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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: 28th July, 2023**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Subject: Diversion of 36.734 ha of Reserved Forest land of Forest Survey No. RF-833,834, Forest Range-Budhar, Division-Shahdol for Bangwar Underground Coal Mining in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in Shahdol District in Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/29264/2017) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/824/2021/10-11/2556 dated 23.06.2023 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:-

- I. After examination of the compliance of conditions stipulated in the final/ Stage-II approval issued by the Ministry vide its letter no dated 8-196/1984\_Fry (Cons) dated 15.12.1986, the following documents/ information are required to be submitted:
  - a. In compliance of condition no. 3 the copy of notification of 3.295 ha Non-forest land(Compensatory Afforestation area) as RF/PF, against surface utilization of 3.295 ha out of 513.296 ha approved forest land has not been submitted, which is required to be done.
  - b. In compliance to condition no. 3 the status of Compensatory afforestation (CA) which was proposed to be raised over the Non-forest land against surface utilization of 3.295 ha out of 513.296 ha approved forest land shall be submitted.
  - c. In compliance of condition no. 4 the status of reclaimed restored mine area is required to be submitted.
- II. The KML file of 3.296 ha diverted forest land for surface rights as well as the CA carried out over the Non-forest land against surface utilization of 3.296 ha shall also be submitted.
- III. As per the records, total 513.296 ha forest land was diverted earlier for under-ground coal mining which includes 3.296 ha forest land for surface rights but the State Govt. has reported that the mining work is going on 315.347 ha forest land. Hence, the status of balance 197.949 ha forest land shall be submitted.
- IV. The State Govt. has submitted the land schedule of 488.108 ha area wherein the 38.302 ha forest has been shown as diverted. However, the present status of this 38.302 ha

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diverted forest land has not been submitted. The status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded under FCA, 1980 is also required to be submitted.

- V. It is learnt that the total area (Forest + Non-forest) reported in the Mining plan is 514.481 ha whereas the State Govt. reported mining lease area as 488.108 ha. Further, as per records 513.296 ha forest land has already been diverted in favour of present user agency and the extant proposal has been submitted for diversion of 36.724 ha forest land. Therefore, details of total mining lease area vis-à-vis total forest land within lease along with the KML files shall be submitted.
- VI. As per satellite imagery, the presence of coal processing plant and some built-up area within the Mine lease boundary are clearly visible and part of the processing plant and built-up area are falling on the forest land. The reason for including the same in the mine lease boundary if the same does not belong to the present user agency shall be submitted.
- VII. As per DSS analysis, it has been observed that some part of the Non-forest land (20.432 ha) is falling in the forest compartment No. 833 & 834, Burhar Range, South Shahdol Division. Therefore, KML file of 20.432 ha Non-forest land in the present proposal needs to be looked upon based on the records/ ground trothing and factual position shall be clarified.
- VIII. The Mining plan was approved in the year 1995. Hence, the relevance of the same in view of the technological advancement in the subsequent years is required to be examined. The State Govt. shall examine the matter and submit a revised Mining plan along with Progressive mine reclamation/ closure plan.
- IX. The copy of the detailed land use plan in 1:4000 scale as submitted is not legible. The legible copy of the same shall be uploaded on PARIVESH.
- X. The extant project though proposes mining by Underground methods, which has significant impacts on surface. Maximum subsidence up to 5.68 m has been reported in the report which may have adverse impact on the above ground vegetation and hydrological regimes of the area. However, no detail/studies to predict the impact of subsidence on vegetation and hydrological regimes are available in the proposal and same needs submission.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DG (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;

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4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.