

FOR: RD, CMPSD

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F. No. E-176/1997-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 08th August 2007

To: The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Orissa,
Bhubaneswar.



Sub: Diversion of 227.89 ha of forest land (as against initially proposed 280.86 ha) for
Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundergarh district in Orissa.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Government's letter no. 10.F. (Cons) / 54 / 1997 / 8908 / F&E dated 09.05.1997 and no. 10.F. (Cons) / 54 / 1997 / 23070 / F&E dated 10.11.1998 on the subject cited above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, in-principle approval for the said Mining Lease was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 25.07.2001 and 22.01.2002 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter no. 10.F. (Cons) / 59 / 2004 / 6910 / F&E dated 05.05.2007, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion 227.89 ha of forest land (as against initially proposed 280.86 ha) for Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundergarh district in Orissa subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. (i) Compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
(ii) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 metres strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) shall be done at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost.
(iii) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake

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afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease area, as well as along the roads outside the lease area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.

3. Following activities shall be undertaken by the State Forest Department at the project cost:
 - (i) Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented.
 - (ii) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion.
 - (iii) Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour.
4. The period of diversion under this approval shall be twenty (20) years subject to possession of valid lease by User Agency under the MMDR Act, 1957.
5. (i) The User Agency shall take up planting work on the static dumps during the advance mining operations.
(ii) All the dumps shall be fully reclaimed by afforestation immediately after closure of the mine in the shortest possible period under supervision of the State Forest Department.
6. Any tree felling shall be done only when it is absolutely necessary and unavoidable; and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
7. The User Agency shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the area is caused.
8. Reclamation Plan shall be strictly implemented which shall be monitored regularly by the State Forest Department. The User Agency shall submit progress report of reclamation works to the State Forest Department and the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
9. It shall be ensured that no labour camps are set up inside the forest area.
10. The mining lease area shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, with each pillar inscribed with the serial number, forward and backward bearings and distance between two adjacent pillars.
11. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
12. The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever and whatever extent of forest land is not required by the User Agency, it shall be surrendered to the state Forest Department after proper rehabilitation under intimation to this Ministry.
13. Any other condition that the CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, may impose

from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall also be applicable.

Yours faithfully,

(C.D. Singh)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to :-

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ 4. User Agency.
5. Guard file.
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Section.

(C.D. Singh)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Attn. C.C.F (Nodal), BBSR
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