



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार/Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, कोलकाता/ Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata
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No.IRO/KOL/WB/Min/41301/2019/326

Date: 26th July 2022

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Department of Forests,
Government of West Bengal,
Aranya Bhawan, Block-LA, 10-A, Sector – III,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700106.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 38.38 ha forest land in favour of Eastern Coal Field Limited (ECL) for Tilaboni UG Coal Mine Project under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of West Bengal letter No.889-For/O/L/10T-14/2022 dated 17.06.2022 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As per the proposal, the forest land involved in the Underground Coal Mine Project is 38.38 ha. However, as per records, under the Tilaboni Underground Mine Project of ECL, the total forest land involved is 41.53 ha (39.98 ha in Mine-I and 1.55 ha in Mine-II) out of the total lease area 869 ha. In this regard, it is to inform that para 7.2 of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 elaborates “in case of new mining leases/ projects having forest land in part or in full, approval under FCA for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease/ project is to be obtained before execution/ renewal of mining lease/ project”. Therefore, User Agency has to apply for diversion of entire forest area under mining lease.


Further, it is to inform that para 7.8.(i).(a) of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 elaborates in respect of underground mining in stratified deposits in forest areas that “the maximum tensile strain of 20 mm per meter and thereby the surface cracks of width of about 200-300 mm is to be permitted in forest areas”. In this proposal, the value for the maximum tensile strain in forest area after 5th year of mining is predicted as 27.19 mm/m, which implies that underground mining is not admissible in the forest land proposed for diversion. In view of the above, the State Forest Department is requested to clarify in this regard for further consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr. S. Hare Krishna Murti)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Aranya Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, 700098.
2. The APPCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal, Aranya Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, 700098.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.
4. The GM (Env), ECL, Borachak House, Sitarampur, Burdwan-713359.
5. Guard file


26/7/2022

Assistant Inspector General of Forest