

DFA-I

F. No. 8-61/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 22 August, 2019

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 323.49 ha of forest land for Purandih OCP mine in favour of M/s Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Chatra District, Jharkhand.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter no. Van Bhumi-27/2016-3612/V.P. dated 27.08.2018 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to inform that said proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 31st July, 2019. The detailed minutes of the FAC meeting held on 31st July, 2019 may kindly be accessed on the website of this Ministry (www.parivesh.nic.in).

The FAC, after thorough deliberations on the proposal and also taking note of the various facts of the proposal inter-alia recommended obtaining following information from the State Government:

- (i) State Government shall identify land bank of degraded forest land. KML files/shape files for exact 650 ha of degraded forest land as CA requirement for project proposal shall be submitted.
- (ii) The State Government shall also inform the status of 81.20 ha of land ($832.94 - 751.74 = 81.20$ ha) with in total project area of 832.94 ha
- (iii) State Government shall submit necessary certificate to confirm whether the site selected for non-forest use and also for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view or not.
- (iv) Certificate that the Compensatory area is free from encroachments and encumbrances shall be given by the state Government.
- (v) State Government shall also analyse the proposal in light of observation of Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of Lafarge Umiam V/s Union of India in 2011.
- (vi) State Government shall submit details of the officials responsible for violation of provisions of FCA 1980 and appropriate action initiated against such persons/authorities as per provisions under relevant Acts.
- (vii) State Government shall submit detail of safety zone area.
- (viii) State Government shall provide details about the gaps/shortfall observed in the process of reclamation of the mined area by CCL in other mines within the state.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the Ministry of Mines, Government of India to submit their comments, as per the observation of FAC, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell (Forest Conservation Division).
6. Guard File.


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)