

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division
(Coal Mining Sector)**

Date of zero draft MoM sent to Chairman: 07/11/2025

Approval by Chairman: 10/11/2025

Uploading on PARIVESH: 10/11/2025

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY FOURTH (34TH) MEETING OF EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) HELD ON 29-30TH OCTOBER 2025 FOR ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL OF COAL MINING SECTOR PROJECTS THROUGH VIRTUAL MODE.

29TH OCTOBER, 2025 [WEDNESDAY]

At the outset, Shri. Inder Pal Singh Matharu (I.F.S Retd.) welcomed the Expert members & other participants and requested to start the proceeding as per the agenda listed for this meeting. The list of members who participated in the meeting is at **Annexure – I**.

Confirmation of the minutes of the 33rd meeting of the EAC (Coal): The minutes of the 33rd meeting of the EAC (Coal) held on 14th 2025 through virtual mode have been confirmed by the EAC, along with the following corrections:

A. Agenda Item No. 33.3:

Minutes uploaded on PARIVESH	To be read as
<u>Additional Specific Condition no. 2:</u> Project proponent shall carry out thick plantation with native species on both the sides of the coal transportation road in consultation with the Highway authorities within 2 years. Apart from this, PP shall develop greenbelt around the Kohroul Village, with native and fruit bearing species saplings of height not less than 4 meters , within 1 year from the date of grant of EC amendment.	<u>Additional Specific Condition no. 2:</u> Project proponent shall carry out thick plantation with native species on both the sides of the coal transportation road in consultation with the Highway authorities within 2 years. Apart from this, PP shall develop greenbelt around the Kohroul Village, with native and fruit bearing species saplings of height not less than 4 feet , within 1 year from the date of grant of EC amendment.
	<u>Additional specific condition no. 4 to be stipulated as follows:</u> Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) and Noise quality data along the entire coal transportation route shall be monitored and the data shall be submitted along with the six monthly compliance to the concerned Regional Office and also kept on the web portal of the company.

Agenda No. 34.1

- 34.1** Baitarni West Opencast Coal Mine (area: 1196 having production capacity 15 MTPA) by **M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited** located at villages: Chhendipada Jangal, Chhendipada RF, Handigora, Machhakuta, Machhakuta Jangal, Porapara Jangal, Tentuloikorasahi; Tehsil: Chhendipada; **District: Angul; State: Odisha – Environmental Clearance – reg.**

[Online Proposal No. IA/OR/CMIN/545513/2025; Consultant: M/s GRC India Pvt Ltd: NABET/EIA/24-27/RA 0354, valid up to 16.08.2027]

34.1.1: M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) has made an online application vide proposal no IA/OR/CMIN/545513/2025 dated 25.09.2025 along with copy of EIA/EMP report, Common Application Form and Form 1 seeking for Environmental Clearance (EC) under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 for the project mentioned above. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) – Mining of Minerals under Category “A” of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 and appraised at Central Level and do not attract the general condition of the EIA Notification, 2006.

The project of M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) located in Chhendipada Jangal, Chhendipada RF, Handigora, Machhakuta, Machhakuta Jangal, Porapara, Porapara Jangal, Tentuloi-Korasahi Village, Chhendipada Tehsil, Angul District, Odisha State is for setting up/mining of a Baitarni West Coal Mine for production of 15 MTPA.

The instant proposal was earlier appraised in the 23rd EAC meeting held on 03.04.2025, wherein the same was returned in its present form due to various short-comings in the form and the documents/information submitted by the proponent.

Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:

34.1.2: Environmental Site Settings: The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo sheet No. F45M16 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from latitude 21°01’44.74” N and 21°05’26.87” N and longitudes 84°50’12.08” E and 84°51’40.70” E. The DGPS coordinates of the ML area are given in Figure 2.3 of EIA Report.

Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area/ Severely Polluted Area, as per CEPI Assessment 2018 of CPCB.

Forest Area: The project involves total 64.3723 Ha of forestland. Stage-I Forest Clearance for diversion for non-forestry activity has been applied online vide single window no-SW/171065/2024. PP submitted that there is no broken forestland and there is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Protected Area: The project is not located within 10 KM of any ESZ/ ESA/ national park/ wildlife sanctuary/ biosphere reserve/ tiger reserve/ elephant reserve/elephant corridor etc. However, there is a tiger corridor at a distance of 4 km from the boundary of the ML area.

There are 29 numbers Schedule I Species namely Indian Elephant, Bengal Monitor, Indian Chameleon, Common Rat Snake, Common Indian Krait, Indian Cobra and Russell’s viper, etc listed in the study area. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, vide letter no. 10454/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0004-2025, dated 25.09.2025. A budgetary provision of Rs. 37.26 Crores (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.

