

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 16th August, 2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 14.00 ha Reserved Forest land in Compartment No. 454 of Junnadev Vishala Village of Jamai Range for Bharat Open Cast Coal Mine Phase-II in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited in Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh State (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017/2638 dated 28.07.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard, the following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Government:

- i. As per DSS Analysis of the KML file uploaded on PARIVESH portal, it has been observed that the boundaries of Mine Lease area, 68.704 ha and 19.50 ha already diverted forest areas have been changed again. The State Govt. is therefore requested to scrutinize the KML files based on ground truthing and upload the complete KML file of the entire mining lease including the detail of forest and non-forest lands involved.
- ii. Initially 68.704 ha forest area was diverted for underground mining and thereafter out of said 68.704 ha, an area of 19.5 ha was diverted for open cast mining. Now the present proposal for 14 ha open cast mining has been submitted. This implies that the State Govt/User agency is submitting the proposals in piecemeal. The justification for the same may be submitted. The State Govt. shall also indicate the prospective plan for diversion of forest land/land use change of the remaining area in the Mining lease.
- iii. The plantation carried out over 14 ha area now proposed for diversion was a part of the mitigation measures for the diversion of 19.5 ha forest land. The state Govt may therefore submit its plan to compensate for the said mitigation measures.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information/clarification 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 and Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.