

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: 29th May, 2023

To,

The Special Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Sub: Proposal for diversion 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 in favor of M/s. SCCL (Online proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/44798/2020).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No. 232/For. I (1)/2021 dated 18.02.2021 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, it is informed that the matter was discussed in the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 18.05.2023. The detailed minutes of the said AC meeting are uploaded at parivesh.nic.in. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal officer (FCA), and Regional Officer, IRO, Hyderabad. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, the Committee deferred the proposal with following observations:

- i. The IRO shall analyze the C: B ratio study report and the Biodiversity report submitted and offer its comments in this regard.
- ii. The State Govt. shall provide information with regard to wildlife conservation and mitigation plan namely (i) who has prepared the plan and (ii) who has verified the details of the plan.
- iii. The State Govt. shall clarify whether in view of the submitted Biodiversity Report, the wildlife conservation and mitigation plan requires any further reconsideration along with the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- iv. In the Biodiversity Report submitted by the State Govt., in the conclusion it states that there are 313 species of plants and 191 animals. However, it concludes by stating that there is no effect on wildlife mitigation due to mining. This seems contradictory, the State Govt. shall offer its comments in this regard.
- v. The State Government shall clarify why the instant proposal was applied for underground mining rights earlier (initially) and provide justification for proposed open cast mining.
- vi. The State Govt. shall provide details of utilized coal resources and available resources of coal in underground mines in the lease area and also will be made available through open cast mining as proposed.
- vii. The IRO shall examine the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the earlier approval which are linked to the instant proposal and submit its report to the

- Ministry. The State Govt. shall provide the compliance report to IRO in this regard.
- viii. Further, the State Govt. shall provide updated regarding the handover of the land identified CA purpose to the State Forest Department w.r.t the proposal for 1st 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 and the same shall be mutated and transferred in the name of State Forest Department.

In view of the above the Government of Telangana is requested to kindly furnish the above information/clarification/justification to this Ministry for further processing of the proposal under FCA, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The Nodal Officer, FCA, Forest Department, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Hyderabad of MoEF&CC, with a request to submit comments/report as per points (i & vii) above.
4. The Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. User Agency.