

No. J-11015/288/2007-IA-II(M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
IA-II (Coal Mining) Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

To

The General Manager (Environment),  
**M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited,**  
Seepat Road Bilaspur,  
Chhattisgarh. -495 006  
Email: [gmenvtsecl@gmail.com](mailto:gmenvtsecl@gmail.com)

**Subject: Modification/Exemption of EC conditions granted by Ministry vide letter no. J-11015/288/2007-IA.II (M) dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 for operating Coal Block Gare IV/2 and IV/3 by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in the light of the Order dated 27.03.2015 by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of WP No. 3001/15 – reg.**

Sir,

This is with reference to letter no SECL:BSP:GM (WBP/ENVT):2015: 5841 dated 31.03.2015 of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited, seeking Modification/Exemption of EC conditions for the aforesaid project.

2. The proposal was considered in the 33<sup>rd</sup> EAC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. M/s SECL presented their case and submitted the following:

- i MoEF&CC vide letter No J-11015/288/2007-IA.II (M) dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 had accorded EC to M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. for operating Coal Block Gare IV/2 and Gare IV/3 and Washery subject to certain specific conditions which inter-alia include (i) coal produced shall be routed through washery; (ii) fly ash generated at their power plant situated at pit head shall be mixed with OB and other washed coal rejects and dumped at designated place; (iii) mine water shall be used for the mine-cum-washery operation and (iv) Coal will be transported by conveyor belt.
- ii Pursuant to the interim Court Order dated 27.03.2015 of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the Ministry of Coal vide its letter no. 13016/2/2015-CA-III dated 30.03..2015 appointed Coal India Limited as a **Custodian** in respect of Gare Palma IV/2 and Gare IV/3 coal mines (Chhattisgarh). Accordingly M/s SECL has been directed for operating mines in the Block Gare IV/1 (Chhattisgarh) till the final outcome of the WP No. 3001/2015 or till further orders and they are entitled to dispose the same in any manner they deem fit.

- iii In the present scenario, SECL a subsidiary of Coal India Limited is required to act as a custodian akin to the designated custodian vide letter no. 13016/2/2015-CA-III dated 30.03.2015.
- iv While Coal India Limited has directed SECL to take over the possession and operate the GARE IV/2 and Gare IV/3 coal block and SECL submitted that the High Court order is specific to operation of this block utilizing the requisite manpower of the petitioner (JSPL) to ensure continuity in coal mining operation and production of coal.
- v SECL further submitted that facilities such as washery, conveyor belt and the power plant does not fall within the custodianship of SECL and therefore some of the conditions stipulated in the EC in this regard cannot be implemented.
- vi In view of above, SECL has requested for exemption/modification to the EC conditions for smooth functioning of the mine and to avoid any violation of the conditions stipulated therein..

3. The Committee deliberated at length the following issues:

- i. Management of OB in the absence of fly ash and washery rejects.
- ii. Management of mine water in the absence of washery
- iii. Transportation of coal in the absence of conveyor belt.

4. Based on the submissions made by SECL and deliberations, the Committee was of the view that conditions related to coal washery and fly ash dumping in the mine are not applicable in the instant case. Accordingly in order to ensure continuous coal production at the mine as directed by the High Court of Delhi, the Committee agreed to the following interim arrangement till further order from the Court:

- i. The OB is to be managed in the same way as stipulated in the EC albeit without fly ash and washery rejects.
- ii. In the original proposal, the entire mine water generated was not envisaged to be used in the washery and therefore the management plan prescribed for treatment of mine water not utilized in the Washery would be applicable.
- iii. On the issue of the coal transportation by road the Committee noted that there would be a major change in air environment due to road transportation of about 6 MTPA/18000 TPD of coal. As an interim measure, the road transport of coal can be permitted, and the PP has to come back with the Rapid study on the impact of road transport on the air quality including route and traffic survey within one month.



5. In the light of the Order dated 27.03.2015 by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of WP No. 3001/15 and the recommendations of the EAC in its 33<sup>rd</sup> held on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change hereby accords Modification/Exemption of conditions stipulated in the EC letter No J-11015/288/ 2007-IA.II (M) dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 issued to M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd for operating Coal Block Gare IV/2 & Gare IV/3 by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited to the extent as mentioned in para 4 above.

6. The above decision is only an interim arrangement till further orders of the Court.



(Dr. R. Warriar)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Secretariat, Raipur.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (EZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, E-2/240 Arera Colony, Bhopal 462016.
4. Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Environment Conservation Board, 1-Tilak Nagar, Shiv Mandir Chowk, Main Road, Avanti Vihar, RAIPUR-Chhattisgarh- 492001.
5. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi -110032.
6. Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
7. Advisor, Coal India Limited, SCOPE Minar, Core-I, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi.
8. District Collector, Raigarh, Government of Chhattisgarh.
9. Monitoring File    10.    Guard File    11.    Record File.    12. Notice Board



(Dr. R. Warriar)  
Director