

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

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

Dated: 26th August, 2021

To

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

Sub: Diversion of 622.783 ha. forest land of Survey No. RF-276, 281 & PF -277, 278, 279, Village- Muhair and Padri, Range Baidhan in Singrouli Forest Division for BlockB Expansion Opencast Coal Mining in favour of M/s Northern Coalfiled Limited in Singruli District of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/44294/2020) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/2021/10-11/2459 dated 23.07.2021 on the above subject and inform that:

- i. As per the approved mining plan for the project, the project area is mentioned as 2257.17 ha. After superimposing this project boundary on the DSS portal, the total forest area inside the project boundary comes out to be only 1078.39 ha. Therefore, the actual forest area for diversion should be [1078.39 Ha (total forest area inside project) - 447 ha (forest area diverted earlier) **631.39 ha**. The state government is requested to submit the reason for difference in forest area.
- ii. The DFO/CF concerned have mentioned that the proposed area is part of Elephant corridor as per the Working plan. The State Govt. shall therefore submit the copy of Working plan along with the approval details. The comments of the Chief Wildlife warden in this regard along with the mitigation measures proposed for the landscape shall also be submitted.
- iii. As per DSS analysis it has been observed that:
 - a. Forest area 1.45 Ha in Forest Compt. No. PF-277 proposed for diversion appears to be already broken and under non-forestry use. The state govt. may therefore intimate the complete details of violation of FCA,1980 in the instant case.
 - b. From the satellite imagery data it came to notice that, the respective

user agency's of Gorbi Block-B mine (447 Ha forest land diverted) and Sasan mine (1064.02 ha forest land diverted) have not created any safety zones on the periphery of their project boundaries. The state govt. has to explain this lacuna.

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

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The P.C.C.F & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
3. The Nodal Officer, FCA, Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading on PARIVESH portal.