

S-2/62(11)

No. B-99/87-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Dept. of Environment, Forests and Wildlife

Daryavaran Bhawan,
300 Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi, 110003.

Dated the 2nd March, 1989.

To

The Secretary,
Forests, Fisheries, and A.H.
Department,
Govt. of Orissa,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Release of 186,311 ha. of forest land in Dhenkanal district for Colliery Operation by South Eastern Coalfields, Ltd. in Lingraj Open Cast Project.

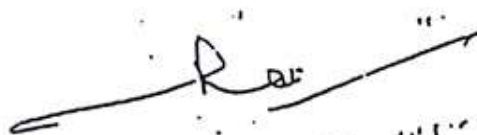
Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 10F(Cons) -6/07/6879/FFAH, dated 15.4.87, on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendation of the above mentioned Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for release of 186,311 ha. of forest land in Dhenkanal district for Colliery Operation by South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. in Lingraj Open Cast Project, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The rehabilitation of the families/persons by the project should be undertaken on non-forest land and the rehabilitation plan should be approved by the Environment Wing of this Ministry.
2. The forest area proposed to be diverted will be for South Block only. This may be confirmed before actually diverting the forest for this purpose.
3. No forest area shall be diverted for magazine.
4. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.

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5. Mined over area should be reclaimed/restored immediately after mining is over.
6. In order that the construction labour and staff while working on the project in the forest area does not cause damage to the forest area for meeting their fuelwood needs, the user agency will establish fuelwood depots, and will provide the fuelwood to them free of cost or its cost deducted from their salary and wages.
7. No explosives should be allowed to be stored in the forest area.
8. This approval is subject to the formal clearance of the project from the Environmental angle by this Ministry. The conditions/safeguards proposed by the Environment Wing of this Ministry, while clearing the project, should be followed rigidly.
9. Compensatory plantation should be raised over equivalent non-forest land at the cost of the project. The non-forest land identified for this purpose should be handed over to the Forest Department and notified as Protected Forests before the release of forest lands being diverted by their orders. However, if there is difficulty in locating the non-forest area for compensatory afforestation immediately, compensatory afforestation should be raised over twice the degraded forest area with the undertaking from the Coal India Ltd., that they will find equivalent non-forest area within two years' time and raise compensatory afforestation thereon in addition to the compensatory afforestation raised on degraded forests.

Yours faithfully,

(ANSAR AHMED)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests.

Copy to:-

1. Ministry of Energy (Deptt. of Coal - Shri R.K. Sachdev, Director), Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. No work, however should be taken up unless the forest area is actually handed over by the State Forest Deptt.
2. Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Orissa, Cuttack.
3. Conservator of Forests - Regional Office Bhubaneswar.

(ANSAR AHMED)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests.

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DIVISIONAL OFFICER
MAY 1987