



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE,
AT/P.O. PANPOSH, ROURKELA-769 004.

Memo No. 692 /3F(Misc)873/2023 Date: 28-2-2023

To
The Divisional Forest Officer,
Sundargarh Division.

Sub: Proposal towards seeking clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India for diversion of 134.69 ha of forest land for Kulda Expansion Open cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/50293/2020, State Sl. No. OR-050/2021 dated 08.07.2021)

Ref: Your Memo No.652 Dtd.07.02.2023.

With reference to your aforecited Memo on the captioned subject, on scrutiny of the above proposal, following short comings / deficiencies are observed.

1.(i)From the village wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion as furnished in the Part-I of the proposal, it is seen that forest area over 35.81 ha. as mentioned against the village, Balinga is not found to be correct when cross checked with the detailed village wise land schedule furnished at pg.84/DP. It is seen that the village Baling doesn't involve any forest land. Rather, the same extent of forest land belongs to the village Tumulia. Accordingly, the Part-I of the proposal needs revision. The same thing has been repeated vide point No.3 in your forwarding letter also which needs corrections. Further, the Govt. Non-Forest land over 16.42 ha belonging to the village Tumulia is actually 16.41 ha. as per the land schedule. Therefore, necessary corrections may be effected wherever required in the proposal as well as in the forwarding letter.

2. In the purpose wise break up of forest & non-forest land furnished vide point No.4 of the forwarding letter, it is seen the Non-forest land involved in 7.5 m SZ is 17.56 ha whereas per land schedule furnished at page-84/DP, it is 17.55 ha. The discrepancy in this regard may be clarified.

Further, the forest area involved in the SZ is mentioned to be 9.77 ha. as per land schedule furnished at Page-84/D.P. But the same is mentioned to be 9.78 ha in the part-I as well as in the forwarding letter. Therefore, the discrepancy needs to be clarified & necessary correction may be effected wherever required.

3. The village wise Govt. Non-Forest land mentioned vide point No.3 of the forwarding letter is as follows:-

1) Kulda	-	26.86 ha.
2) Bankibahal	-	10.80 ha.
3) Balinga	-	8.59 ha
4) Tumulia	-	16.42 ha
5) Siarmal	-	0

Where as in the land schedule obtained from the Tahasildar, Hemgir the Govt. Non-Forest land involved in the aforesaid villages are as follows:-

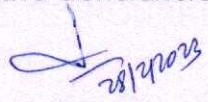
1) Kulda	-	26.44 ha
2) Bankibahal	-	8.12 ha.
3) Balinga	-	1.93 ha
4) Tumulia	-	28.73 ha
5) Siarmal	-	0

The discrepancies in the extent of area may be clarified.

4. It is seen that an area of 286.96 ha. of degraded forest land i.e. twice in extent to the forest land of 134.69 ha(including SZ area of 9.77 ha)proposed for diversion has been identified for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation. Since the area under SZ cannot be put to any non-forest use and it has to be maintained as Green belt around the ML area by ensuring its fencing, protection and regeneration and degraded forest land to the extent of 1.5 times the area under SZ has to be identified elsewhere for afforestation, while calculating the area for CA, the area under SZ should not have been taken into account. In the instant case, an area of 249.84 ha of degraded forest land should have been identified for CA instead of identifying 286.96 ha. of degraded forest land. Therefore, the CA scheme needs to be revised accordingly.
5. The scientific names of the faunal species need to be given against Sl. No.10 of Site Inspection Report.
6. Names of the floral species with their scientific names along with density of vegetation needs to be mentioned against Sl No.9 of the Site Inspection Report.
7. Against Sl No.14 of Site Inspection Report, no of families/ people to be displaced needs to be mentioned.
8. The position of rare and endangered species of animals, if any available in the applied area, needs to be given against Sl. No.15,.
9. Against Sl No.16 of the Site Inspection Report, it has not stated as to whether the Non-forest land over 160.93 ha involved in the project has been included in DLC report or not.
10. Since the present project is an expansion of the earlier Kulda OCP and forest clearance for 227.89 ha of forest land was earlier granted by the GoI, MoEF vide their letter Dtd.08.08.2007, the status of compliance with the conditions stipulated therein needs to be submitted by the User Agency which has to be duly countersigned by the DFO concerned. Any violation under FC Act, 1980 in respect of the forest land diverted earlier has also to be reported along with action taken report thereof.
11. As per R&R plan, 975 Nos. of families will be displaced due to the above project. Therefore, the User Agency will have to fulfil the following conditions as per the stipulation issued by the GOI, MoEF vide their letter F.No.11-9/1998-FC dtd.04.01.2011:
- i) *The user agency shall establish and operate a Vocational Training Institute having capacity to impart training in at-least five disciplines, to be decided by the State Government concerned in consultation with the user agency, for the benefits of the eligible unemployed youth in the project affected villages. The user agency should also endeavour to employ such trained manpower in their own industry or any other appropriate industry, preferably located in vicinity of the forest land being diverted; and*
 - ii) *The user agency shall setup an independent Social Welfare Department / Division and follow the subsequent condition of the project- affected and the project-displaced persons in such a way as to understand their socio-economic conditions before and after the project and take such corrective measures as are necessary to restore them to their original or better-than-original condition.*
12. It may be reported as to where any court matter is pending in respect of the present project.
13. All undertakings / Maps/ Plans furnished by the User Agency must be countersigned by the DFO.
15. A proposed land use plan should be submitted duly countersigned by the DFO.

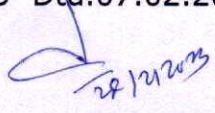
Therefore, the diversion proposal is returned herewith in quadruplicate which should be resubmitted at the earliest after due compliance with the deficiencies as pointed out above for taking further follow up action at this end. ✓

Encl: As above.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle

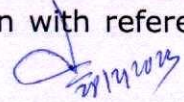
Memo No. 693 Date: 28.02.2023 ✓

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act), O/o the Pr.CCF, Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to the Memo No. 653 Dtd.07.02.2023 of DFO, Keonjhar Division.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle

Memo No. 694 Date: 28.02.2023

Copy forwarded to the Project Officer, Kulda OCP, Basundhara Area of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.654 Dtd.07.02.2023 of the DFO, Sundargarh Division.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle