

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: As per E-sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for the non-forest use of 455.1108 ha of forest land for Pachwara South Coal Block project in favour of M/s Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd. (NUPPL), District Dumka, Jharkhand –reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-19/2022-1834/V.P. dated 14.05.2024 on above subject submitted information as sought vide Ministry's letter of even no. dated 08.03.2024 and to say that the said proposal was placed before the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 07.06.2024. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. After detailed deliberation on the matter, the Committee deferred the proposal for want of following information:

- i. The forest area proposed for diversion is situated within the Elephant Migration route. The State govt. has submitted the detail of the existing and proposed Elephant Migration route along the contiguous landscape of Damin-i-Koh from Kathikund & Gopikandar Forests (biggest forest block, the Old Reserve Block) to the Amrapara Forest of Pakur Forest Division & Sundarpahari Forests of Godda Forest Division and at the confluence of Bansloi River. Keeping in view the importance of the habitat, a detailed in depth analysis of this issue is required. The Regional Office, Ranchi shall therefore re-visit the area and submit its recommendations in view of the elephant habitat, the dense forest patches and Bansloi river along the area proposed for diversion.
- ii. The FC Division shall seek comments from Project Elephant Division of the Ministry keeping in view the presence of elephants in the area.
- iii. As per DSS analysis it was observed that in order to connect the mine with the existing road on a northern bank of Bansloi river, a bridge construction would be required. The State needs to confirm whether any additional forest land would be required for the bridge construction or not.
- iv. The state has revised the component wise breakup as per mining plan, however the component wise KML file submitted is not correct. A correct component wise KML file of the mining lease area commensurate with the mining plan and the proposed diversion shall be submitted.

- v. As per the provisions contained in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules,2023, the Compensatory Afforestation cannot be allowed on degraded forest land in the instant case. The state shall therefore initiate steps for the identification of alternative land for CA as per the provisions of extant Rules.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to provide information, as indicated in point no. (iii) to (v) above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Signed by

Yours faithfully

Dheeraj Mittal

Date: 26-06-2024 15:28:39

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi **with a request to furnish information as indicated in point no. (i) above, as per recommendation of Advisory Committee;**
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.