Other sensitive receptors:

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km (within 5 km from the ML area)		
	Village	Direction	Distance (km)
i. Habitation	Handigora Village		Within ML Area
	Khuntanali Village		Within ML Area
	Machhakuta Village		Within ML Area
	Salakhaman Village		Within ML Area
	Porapara Village		Within ML Area
	Jamunali Village	SW	0.2

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km (within 5 km from the ML area)		
	Ghuntulipasi Village	W	0.3
	Sapoisahi Village	N	0.4
	Chhendipada Village	E	0.5
	Ichhapur Village	S	0.6
	Palasbania Village	SE	0.8
	Tentuloi Village	E	0.85
	Deuria Jhuran Village	W	1
	Mamuraia Village	NE	1.4
	Gobindpur Village	S	1.7
	Kukurapeta Village	ESE	2
	Jayapange Village	W	2
	Basantpur Village	W	2
	Sapoinali Village	W	2.2
	Dubanali Village	SSE	2.85
	Bagdia Village	NW	2.9
	Nanguli Village	ENE	3.6
	Bahalsahi Village	NE	3.8
	Khamar Village	WNW	4.2
	Balipata Village	S	4.5
	Kasidiha Village	E	4.7
	Baramancha Village	N	4.8
	Hatianali Village	S	4.8
ii. School	Schools/College	Direction	Distance
	Government primary school, Khuntanali	Within ML Area	
	Bapuji College	Within ML Area	
	School at Handigora	Within ML Area	
	Podapada High School	N	Adjacent site
	Lord Jagannath Academy	E	0.15
	Ghuntulipasi N.U.P.S	W	0.3
	Sapoisahi Primary School	N	0.4
	Jamunali school - Primary school	SW	0.5
	Narendra Sahu - High school	S	0.66
	Tentuloi kudasahi High School	E	1
	Mamuraia UP School	ENE	1.2
	Kukurpeta High School	E	1.4
	Haribereni up school	E	1.65
	Sapoinali High School	W	2.1
	Purunagarh UP School	NNW	2.4
	Mundamala sahi primary school	ENE	2.4
	Radhamadhab High School	E	2.4
	Basantpur UP School	E	2.45
	Bahalsahi High School	ENE	2.8
	Anganwadi Centre, (Khalidirap)	N	3
	Bagdia High School	WNW	3.2
Dubanali Primary School	S	3.3	
Charakani U.P School	E	3.7	
Rathasahi Project U.P. School	S	4.33	

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km (within 5 km from the ML area)		
	River/Nallah	Distance	Direction
iii. River/Waterbody	Kumbhira Nala	Within ML Area	
	Supai Nala	Within ML Area	
	Gauduni Nala	1.2 km	East
	Kusal Nala	1.0 km	West
	Bainsajaria Nala	1.5 km	NW
	Shagarhia Nala	3.0 km	NW
	Singhda Jhor	5.0 km	South
	iv. Forest	Reserved/Protected Forests	Distance
Chhendipada RF		Within ML Area	
Debinagar PF		2.5 km	SW
Kosala RF		4.6 km	SE
Kamkurupal RF		5.0 km	East
v. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected site	No		
vi. Any other	No		

Details of diversions proposed for the instant project:

1. The Supai Nallah (seasonal nallah) is proposed to be diverted during the 10th year of operations.

Mitigation measures proposed for the sensitive receptors:

1. The people residing in the villages within the ML area shall be relocated in phases as per the R&R plan.
2. For Kumbhira Nala: Embankment of 3 km length & height of 3m above HFL will be provided along the Kumbhira Nala for its protection. Toe-walls, retaining walls with weepholes at strategic stretches will be constructed to arrest the sediments and prevent silting of the water courses by the run-off during rains. Green belt will be developed along the embankment.
3. For Bapujee College: 3-tier greenbelt (approx. 1000 nos. of native species) with a width of 10 m will be established well in advance within 10 years of starting mining activities till relocation.
4. For Government Primary School, Khuntanali & School at Handigoda: Schools are being planned to be relocated in the area of proposed R & R colony at Nuapada, Chendipada tehsil, Angul district, as most of the students are from the Project Displaced Families (PDF) of the Baitarani West mine. R&R colony will be developed by December F/Y 2028-29.

Mine Lease: The mine was earlier allotted to M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted Terms of Reference to Baitarni West Opencast Coal Mine of OMC with production capacity of 15 MTPA in an area of 1196 ha vide its letter with File No. IA-J- 11015/81/2017- IA-II (M) dated 22.11.2021. Vesting order was issued in favor of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, being successful bidder, vide order NA-104/4/2023-NA, dated 08/06/2023, after auction of the mine, for the purpose of sale of coal including sale to affiliates and related parties, utilization of coal for any purpose including but not limited to captive consumption, coal gasification, coal liquefaction and export of coal. M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd accordingly applied for transfer of Terms of Reference and has submitted the affidavit dated 22nd September, 2023 stating to comply with all the Environmental Safeguards as per the terms and

conditions as stipulated in Terms of Reference (ToR) granted on 22.11.2021 to OMC Ltd. MoEF&CC transferred the TOR from M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd to M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., on the same terms and conditions as mentioned in the TOR issued vide file no : IA-J- 11015/81/2017- IA-II(M) dated 06.11.2023.

34.1.3: Details of ToR:

Date of Application	Details	Date of Accord	ToR Validity
21.10.2021	Proposal No. IA/OR/CMIN/234993/2021 (granted to M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd)	22.11.2021	21.11.2025
23.09.2023	Vide ToR Transfer Proposal number IA/OR/CMIN/445559/2023 (transferred to M/s GMDC Ltd)	06.11.2023	21.11.2025

34.1.4: Method of Mining and Mine Plan: Mining Plan for 15 MTPA (Normative) capacity for Open Cast Mechanized operation was approved by MOC vide letter no SWCS/Baitarni West Coal Mine/OR/AN/2021/CCO-MCBA dated 10.11.2021 and transferred in the name of GMDC through vesting order NA-104/4/2023-NA, dated 08/06/2023.

