

AGENDA- 8**F. No. 8-34/2013-FC**

The State Government of Assam vide their letter No. FRS.108/2012/320 dated 2nd April, 2013 submitted a fresh proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 98.59 ha of forest land for Tikok Open Cast Project in Saleki PRF under Digboi Division by North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited, Assam.

The facts related to the proposal as contained in the State Government's letter dated 02.04.2013 are given below in the form of factsheet:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 98.59 ha of forest land for Tikok Open Cast Project in Saleki PRF under Digboi Division by North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited, Assam.
2.	Location	
	i) State	Assam
	ii) District	Tinsukia
3.	Particulars of Forests	
	a) Name of Forest Division	Digboi Forest Division
	b) Forest area involved	98.59 ha
	c) Legal Status/Sy. No	Proposed Reserve Forest
	d) Map	Enclosed
4.	Topography of the area	Hilly
5.	(i) Vegetation	<i>Sam (Artocarpus chaplasha), Gomari (Gmelina arborea), Bansum (Phoebae goalparansis), Hilikha (Terminalia chebula), Khokon (Duabanga sonarisoides), Dhuna (Canarium resiniferum)</i>
	(ii) No. of trees which will be affected	i) No. of trees to be felled of girth below 60 cm – 67 nos.

	(iii) Density	ii) No. of trees to be felled of girth above 60 cm. – 407 nos. (p-326/c) 6.7 (Dense Forest)
6.	Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion	Records of erosion in last few decades were not found. But possibility of moderate erosion during OCP may occurred.
7.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest	It is well inside the Saleki P.R.F.
8.	Whether forms part of National park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. (if so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	It is a part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve. Comments from Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam are requested and the reply is awaited.
9.	Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so details thereof.	Presence of any rare and endangered species are not noticed.
10.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	No
11.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of part-I is unavailable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternative examined.	Yes, the requirement of land is minimum and specific work of exploration of coal.
12.	Whether any work in violation of the act has been carried out (yes/no). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	The Forest Conservation Act 1980 did not apply to mining lease of North Eastern Coal Field till the year 2003, as it was under continuing lease before the enactment of the Act. After 2003 North Eastern Coal Field applied for renewal of mining lease under FC Act duly and the same was being processed, however, approval is yes to be given by the competent authority. Now North Eastern Coal Field has applied afresh in 2012 for renewal in respect to areas broken from 2003 to 2012 i.e. 44.27 ha without renewal and area to be broken from 2012 to 2023 i.e. 41.39 ha. Also some area

		<p>broken before 2003i.e. 12.93 ha which is in use area also to be renewed.</p> <p>The North Eastern Coal Field is a Govt. of India undertaking company under the Ministry of Coal and only coal producing unit catering numerous small and large scale industry like power, tea, cement, paper etc. and is working in the interest of the public and growth of the nation. So no action, though violation has been taken has been initiated upon anybody. Presently no work in violation is in progressed.</p>
13.	Details of compensatory of afforestation scheme	
(i)	Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	<p>Area required for compensatory afforestation is 197.18 ha.</p> <p>3 patches area identified for raising compensatory afforestation in 3 Ranges under this Division. The breakup of the patches are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Margherita West Range (Upper Dehing Reserve Forest, West Block) – 50 ha 2. Jagun Range (Kotha Reserve Forest) – 50 ha 3. Lekhapani Range (Tirap Reserve Forest) – 97.18 ha
(ii)	Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining boundaries.	Enclosed
(iii)	Details compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency time, schedule, cost structure etc.	Enclosed.
(iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme	<p>a. Cost of afforestation– Rs. 83,43,122/-</p> <p>b. Over head @ 50%) – Rs. 41,71,561/-</p> <p>Total : – Rs. 1,25,14,683/-</p>
(v)	Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and	Enclosed

