 up to Deogarh Division has coal reserves and many coal mines may come up in future and movement of wild elephants is often witnessed in the northern and southern part of lease area, as reported. **In this regard, the comments of CWLW of State may be furnished.**

In view of above, the State Govt. is requested to provide the information/comments on the points indicated above for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry

Yours faithfully,

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
2. The CWLW, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
4. The Deputy Director General (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
5. User Agency
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
7. Guard File.