1. Method of mining to be adopted shall be opencast method of coal mining by surface miner, pay loader and tipper and OB removal by shovel dumper combination.
2. The gross geological reserves are 662.94 MT and net geological reserves are 602.1106 MT out of which mineable reserves are 485.06 MT and extractable reserves are 468.27 MT. The percentage of extraction is 77.771%.
3. There are total 18 nos of seams, with thickness ranging from 0.08 m to 33.94 m.
4. Grade of coal is G-12 and stripping ratio is 1.5278 m³/ tonne.
5. Life of mine is 37 years (including construction period).
6. **Topsoil management details:**
 - a. **Quantity of Topsoil to be generated:** 1.866 million m³
 - b. **Handling/ utilization of topsoil:** Generated topsoil will be utilized for plantation activity on the backfilled area, external dump and embankment.
 - c. **Nos of Topsoil dumps, its area and height:** 1 topsoil dump in 2.34 ha
7. **Nos. of OB Dumps, its area, its height and OB Management:** 1 External OB Dump of 215.84 ha with 90 m height, accommodating 140.25 Mm³ of OB. 1 internal OB dump in an area of 623.71 Ha with 573.30 Mm³ of OB with a height of up to ground level.
8. **Land use pattern**
 - a. Pre-mining land use pattern

S. No.	Type of Land	Within ML Area (ha)
1.	Agricultural	784.8499
2.	Forest	64.3723
3.	Barren	44.3739
4.	Grazing	118.8397
5.	Water bodies	35.1422
6.	Roads	31.4086
7.	Homestead	32.7729
8.	Community/ Other use	84.2405
Total		1196.00

b. Post Mining

Type	Land Use in Hectares (Post Closure)					
	Plantation (Ha)	Water Body (Ha)	Public/ Company Use (Ha)	Forest Land (Ha) (to be returned)	Undisturbed (Ha)	Total (Ha)
Backfilled Area	537.12	22.218	0	64.3723	0	623.71
Embankment	10	0	6.85	0	0	16.85
Green Belt	86.5	0	0	0	0	86.5
Undisturbed	0	0	0	0	31.707	31.707
Water Reservoir Near Pit	0	7.89	0	0	0	7.89
External Dump	215.84	0	0	0	0	215.84
Road And Infrastructure Area	161.783	0	25	0	0	186.783
Other water bodies including Garland Drains, etc	0	8.38	0	0	0	8.38
Safety Zone	16	0	0	0	0	16
Topsoil Dump	2.34	0	0	0	0	2.34
Total	1029.583	38.488	31.85	64.3723	31.707	1196

9. **Details of Transportation:**

- a. **In-pit to surface:** Through dumpers and conveyor
- b. **Surface to siding:** Conveyor up to 3 km
- c. **Siding to loading:** Coal Transportation will be through Belt conveyor up to dispatch point/RLS Rail transport.
- d. **Quantity proposed to be transported by rail/ road/ conveyor/ ropeway:**
By rail: 12 MTPA & By road: 3 MTPA upto 100 km

10. **Details of reclamation:** Afforestation shall be progressively done in an area of 1029.583 Ha. This will include reclaimed external OB dump of 215.84 Ha, internal dump of 537.12 Ha, greenbelt of 86.5 Ha, embankment of 10 Ha, road and infrastructure of 161.783 Ha, safety zone of 16 Ha and top soil dump of 2.34 Ha. Density of plantation shall be 2500 trees per Ha. Apart from this, a void of 22.218 Ha will be converted into 30 m deep water body.

34.1.5: Baseline Data:

Period	October to December 2023 (Post Monsoon)
AAQ parameters at 10 Locations (min and max)	<p>Core Zone: PM_{2.5} = 29.8 to 42.2 µg/m³ PM₁₀ = 65.3 to 83.9 µg/m³ SO₂ = 5.1 to 7.3 µg/m³ NO₂ = 11.6 to 20.26 µg/m³</p> <p>Buffer Zone: PM_{2.5} = 20.1 to 45.8 µg/m³ PM₁₀ = 48.9 to 83.5 µg/m³ SO₂ = 5.0 to 10.3 µg/m³ NO₂ = 9.5 to 23.3 µg/m³</p>

Period	October to December 2023 (Post Monsoon)										
Incremental GLC Level	<p>Core Zone: $PM_{10} = 3.07 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Level at 0.1 km in NNW Direction) $SO_2 = 2.49 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Level at 0.099 km in E Direction) $NO_x = 4.14 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Level at 0.099 km in E Direction)</p> <p>Buffer Zone: $PM_{10} = 3.136 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Level at 0.27 km in WSW Direction) $SO_2 = 0.248 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Level at 4.5 km in NE Direction) $NO_x = 0.41 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Level at 0.27 km in WSW Direction)</p>										
Ground water Quality at 8 Locations	<p>pH: 7.04 to 7.48 Total Hardness: 493 to 1110 mg/l Chlorides: 30 to 115 mg/l Fluoride: 0.5 to 0.7 mg/l Heavy metals (Lead): <0.01 mg/l</p>										
Surface water quality at 8 Locations	<p>pH: 7.09 to 7.76 DO: 3.2 to 6.3 mg/l BOD: 2.5 to 8.2 mg/l COD: 9.6 to 28 mg/l</p>										
Noise levels Leq (Day and Night)	<p>Project site (Industrial) – daytime 43.1 dBA & night time 38.5 dBA Residential – Daytime 43.3 to 52.9 dBA & Night time 38.7 to 43.6 dBA</p>										
Traffic assessment study findings	<p>Traffic study has been conducted at ODR Tentuloi Chhendipada Road which is approximately 10.8 km from the mine site.</p> <p>Transportation of mineral (20%) will be done by road. Existing PCU is 57 PCU/hr on ODR Tentuloi Chhendipada Road and existing level of service (LOS) is: A</p> <p>PCU load after proposed project will be 57 (Existing) + 93 (Additional) PCU/hr and level of service (LOS) will be: A</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Road</th> <th>V (Volume in PCU/hr.)</th> <th>C (Capacity in PCU/hr.)</th> <th>Proposed V/C Ratio</th> <th>LOS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ODR Tentuloi Chhendipada Road</td> <td>57+93= 150</td> <td>1500</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: Capacity as per IRC 1990 Guideline for capacity for roads.</p> <p>Conclusion: The level of service will remain same i.e. Excellent after including additional traffic due to proposed project.</p>	Road	V (Volume in PCU/hr.)	C (Capacity in PCU/hr.)	Proposed V/C Ratio	LOS	ODR Tentuloi Chhendipada Road	57+93= 150	1500	0.1	A
Road	V (Volume in PCU/hr.)	C (Capacity in PCU/hr.)	Proposed V/C Ratio	LOS							
ODR Tentuloi Chhendipada Road	57+93= 150	1500	0.1	A							
Flora and fauna	<p>Schedule I Species namely Indian Elephant, Bengal Monitor, Indian Chameleon, Common Rat Snake, Common Indian Krait, Indian Cobra, Russell’s Viper, etc. listed in the study area. Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, vide letter no. 10454/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0004-2025, dated 25.09.2025. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.</p>										
Water Requirement	<p>Source of Water: Initial requirement of domestic water and industrial water will meet out from ground water. Afterwards the demand of water will be met from the mine inflow water.</p> <p>Ground Water Intersection: Yes Water Requirement: 3620 KLD NOC (For surface water): Not Applicable NOC (Ground Water): CGWA NOC obtained vide NOC no. NOC/MIN/OD/2025/534/N dated 29.07.2025.</p>										

34.1.6: Details of water requirement: PP submitted that the requirement of water for the said project is 3620 KLD (1020 KLD for domestic use and 2600 KLD for industrial use). Initially the source of

water shall be ground water and later the demand shall be fulfilled by mine inflow water. Application for permission of ground water has been submitted vide application no. MIN/OD/2025/534 dated 09.01.2025.

PP also submitted that a small seasonal Supai nallah flowing in the NE direction of the ML area is proposed to be diverted for mining operation as per the approved mine plan. Length of diversion will be 2.3 km.

34.1.7: Details of power requirement and diversion of transmission line/ Hi-tension line:

PP submitted that for the initial mine operation, 11 KV power supply shall be obtained through a link from the Handigoda rural line, within the mine lease boundary of the coal block. The proposed 33 KV transmission power line is still at the conceptual stage, as the alignment of the 132 KV line originating from the Boinda Substation under OPTCL is yet to be finalized.

34.1.8: Details of Solid and Hazardous Waste:

S. No.	Type of Waste	Source	Quantity (TPA)	Mode of Treatment	Disposal
1.	Domestic Solid Waste	Domestic	108.82	Biodegradable waste will be composted	Non-biodegradable waste will be disposed through approved agency
2.	Plastic Waste	Administrative office & Service building (packaging, water bottles, Food wrappers, PPE, Industrial packaging etc.)	10		Sale to Authorized recycler
3.	E-waste	Administrative office & service building (computers, phones, printers, control systems, sensors, PLCs, etc)	1.0		Sale to Authorized Recycler
4.	Batteries	Equipment, vehicles, personal use, etc	15		Authorized Vendors
5.	Hazardous waste (Used Oil / Spent Oil)	Mine Machinery	150		Through CPCB /SPCB registered recyclers

34.1.9: Public Consultation/ Hearing: PP submitted the following details of Public Consultation:

Details of advertisement given	23.08.2024 in 2 newspapers, namely – Pragativadi and The New Indian Express.
Date of public consultation	24.09.2024
Venue	Govt. Land in front of Jagannath Temple, Chhendipada Tahsil of Angul district
Presiding Officer	Additional District Magistrate
Number of Person Attended Hearing	About 700 – 1000 out of them 203 participants have put their signatures in the attendance sheet
Number of representations received in writing from the district and outside of district	8 no.
Major issues raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project proponent shall take steps to protect all the water bodies & Supai and Kumbhira Nallah flowing within the mine lease area in order to prevent from getting water pollution The Project proponent shall adopt state-of-art technology in order to protect the environment

	<p>such as air, water and soil in the proposed mining area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project proponent shall provide employment to the local people as per their educational qualification in the proposed mining project • The Project proponent shall make provision for supply of safe drinking water facility in the local villages and construction of village roads • The Project proponent shall undertake massive plantation in and around the ML area for the betterment of local environment • The Project proponent shall provide actual compensation against the land for the land losers as per R & R policy. • The Project proponent shall take adequate steps for forest conservation and adopt preventive measures for the protection of wildlife.
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Action plan as per MoEF&CC O.M. dated 30/09/2020

S. No	Issue Raised during PH	Physical activity and action plan	Budget	Year wise Breakup		
				1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
1.	Development of Local Area	Formulate village development program under consultation with local panchayat and district administration for need-based community development activities which would be in addition to the development plans being undertaken by state and central government.	<p>The various activities for development of the local area shall be undertaken by GMDC.</p> <p>GMDC had already undertaken various activities (summarized under) for improvement of Rural Infrastructure, improvement of Community health, conservation of Arts & Culture etc in the region.</p> <p>Development of Local Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Help in the improvement of village roads ➤ Construction/Renovation of Sabhagruha ➤ Construction/Renovation of Community Hall ➤ Construction/Renovation of Rahaswadi ➤ Construction of Mandap ➤ Community Infrastructure ➤ Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) services ➤ Establishment of Physiotherapy Centre 	100 Lakh s	150 Lakh s	150 Lakh s

S. No	Issue Raised during PH	Physical activity and action plan	Budget	Year wise Breakup		
				1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
2.	Protection of water bodies	Embankment will be constructed all along the Kumbhira nallah within the mine lease (ML) area. Plantation will be done along the embankment of Kumbhira nallah.	1000 Lakhs ➤ Construction of Embankment: 1000 Lakhs ➤ Plantation along the embankment of Kumbhira nallah: Budget covered under EMP	335 Lakhs	335 Lakhs	330 Lakhs
3.	Pollution Control	Truck Mounted Tanker with Mist Spray Sprinkling Arrangement for Haul Roads/Mine/Safety zone etc. Mobile Water Mist Spray Sprinkler for transport route. For control of pollution, massive planation drive and water sprinklers in affected villages will be done.	➤ Truck Mounted Tanker with Mist Spray Sprinkling Arrangement for Haul Roads/Mine/Safety zone etc.: Budget covered under EMP ➤ Mobile Water Mist Spray Sprinkler for transport route: Budget covered under EMP ➤ Plantation of trees/Greenbelt development: Budget covered under EMP	30 Lakhs 30 Lakhs Upto 3rd Year – 40.45 Lakhs	60 Lakhs 60 Lakhs	60 Lakhs 60 Lakhs
4.	Skill Development/Employment to the local people	Willing and employable youths will be identified in consultation with gram panchayat of nearby villages. Technical education & training will be provided to Local Youths Project Samarthya for Skill Development	➤ Skill development of the local area shall be undertaken by GMDC. A project name “Samarthya” has already been introduced by GMDC with employment-oriented skill development programs for the youths. The training programs like Assistant Electrician Training and General Duty Assistant Training are under progress in the region with Budgetary provisions.	50 Lakhs	50 Lakhs	75 Lakhs
5.	Compensation to land losers	R&R Package will be provided to the displaced families after the	Budget covered under R&R Plan	The concerned activities will be carried out under the proposed R&R budget		

S. No	Issue Raised during PH	Physical activity and action plan	Budget	Year wise Breakup		
				1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		approval from RPDAC (Rehabilitation & Periphery Development Advisory Committee)		of Rs. 727.94 crores (excluding land compensation) in phases.		
6.	Protection of wildlife	Wildlife protection & conservation shall be done. A comprehensive Regional Wildlife conservation plan (WLCP) is under preparation at DFO level. PP will deposit the proportionate amount as per the direction of Forest Department. Further Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.	Budget covered under WLCP	Proposed budget for wildlife conservation plan is Rs. 3726.40 Lakhs for 10 years.		
7.	Concern for drinking water	Drinking water arrangement shall be made in the villages as per the requirement.	Budgetary Provision	100 Lakh s	100 Lakh s	150 Lakh s

Action Plan for Written Representations

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
1.	Balipata villagers, Manglu Sahoo, Sarat kumar Garnaik, Barun kumar sahu, Chandrakanta Garnayak, Pradeep swain, Lochan Pradhan, Basanta Barik, Golekha Pradhan	<p>I am writing this letter to inform that as per letter no. 13285 dtd. 22.08.2024 by SPCB Odisha, due to large population in our village periphery area which will be damaged for the mining therefore we are opposing this public hearing. The displaced people of affected villages will be rehabilitated in clean and good environment locations whereas we the people of periphery villagers will be deprived from these; therefore, GMDC should declare first that what steps have been taken to provide clean air, water, forest & good environment for the affected areas.</p> <p>We have no objection to Baitarani Open cast mining if prior steps are taken for its permanent solutions to these issues. If our periphery</p>	Pollution Control	<p>Air quality, water quality, and forest environment will be regularly monitored, and reports will be submitted in compliance with the norms of the CPCB and MoEF&CC. All efforts will be made to ensure that these parameters remain within the stipulated standards.</p> <p>Hydrological studies have been conducted, and the stage of groundwater extraction stands at 54.93% (Safe). Pumping operations will only be carried out after obtaining the necessary permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). Conservation measures like rainwater harvesting, use of rainwater/seepage water shall be used for internal consumption etc.</p>	531.5 Lakhs	888.5 Lakhs	808 Lakhs