	from management point of view (to be signed by concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest)	
14.	Site inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed)	Enclosed
15.	Catchment Area Treatment	Not Applicable
16.	Rehabilitation of Oustees a) No of families involved b) Category of families c) Details of rehabilitation plan	Not applicable
17.	Reclamation of mined areas	-
18.	Cost Benefit Ratio	-
19.	Recommendation i. DFO ii. PCCF iii. State Government	All have recommended the proposal. Recommended (p. 12/c) Recommended (p. 15/c) Recommended (p. 16/c)
20.	Division/District Profile	
	(i) Total Geographical area of District	3,79,100 ha
	(ii) Total forest area of District / Divisional forest area	64,219 ha (RF= 55714.64 + PRF= 8504.15 ha)
	(iii) Total area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.	160.041 ha in 57 nos. cases.
	(iv) Total CA stipulated in the district/division since 1980 on (a) forest land including penal compensatory afforestation (b) non-forest land.	a) Forest land – 437.30 ha in Forest area b) Non-forest land - 19.431 ha in non-forest area.
	(iv) Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) 03.10.2012 on	
	(a) Forest land: (i)	437.30 ha
	(b) Non-forest land (i)	19.431 ha

Other Remarks:

1. N.F. Coalfields had applied for renewal of the mining leases in the year 2003. As the proposal could not be renewed, the User Agency has submitted a fresh proposal for

approval for the period between 2003 to 2012 for post facto approval and from 2012 to 2023 for prior approval.

2. Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required:
 - i. The total area required for mining and OB dumps that falls within the forest area (in ha)

Uses	Area already broken upto 2003	Area broken from 2003 to 2012	Area to be broken from 2012 to 2022	Total
Mining	-	24.24	29.02	53.26
OB dump	-	18.68	10.67	29.35
Total	-	42.92	39.69	82.61

- ii. Area required for roads and mine periphery (in ha)

Uses	Area already broken upto 2003	Area broken from 2003 to 2012	Area to be broken from 2012 to 2022	Total
Approach road	4.50	0.70	0.90	6.10
Haul Road	0.50	0.60	0.80	1.60
Mine Periphery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	5.00	1.30	1.70	7.70

- iii. Area required for infrastructures: (in ha)

Uses	Area already broken upto 2003	Area broken from 2003 to 2012	Area to be broken from 2012 to 2022	Total
Workshop, Power House Garage, etc.	0.47	Nil	Nil	0.47
Explosive Magazine	0.82	0.05	Nil	0.87
Office, store etc.	0.36	Nil	Nil	0.36
Hospital, School etc.	0.03	Nil	Nil	0.03
Colony	6.25	Nil	Nil	6.25
Total	7.93	0.05	Nil	7.98

- iv. Grand total of area required which requires prior approval under FC Act, 1980: (in ha)

Area already broken upto 2003	Area broken from 2003 to 2012	Area to be broken from 2012 to 2022	Total
12.93	44.27	41.39	98.59

3. Compensatory Afforestation:

- (a) The forest land to be diverted for the project is 98.59 ha for which twice the area i.e. 197.18 ha for Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed inside Kotha Reserve Forest (50 ha), Upper Dehing R.F. (50 ha) and Tirap R.F. (97.18 ha) with a total financial out of Rs. 83,43,122/-
 - (b) The DFO, Digboi Division has given certificate regarding suitability of the area for raising Compensatory Afforestation.
 - (c) CF, Eastern Assam circle has technically approved the Compensatory Afforestation scheme.
4. Environment Clearance: Environmental clearance for production of 2.0 lakh tones under Environment (Protection) Act, 19867 was issued by the MoEF vide No. Z-11011/3/88-II(M) dated 15.09.1995 (copy enclosed).
5. Map showing the required forest land, boundary of adjoining forest on 1:50,000 scale map enclosed.
6. Inspection Note (Tikak OCP) dated 12.10.2012 by CF, Eastern Assam Circle, Jorhat is enclosed at p. 14/c.
7. Site Inspection Report (Division level) dated 10.10.2012 by DFO enclosed at ps. 326-328/c.

May be submitted before FAC for consideration.
