

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 1st, September, 2023

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of Land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in district Jharsuguda in Odisha, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/39355/2019).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0142-2021-20500/ FE&CC dated 24.11.2021, letter no. 9084/9F (MG)-372/2021 dated 29.04.2022 and letter No. 13830/9F (MG) 372/2021 dated 11.07.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 21.08.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The AC decided to defer the proposal and sought the following essential information/ documents for further action in the matter:

- i. The proposal wise KML file of the 541.622 ha forest area which has been already diverted shall be submitted by the State government in different colours.
- ii. The RO Bhubaneswar has submitted the monitoring report for the proposals which were approved for change in land use of 25.238 ha and re-diversion of 84.399 ha. The details of these earlier re-diversion proposals and change in land use with KML file in different colours shall be submitted.
- iii. The UA has submitted an approved integrated mining plan which was approved in 2018. The area involved in 6 different diversion proposals has now been integrated for which change of land use of 171.77 ha is proposed. Because mining operations are going in the earlier diverted area in which land use change is being sought, therefore, there is a possibility that the mines will have been operating as per the latest land use plan which has not been approved under FCA, 1980 till date. The report on this issue shall be submitted by the State.
- iv. State Government shall submit the status of reclamation of the mined out

I/52262/2023

area and explore the possibility of using them for ACA. A detailed report shall be submitted.

- v. The State shall submit a detailed report on implementation of SSWLMP along with the justification for delay in implementation.
- vi. The justification for not filing the Prosecution report in the violation cases shall also be submitted.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to submit the above information for further action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office,
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.