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>affected villages have to face Toxic climate, severe water shortages, difficulties in farming in future due to mining, in such case we will not hesitate to make strong oppose in future.</p> <p>Therefore, we are requesting you to kindly consider our grievances for better solutions before commencement of mining.</p>					
2.	Mr. Bijayananda Chaulia, Hakimapada, Angul	<p>Coal Mining is a high-risk industry specially, in the case of opencast mining</p> <p>Where, a mineral itself is part of the surface soil or rock or fairly close to the surface.</p> <p>Even though, mining is regarded as a crucial economic activity worldwide, it has a significant negative impact on environment that inevitably leads to serious degradation on</p>	Degradation to natural ecosystems	<p>Massive plantation drives in the project (about 25,74,000 nos. of native species is envisaged over a period of 37 years of Mine Life in backfilled area, safety zone and infrastructure) and surrounding areas for better local environment will be done.</p> <p>A comprehensive Regional Wildlife conservation plan (WLCP) is under preparation at DFO level. PP will deposit the proportionate amount as per the direction of Forest Department. Further Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in</p>	Upto 3rd Year – 40.45 Lakhs		

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>ecological and aesthetic values of the landscape. Coal mining causes extensive degradation to natural ecosystems such as forests and can scar the landscape irreparably. Damage to humans, animals and plants, too occurs due to habitat destruction and environmental contamination.</p> <p>Impacts of mining activities on environment and climate change</p> <p>Land, in various forms, is a finite natural resource. The necessity of land is ever increasing due to rapid population growth. The irony of the situation is nothing but the adverse impact of opencast mining on land is soil contamination or Soil destruction. In the course of removing the desired mineral,</p>	<p>Adverse impact of opencast mining on land</p> <p>Protection of Environment</p>	<p>Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.</p> <p>Backfilled areas will be reclaimed biologically and technically.</p> <p>At the initial stage scrapped topsoil will be stored separately and reused as early as possible to layover the backfilled area for biological reclamation.</p> <p>Proper afforestation/plantation is to be carried out for greenbelt development. An area of 1029.583 ha (25,74,000 nos. of native species) will be designated for plantation, as detailed in the EIA/EMP.</p> <p>We will take adequate steps for protection of Environment.</p> <p>We have proposed Capital Expenditure of INR 13919.31 Lakhs and Recurring Expenditure of INR 315.7 Lakhs for implementation of the Environment Management Plan such as Continuous Air Monitoring, SW & GW Monitoring, Solar lighting arrangement, Rainwater Harvesting, Soil Preservation, Green Belt Development, Ecological Conservation Measures, etc.</p> <p>All necessary precautionary measures, including the installation of Garland drains, the use of geotextiles, and other relevant measures outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP), will be strictly implemented to prevent water contamination. Post EC monitoring will be done regularly as per the prescribed standards in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.</p>	<p>Upto 3rd Year – 40.45 Lakhs</p> <p>2367 Lakhs</p>	<p>3511 Lakhs</p>	<p>4194.9 Lakhs</p>

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>original soil become lost or buried by wastes.</p> <p>Opencast mining operations involve the removal of huge quantities of overburden, dumping, and backfilling of the excavated area. These overburden deposits of waste material containing low-grade ores are represented as mine spoil dumps. The gradual increase in such landscapes may endanger the agro-forest productivity as well as the ecological balance of the area in particular. Further, the generated waste rocks and tailings in huge quantities will become sources of pollution.</p> <p>Moreover, it has been recently declared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) that the imperfect management of wastes produced in the</p>		<p>All operations will be carried out in strict adherence to the guidelines set by the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and other competent authorities.</p> <p>Limited quantity of coal will be transported by road to meet the local demand. Bulk of the coal will be evacuated via rail. Further the movement of trucks will be minimized in peak traffic hours. Wheel washing system shall be installed at the exit point of mine. Overloading of transport equipment shall be prevented in order to stop Spillage. Trees will be planted all along the coal transportation road within mine lease area.</p> <p>A comprehensive Regional Wildlife conservation plan (WLCP) is under preparation at DFO level. PP will deposit the proportionate amount as per the direction of Forest Department. Further Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.</p>			

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>course of mining and reclamation works is detrimental to environmental and human health. The effect of wastes due to mining and processing activities on ecosystems can be observed in groundwater, surface water, and soil and the following points may put human health in danger (Passariello et al. 2002): inhalation of aerosols containing high levels of metals. Percutaneous absorption following skin contact. Use of contaminated water. Consumption of food from contaminated areas. The plying of heavy vehicles on the roads would cause substantial dust nuisance, generate serious noises and above all the area would be more prone to accidents and mishaps.</p> <p>In this backdrop, the above mining</p>					

