

137/2004-FC
F.No. /2004-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003
Dated: 30th June, 2009.

To

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

21.05
29.7.09
Final Approval Order

29.7.09
MSE
Sub: Diversion of 289.856 ha of forest land for coal mining in Nataraj
Underground Mines in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., in Angul
district of Orissa.

Sir,

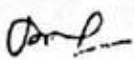
25.12
I am directed to refer to State Government's letter No. 10F(Cons.)88/2004/11306/F&E dated 29.07.2004 on the above-mentioned subject wherein prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of 289.856 ha of forest land for coal mining in Nataraj Underground Mines in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., in Angul district of Orissa, was sought, in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government 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 11th January, 2005 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. 10F(Cons)-4/2009-8994/F&E dated 16.05.2009, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 289.856 ha of forest land for coal mining in Nataraj Underground Mines in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., in Angul district of Orissa, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-

1. Legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease area (if the density is less than 0.4 area shall be afforested) as well as along the roads in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.

3. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
4. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and all other rules / regulations applicable to such project.
5. The user agency will make arrangement for free supply of coal to laborers and staff working on the project site so as to avoid any pressure on the adjacent forest areas.
6. The period of permission for lease under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be 20 years subject to valid mining lease under MMDR Act, 1957.
7. Demarcation of mining lease area will be done on the ground at project cost using four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with serial numbers, forward and back bearings and distance from pillar to pillar at every 20 Meters.
8. The User Agency shall take up Afforestation inside the forest area in 100 m. radius from the permitted lease area in consultation with the forest department if density of growth is less than 7.4.
9. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused.
10. The user agency shall bear the cost of damage if any to the plantations existing and raised by the forest department on the surface.
11. It shall be ensured that no labor camps are set up inside the forest area.
12. Any other condition that the State Govt. or the Chief Conservator of Forests (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,


(B.K. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.
 2. The Nodal Officer, O/o PCCF, Bhubaneswar.
 3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
 4. The User Agency.
 5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
- Guard File.


(B.K. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests