

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003  
**Dated: 05-05-2025**

To  
**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 57.73 ha of forest land (44.64 ha forest land + 13.09 ha of looks like forest) for coal mining at Bharatpur Open Cast Expansion Project at Bharatpur Area of Mahanadi Coal Field Limited (MCL) under Angul Forest Division (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/153736/2022)-reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's No. FE-DIV-FLD-0020-2025-8669/FE&CC dated 11.04.2025 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the proposal the following shortcoming has been observed:

- i. As reported by the State Govt. that the total area of the proposed expansion mine is 1556.94 Ha out of which the total forest land is only 222.41 Ha. However, an area of 177.77 ha has already been diverted for Bharatpur OCP. The proposed expansion is for additional area of 629.52 ha which involves of 44.64 ha of Forest land and 13.09 ha looks like forest which is to be diverted. As per the records available with the Ministry only 134.41 ha of forest land has been diverted earlier vide letter No. .8-87/2012-FC dated 07.02.2014. Now proposed area is 57.73. Total area = 134.415 + 57.73 = 192.145 ha. Balance area 222.41 - 192.145 = 30.615 ha for which the status is not known. The State Govt. shall provide the all details of the balance area and earlier approvals if obtained.
- ii. The Ministry vide its letter no.8-87/2012-FC dated 07.02.2014 has granted Stage-II approval for diversion of 134.415 ha of forest land for Bharatpur open cast mining. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage-II approval duly verified by the Regional Office of MoEFCC along with CA details like survival % and implementaion of RWMP and SSWMP.
- iii. The KML file of 134.415 ha forest land which has been diverted earlier and CA area is required for detailed analysis of the proposal.
- iv. Status of reclamation measures undertaken by the user agency in their lease area in case of earlier approval as per the Progressive Mine Closure Plans shall be furnished by the State.

- v. The DFO, Angul Forest Division in online Part-II has reported that the type of forest land proposed for diversion falls under **Eco-Value Class-III** while State Government in their forwarding letter reported the type of forest land proposed for diversion falls under **Eco-Value Class-I**. This is contradictory and need clarification and required correction.
- vi. Bangaru Jhor/ nallah is flowing through the expansion mine lease area. State Government shall submit NOC from the Water Resources Department.
- vii. Cost benefit ratio has been estimated to be 1:125.097 which seems to be on higher side. The same may be examined and CB analysis as per prescribed format and parameters shall be prepared and submitted.
- viii. Elephant Movement is reported in the area proposed for diversion. Therefore, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Odisha needs to be provided by the State Government to the Ministry.
- ix. As per the information uploaded in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal the number of trees has been mentioned as **2997** trees, whereas State Government in their forwarding letter reported the total **12297** nos of trees enumerated. This is contradictory and need clarification.
- x. State Government has reported that no families and no SC/ST families are displaced due to diversion of 57.73 ha of forest land. However, The DFO, Angul Forest Division has reported in his Part-II that total 1024 number of families has been displaced due to instant proposal. Further, State Government has recommended that proposal subject to condition that *“Livelihoods plan for at least one village near to the Mining lease area shall be prepared and implemented by the User Agency at project cost in consultation with the DFO, Angul Forest Division”*. This need clarification.
- xi. The component wise KML file (including safety zone) of proposed forest land is not available. This need to be provided.
- xii. As per DSS ananalysis, Non-forestry work such as solid structures, road etc. is visible in the proposed forest patches. The State Govt. shall offer their views / comments that why it should not be considered violation of the Adhiniyam, 1980.
- xiii. The action taken by the State wrt violation(if any) shall be submitted.
- xiv. Observation based on high resolution Google Earth imagery: moderately dense vegetation (MDF) is visible in the proposed CA sites. The suitability of CA areas shall therefore be reexamined by the State. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted along with the site suitability certificate from a competent authority.
- xv. As reported by the State Govt. that Jagannath open cast mine is on the eastern side of Bharatpur mine Jagannath mine was going to be exhausted. In order to add life to Jagannath mine, a part of planned Bharatpur mine was transferred to Jagannath mine. In order to obtain environmental clearance for extended Jagannath mine, the boundaries of Bharatpur mine had to be adjusted as per new common boundary and obtain approval of revised mining plan. In this regard the State Govt shall provide the details whether any forest land has been transferred to the Jaganath mines, if yes necessary approval copy shall be provided along with status of compliance with due verification from Regional Office.
- xvi. The CA Scheme has been prepared @500 plant per hectare whereas as per

- guidelines at least 1000 plants per hectare are required to be planted.
- xvii. The state shall ensure that the land use proposed is commensurate with the approved mining plan. A comparative analysis of the proposed land with the approved mining plan shall be provided.
  - xviii. The state shall provide the detail as to how the requirement of electricity and water will be met in the instant case. The detail of additional forest land required if any shall also be submitted.
  - xix. The state shall provide the details of mineral evacuation plan, and the requirement of forest land for the same.
  - xx. The State Govt. shall also provide the MoM of PSC with part-IV as per the provisions of the Guidelines issued dated 25.01.2024.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-  
**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

- i. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- ii. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
- iii. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- iv. User Agency
- v. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.