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>activities by GMDC if permitted, would be detrimental to our lives (the seven villagers), flora and fauna and the environment of our area.</p> <p>In view of the above, we therefore, strongly condemn the open caste mining by GMDC and as such vehemently oppose the public hearing. We further request your good self to kindly save the environment and thereby allow us (the simple gullible villagers) to remain in the midst of our natural habitat and the flora and fauna. Such kind act of yours would be highly solicited.</p>					
3.	Ms. Poorva Chaulia, Hakimapada, Angul	The proposed coal mines conducted public hearing at Chhendipada on 24 th Sep 2024 without proper procedure. Pallisabha was not organised before	Pallisabha was not organised before	The public hearing was conducted in accordance with the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments and as per the norms set by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board.	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>Executive Summary uploaded in OSPCB site is only in Oriya, no English copy is available in site.</p> <p>No. of family to be displaced is not mentioned in Executive Summary</p> <p>No. & make of machine to evacuate coal is not mentioned clearly</p> <p>The genuine land losers were not allowed to participate in the Public hearing</p> <p>Hence Public hearing shall be stood cancelled the GMDC should not be allowed to operate.</p>	<p>Summary of the mining project not uploaded in English language</p> <p>Number of family affected, and number of family displaced.</p> <p>No. & make of machine to evacuate coal is not mentioned clearly</p> <p>Land losers were not allowed to participate in the Public hearing</p>	<p>Odisha State Pollution Control Board was uploaded the summary.</p> <p>Total Project Affected Families (PAF) is approx. 2664 Nos and Project Displaced Families (PDF) is approx. 1629 Nos mentioned in Chapter 7 of the EIA report.</p> <p>List of machineries will be used for Opencast Mining-like Surface Miner, pay loader & tipper and Shovel-Dumper combination is mentioned in Chapter 2 of EIA.</p> <p>The public hearing was conducted in accordance with the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments through the Regional Office of OSPCB Angul.</p>			
4.	Mr. Arjun, Chhendipada	The Public hearing organised today at Chhendipada of Baitarni West Coal mine of GMDC was a complete false & unethical. The Executive Summary uploaded in the OSPCB website has no	Number of family affected, and number of family displaced.	Total Project Affected Families (PAF) is approx. 2664 Nos and Project Displaced Families (PDF) is approx. 1629 Nos.	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>proper information about the no. of family likely to displaced</p> <p>There is no details about the no. & types of machinery to be used for the mining & transportation proposed.</p> <p>The Executive Summary should be uploaded in both English & Oriya.</p> <p>The common land losers were not allowed to put their view in front of the committee. Selected people by certain group were allowed to put their view.</p> <p>So the Public Hearing shall be cancelled & shall be organised in the affected villages.</p>	<p>No. & make of machine to evacuate coal is not mentioned clearly</p> <p>Summary of the mining project not uploaded in both the languages</p>	<p>List of machineries will be used for Opencast Mining like Surface Miner, pay loader & tipper and Shovel-Dumper combination is mentioned in Chapter 2 of EIA/EMP.</p> <p>Odisha State Pollution Control Board was uploaded the summary.</p> <p>The Regional Officer, OSPCB Angul has conducted the Public hearing as per the norms/requirements at suitable place, easily approachable to everyone.</p>			

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
5.	Mr. Kumar Sahoo, Chhendipada	<p>We the people residing in nearby area of the proposed coal mining sites bring the following few line for your kind attention that the proposal coal mines is not at all environmental friendly and violating all Human Rights Law.</p> <p>That, a lot of transporting vehicle will be run on the road which will be life threatening for the life of school, college going children as well as adults.</p>	Road traffic and safety	<p>Limited quantity of coal (20%) will be transported by road to meet the local demand. Bulk of the coal will be evacuated via rail. Further the movement of trucks will be through a dedicated coal evacuation road will not pass through any village. Wheel washing system shall be installed at the exit point of mine. The trucks shall be covered by Tarpaulin to avoid any spillage. Overloading of transport vehicles shall be prevented in order to stop Spillage. Trees will be planted all along the coal transportation road within mine lease area. The traffic rules as enforced by the DGMS will be strictly followed. A traffic study was conducted for the ODR Tentuloi-Chhendipada Road and SH-63 (Angul to Deogarh). The analysis revealed that the Level of Service (LOS) for the roads was found to be B, indicating a very good condition with minimal congestion and smooth traffic flow. Furthermore, the study also considered the potential impact of increased traffic from the Baitarni West Coal Block. However, it was determined that this contribution would not lead to any significant change in the existing Level of Service, meaning that the road conditions and traffic flow are expected to remain unchanged despite the additional transportation demands.</p> <p>Adequate safety norms shall be adapted by the Mine.</p> <p>Dedicated coal transportation road shall be made Bituminous/Tar to connect the Mine with nearest main road for coal evacuation. Out of total 15 Million TPA, only 3 Million TPA will be dispatched by road. Coal will be transported using</p>	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>That, there is a large patch of agricultural land on both side of the connecting road. The agricultural pad will be damaged due to the movement of transporting vehicle.</p> <p>That, a lot of dust emission will caused due to flying of trucks on the approach road.</p> <p>That, such activity will lead to the incident of theft, misbehaving with ladies and public nuisance will take place in the area.</p> <p>That, it will lead to lowering of water level.</p> <p>That, coal excerpption and transportation has an adverse impact in biodiversity water turbidity, water table levels, land scape and on climate through</p>	<p>Dust emission</p> <p>Lowering of water level</p>	<p>covered trucks to prevent dust and minimize environmental impact. Trees will be planted all along the coal transportation road.</p> <p>Hydrological studies have been conducted, and the stage of groundwater extraction stands at 54.93% (Safe). Pumping operations will only be carried out after obtaining the necessary permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). Conservation measures like rainwater harvesting, use of rainwater/seepage water shall be used for internal consumption etc.</p> <p>A comprehensive Regional Wildlife conservation plan (WLCP) is under preparation at DFO level. PP will deposit the proportionate amount as per the direction of Forest Department. Further Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWLCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.</p>			

