

143

F. No. 8-70/2004-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110003

Dated : 9th November 2005

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

Sub: Diversion of 58.096 ha of forest land for Jagannath Extension Open Cast Project in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in District Angul, Orissa.

Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter No. 10F(Cols)/84/2003/10694/F&E dated 19.07.2004 and subsequent letter No. 10F(Cons)84/2003/17856/F&E dated 10.10.2005 whereunder the above proposal was forwarded to this office seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 58.096 ha of forest land for Jagannath Extension Open Cast Project in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in District Angul, Orissa, subject to the fulfilment of following conditions :-

- (i) Legal status of the forest shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over degraded forest land double in extent to the area being diverted, and shall be maintained at the project cost.
- (iii) The mining lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be co-terminus with the current lease granted under MMRD Act, 1957.
- (iv) The State Government should transfer amount of NPV and other funds to Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPFA), which has already been constituted and notified by the Central Government on 23.04.2004. Till such time, the CAMPFA intimates the Head of Accounts for deposition of funds, the funds will be maintained in the form of fixed deposits in the name of Nodal Officer or concerned Divisional Forest Officer of the State Government. The funds realized towards the NPV shall not be utilized by the State Government.
- (v) RCC pillars of 4 feet height shall be erected to demarcate the area by the user agency at the project cost and will be marked with forward and back bearings.

- (vi) The user agency shall raise, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area and will also raise and maintain the plantation over an area one and half times in extent of the safety zone at the project cost.
- (vii) The concurrent reclamation plan shall be executed by the user agency from the very 1<sup>st</sup> year and an annual report shall be sent to the Nodal Officer and the RCCE, Bhubaneswar. If it is found from the annual report that the concurrent reclamation plan is not being adhered to by the user agency, the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, the annual programme is completed for that year.
- (viii) The Village Surakshan Samiti (VSS) shall be duly compensated at the project cost for loss of their share of forest produce due to impending felling of trees.
- (ix) The top soil shall be protected at the project cost.
- (x) Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and that too under strict supervision of State Forest Department, and at the cost of the project.
- (xi) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (xii) All necessary measures should be taken by the user agency to protect the environment.
- (xiii) Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers at the project cost after purchase from the State Forest Department/Forest Development Corporation.
- (xiv) The user agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available wildlife.
- (xv) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (xvi) The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever the forest land is not required, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Asthana)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Guard file.
6. Monitoring Cell.

(Pankaj Asthana)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests