

F.No.8-43/2004-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex

Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

Dated the 11th May, 2004

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Orissa,  
Bhubaneswar

12th  
Stage I: Approval Order

Sub: Diversion of 62.67 ha. of forest land for Ananta Extension Open Cast Project in favour of  
M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., in Angul district of Orissa.

Sir, I am directed to refer to your letter No.10F (Cons)-78/2003/5307/F&E dated 03/04/2004 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section-2 of 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 examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of recommendation of above mentioned Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby, agrees in-principle for diversion of 62.67 ha. of forest land for Ananta Extension Open Cast Project in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. for a period of 10 years in Angul district of Orissa, subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

1. The User Agency shall deposit the cost of raising and maintaining compensatory afforestation over degraded forest area double in extent with the State Forest Department.
2. The User Agency shall deposit the cost of raising and maintaining penal compensatory afforestation over degraded forest area double in extent of the area used in violation with the State Forest Department.
3. The User Agency shall demarcate the area by erecting 4 feet high RCC pillars with forward and back bearing and distance between pillar to pillar at the project cost.
4. The user agency shall raise and maintain a Safety Zone and will also raise and maintain the plantation over an area one and half times to the extent of the safety zone, of the degraded forest land elsewhere at the project cost.
5. User Agency shall deposit the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land with the State Forest Department as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 30-10-2002 & 1-8-2003 in I.A. No.566 in

To the  
compliance  
of the  
order

WP (C) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide letter No.5-I/98-FC(Pt-II) dated 18-9-2003 and 22-9-2003 in this regard.

6. The State Government shall deposit the funds of compensatory afforestation, penal Compensatory afforestation NPV etc. with the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA).
7. The user agency shall protect the top soil at the project cost.
8. Reclamation plan shall be executed by the user agency from the very first year of mining and an annual report shall be sent to the Nodal Officer and the Regional CCF, Bhubaneswar.
9. Environment clearance shall be obtained prior to Stage-II clearance.
10. Mining Plan shall be submitted by the User Agency prior to Stage-II clearance.
11. State Government shall take action against the guilty officials responsible for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
12. Other standard conditions applicable to mining projects.

After receipt of compliance report on the fulfillment of the conditions no. 1,2,3,4,

9 & 10 as mentioned above from the State Government, formal approval will be issued in this regard under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government till the formal orders are issued by the Central Government.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Anurag Bajpai)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
2. CCE (Central), Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar.
3. Nodal Officer, Govt. of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
4. Regional Office HQ, New Delhi.
5. M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
6. PS to IGF(FC).
7. Monitoring Cell, FC Division.
8. Guard File.

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(Anurag Bajpai)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests