

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: 5th July, 2022**

To

The Principal Secretary (Forest),  
Government of Jharkhand,  
Ranchi

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 431.59 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Amrapali Opencast Coal Mining Project in Chatra South Forest Division, District Chatra (Jharkhand) – reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-4/2022-1689/V.P. dated 16.06.2022 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the examination of the proposal revealed following shortcoming:

- i. Analysis of the forest area proposed for diversion using DSS tools (report enclosed) revealed the following:
  - a. Agriculture area, settlement, construction of new road and non-forestry activity is visible in the proposed area for diversion. The State Government may therefore submit its comments on the same along with detail of violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, if any, committed by the user agency.
  - b. Another proposal of 13.70 ha of forest land for the construction of road (FP/JH/ROAD/34877/2018), submitted by the State Govt. for the regularization of violation, passes through the area proposed in the instant proposal. It needs to be clarified by the State whether area of 13.70 ha used for road is also included in the extant proposal or otherwise. Factual position needs to be informed by the State.
- ii. Analysis of the area proposed for CA revealed the following:
  - a. DSS analysis of CA land revealed that out of total 865 ha of DFL identified for CA, 11 ha falls under VDF category and 116 ha under MDF category which may not be suitable for afforestation. State Government needs to reconfirm suitability of the land proposed for raising CA.
  - b. KML files pertaining to sites of Kanti, Mahesha, Jojbari, Guli, Semratand, Jaspur and Mahuari sites indicate gross area instead of net plantable area.
  - c. Vide its letter dated 17.10.2019, this Ministry had conveyed its 'in-principle approval to accept the mined out and reclaimed non-forest lands available with the CIL subsidiaries. The Ministry of Coal, vide their letter dated 20.01.2022, informed the availability of 300.75 ha of non-forest, biologically reclaimed land with the M/s CCL. The State Government may therefore assess the

- suitability of such non-forest land to include the same in the CA proposal.
- d. Cultivation, settlement, road, water bodies are observed in certain sites; suitability of such sites for CA needs to be reconfirmed by the State. The State Government may therefore confirm the suitability of such area for raising afforestation and their contiguity with the existing RF/PF.
  - iii. As the area has schedule-I species, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Jharkhand on the likely impact of the project on the movement of wildlife in general and elephant in particular needs to be furnished by the State.
  - iv. Analysis of purposed breakup of the area revealed the following:
    - a. *An area of 85.09 ha of forest land proposed for infrastructure. Detail of infrastructure activities proposed in the forest land may be informed by the State along with the possibility to shift these activities to non-forest areas of the project.*
    - b. *Consolidated KML files containing various project components viz. quarry OBs, road, etc , needs to be submitted.*
  - v. Project specific R& R plan has not been submitted and the copy of R&R Plan uploaded online is not in compatible format; project specific R&R Plan may be uploaded online and submitted to Ministry.
  - vi. Detail of coal evacuation plan may be informed by the State.
  - vii. It may be ascertained from the compliance of FRA, 2006 that proposal has been submitted for an area of 431.59 ha while the compliance of FRA, 2006 has been submitted in respect of 651.16 ha. Discrepancy in the forest area needs to be rectified by the State.
  - viii. Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has not been submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted by the State along with Progressive Mini Closure Pan. State Government may submit its comments on the consistency of the land uses proposed in the Mining plan and in the extant proposal submitted under the FC Act, 1980.
  - ix. No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been reported by the DCF in Part-II and various other authorities in the State. DSS analysis revealed construction of a road in the project area. Further examination of the matter revealed that the said road has been constructed without prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and a proposal for ex post facto approval has also been submitted by the State. Despite the continuing violation of FC Act, 1980 in the project area, incorrect information indicating no violation of the FC Act, 1980 has been reported in the extant proposal. A justification in this regard may be submitted by the State.
  - x. Approval dated 12.10.2010 was granted over an area of 531.64 ha of forest land by the Ministry in the past for the same project. The following details in respect of said approval may be provided by the State:
    - a. Updated status on compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval dated 12.10.2010.
    - b. Details of safety zone maintained in lieu of diversion of 531.64 ha and activities viz plantation, ANR and afforestation over 1.5 times the area of safety zone may be confirmed by the State.
    - c. Detail of NPV realized from the user agency in lieu of diversion of forest land accorded in the past may be informed by the State.

The State Government is requested to furnish information as above for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator Forests, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi
2. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi.
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC
6. Guard file