

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 01 May, 2023

To

The Additional Secretary to Government,
EFS&T Department, Telangana Secretariat,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Sub: 01st 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.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No.1069/For.I(1)/2019 dated 14.03.2023 forwarding the additional information in response to this Ministry's letter dated 29.09.2022 and to say that after examination of the information the following are observed:-

- i. It is observed in DSS analysis that the State Govt. has provided the map showing location of 124 ha CA land for the instant proposal. Further, they have mentioned that out of 124 ha allotted CA only 42.96 ha is available for instant proposal; rest CA area i.e. 81.04 ha is under encroachment by the local tribes. Therefore, in this regard the KML file of 42.96 ha and status of 81.04 ha encroached area is required. Moreover, the KML file of 124 ha area demarcated in the map wrt to CA and area for diversion (124 Ha) is not available. In this regard the State Government is requested to submit the revised KML file along with the map.
- ii. Approval was accorded for the instant proposal on dt 08.02.1999 with a condition that the NFL transferred to SFD for CA shall be declared as PF/RF under IFA 1927. More than 23 years has been passed since approval but the identified CA land has not been declared as RF/PF. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to speedup the process of declaring the NFL identified for CA land and submit the copy of the notification declaring the non-forest land under section 4 or section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the state Forest to this Ministry.
- iii. It has been informed that out of 124 ha earlier identified for CA only 42.96 ha

is available for plantation and rest are encroached. It is pertinent to mention that the approval was accorded in 1999 and since then the CA plantation has not been carried out. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to offer its comments on the future plan for plantation in identified CA land that, whether the State is planing to remove the encroachment from the CA land or the State is identifying the fresh NFL for the purpose of CA land. In case of identification of the new NFL area by the State, the State Govt. is further requested to provide details, viz. KML file, Site Suitability Certificate, Revised CA Schemes, DGPS and Topo Sheet Map along with the progress wrt notification of the said land as RF/PF.

- iv. The State Govt. may also to offer its comments whether the plantation will be possible wrt the earlier approved CA scheme since there is lapse of 23 years.
- v. With regard to overlap in the non-forest CA lands handed over by M/s SCCL and that handed over by I&CADD officials for SRLIP project it has been informed that District collector has been requested for allotment of alternate NFL area to an extent of 61.66 Ha in other location and the response in the matter is awaited. In this regard the State Govt. is again requested to identify the said land and forward the KML files, site suitability certificate, CA scheme details and relevant maps.
- vi. The State Govt. may also clarify the validity of the mining lease with regard to instant proposal.
- vii. Further, provisions as per para 1.21 (iii) of the Comprehensive guidelines issued by this Ministry 2019, Violation/Non-Compliance of any conditions imposed while granting approval under FC Act 1980 are applicable in the instant case as there is non -compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval granted. State Govt. may offer its comments in this regard.

Further, it is noted that the similar queries are being asked from the State since the proposal was initially submitted in the year 2019 and the State Govt. is providing no clear response. Till today there is no compliance of the conditions stipulated earlier while the approval was granted in 1999 (especially wrt to the notification of NFL area offered for CA and plantation). Henceforth, till the satisfactory compliance of all the conditions is not completed by the State Govt. the instant proposal may not be further considered for renewal in the Ministry since there is no CA related compliance by the State Govt, and also may be kept in abeyanc.

In view of the above, the Government of Telangana is requested to furnish the above mentioned information/documents to this Ministry along with full compliance of the stipulated conditions for any further processing of the instant proposal.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

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