

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: September, 2023

To
The Additional Secretary to Govt.,
EFS&T (Forest) Department,
Telangana State Secretariate,
Hyderabad.

Sub: 01st Renewal for diversion of 124 ha. (Surveyed 124.065 ha.) of forest land for coal mining in favour of M/s SCCL for GKOC Phase-II, Kothagudem in Ramavaram RF of Kothagudem Division, Bhadradi, Kothagudem District, Telangana. -regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No.1069/For.I(1)/2019 dated 03.08.2023 forwarding the additional information in response to this Ministry's letter dated 01.05.2023 and to say that after examination of the additional information the following are observed :-

- i. The State Government and the User Agency shall re-look into the conditions imposed in all the cases wherein Forest Clearance has been sought by the UA and submit an report to this Ministry as per the decision in the meeting held on 17.04.2023.
- ii. The UA and State Govt. will re-look into the safety zone issues and submit the proposal for maintaining the safety zone as per this Ministry's guidelines. The State Govt. shall submit proposal and obtain approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest area located in the safety zone as per this Ministry guideline dt 10.11.2023 as per the decision in the meeting held on 17.04.2023.
- iii. The DFL area i.e. 9.31 Ha. in which plantation was done wrt the one and half times for safety zone area pertaining to this proposal is falling inside 649.3014 ha forest area proposed for Venkateshkhanani OCP (from underground rights to surface rights). This proposal 649.3014 ha is under consideration in the Ministry for conversion of UG rights to Surface rights. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to clarify the same.
- iv. The State Govt. shall forward the compliance with regard to CA land and status of CA plantation wrt an area 61.66 ha identified against non-forest CA lands handed over by M/s SCCL and later on it was handed over by I&CADD officials for SRLIP project. The State Govt. shall also submit the copy of notification as RF/PF wrt the CA land.
- v. The State Govt. informed that the plantation wrt the instant proposal was done in the DFL since the NFL identified was having high density. Therefore, the details of the DFL along with the KML file requires submission.
- vi. The State Govt. shall demarcate and fence the identified new CA land. Further,

the same land shall be mutated in favor of Forest Department and declared as RF/PF as per the condition no 4 imposed by this Ministry vide its approval letter dt 08.02.1999 which states that:-

(4) The non-forest land transferred to forest dept. for CA shall be declared protected forest/reserved forest under Indian Forest Act 1927.

- vii. According to the reply submitted by the State Govt. the CA area identified initially was free from encroachment at the time of handing over and encroachments happened in subsequent years. Further, it was stated that out of CA land handed over, only area of 42.96 Ha is available (free from encroachment) and having good forest growth 1 with more than 0.6 density as such no use of any further planting. The remaining area of 81.04 Ha is under encroachment and it may not be possible to evict the encroachment. In this regard State Govt. should clarify that who is responsible for these encroachment and why no action by the responsible officers was taken against the encroachers as the land was already mutated in favor of the Forest Dept. Further the details of the officials responsible for not taking action against the said encroachment along with action taken may be forwarded to the Ministry.

In view of the above, it is to inform that the instant proposal for renewal shall only be considered in the Ministry, if the State Govt. complies with the stipulated conditions as per the approval letter dt 08.02.1999 and clarify with respect to the observation made by this Ministry as above.

Yours faithfully

Sd-

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
3. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Chennai, MoEF&CC.
4. The IGF(C), Sub-office, Hyderabad, MoEF&CC.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell, of Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.