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>carbon dioxide emission from transportation.</p> <p>Keeping all the above complained in mind, we request the authority not to allow the operation of coal mining as it will damage a lot to the life and liberty of the people living near the proposed site (Violating all environmental and Human Right Law)</p>					
6.	Mr. Ashok Kumar Sahoo, Chhendipada, Angul	<p>Coal mines have impending dangers and risk for which a disaster management plan shall be prepared with an aim of taking precautionary steps to avert disasters and also take such action after the disaster, which is still not published or applied by the Govt. authority.</p> <p>The following natural and industrial problems will be encountered during the mining operation.</p>	<p>Disaster Management Plan</p> <p>Inundation due to excessive rains</p>	<p>Adherence to relevant statutory safety provisions as stipulated by DGMS shall be made. A comprehensive disaster management plan (DMP) is prepared for mitigating risks, ensuring worker safety, and minimizing the environmental impact of accidents & same is discussed in Section 10.7 of Chapter 7 of EIA.</p> <p>Adequate pumping arrangements shall be made. Rainwater will be stored in mine pit & settling pond, etc. which will be used for internal consumption.</p> <p>Following mitigative measures are suggested to reduce the impact by machinery:</p>	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>Inundation due to excessive rains.</p> <p>Accident by heavy machinery.</p> <p>Slope failures at the mines faces.</p>	<p>Accident by heavy machinery</p> <p>Slope failures</p> <p>Accident of school going children and other people</p>	<p>Formulation of safe operating procedure and implementing the same</p> <p>Creating safe working conditions, providing all safety measures, devices etc.</p> <p>Training the operator and others about the equipment, the safe operating procedures, vocational, safety training etc.</p> <p>Proper preventive maintenance check etc.</p> <p>Guarding of moving/rotating parts, preventing entry near moving parts, maintaining all guards in proper place.</p> <p>Regular inspections will be conducted to monitor potential slope failures on open cast mine faces, as well as on ore and overburden benches. In the event that any abnormal conditions are identified during these inspections, they must be promptly reported to the relevant department for immediate attention as well as corrective & preventive action.</p> <p>Speed limits, dedicated coal transportation route will be followed to avoid accidents.</p> <p>We will adopt environmental protection measures in the proposed mining project for control of sound & air pollution. Massive plantation drives in the project (about 25,74,000 nos. of native species is envisaged over a period of 37 years of Mine Life in backfilled area, safety zone and infrastructure) and surrounding areas for better local environment will be done. Rs 5146.41 Lakhs (Capital Cost) earmarked for the same. Pollution levels will be strictly controlled and maintained in accordance with the standards and norms set by the Pollution Control Board.</p>			

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>Accident of school going children and other people.</p> <p>Member of family residing near (Ariel distance within 900 metre) the proposed site will suffer from various diseases due to sound and air pollution.</p>	Pollution control		Upto 3rd Year – 40.45 Lakhs		
7.	Mr. Nilubehbra, Chhendipada Angul	<p>Due to coal mining activity in the area the dust emission will be caused which will affect the adjacent agriculture land and degradation of environment shall take place in the surrounding area. We are depending on agriculture.</p> <p>Our life and liberty will be in danger due to pollution.</p> <p>Due to this reason the said coal mining should not be allowed to operates.</p>	Pollution control	<p>We will adopt environmental protection measures in the proposed mining project for control of pollution. Massive plantation drives in the project (about 25,74,000 nos. of native species is envisaged over a period of 37 years of Mine Life in backfilled area, safety zone and infrastructure) and surrounding areas for better local environment will be done.</p> <p>Truck Mounted Tanker with Mist Spray Sprinkling Arrangement, Mobile Water Mist Spray Sprinkler, fog cannon, etc. will be installed around the coal stockyard area, permanent haulage roads, and transportation routes to control dust and ensure effective dust suppression.</p> <p>We have proposed Capital Expenditure of INR 13919.31 Lakhs and Recurring Expenditure of INR 315.7 Lakhs for implementation of the suggested Environment Management Plan such as Continuous Air Monitoring, SW & GW Monitoring, Solar lighting arrangement, Rainwater Harvesting, Soil Preservation, Green Belt Development, Ecological Conservation Measures, etc.</p>	Upto 3rd Year – 40.45 Lakhs		Total amount earmarked for planation is 5146.41 Lakhs which will be spent in phases till 40 years.
					2367 Lakhs	3511 Lakhs	4194.9 Lakhs

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
8.	Biswamitra sahu (Secretary), Gobrdhana Nayak (President), Subasini Pradhan, Benudhar Gharnayak, Jhunu Behera, Dalimbha Majhi, Sudhkar Majhi, Saroj Majhi, Pratap Gadanaik, Sambhu Gadanaik, Shyam Sundar Pradhan, Upendra Gardnaik, Deba Garanaik, Sanjay Kumar Sahu, Souvagini Garnaik, Ichabati Nayak, July Pradhan, Jamuna Maji, Jatak Maji, Ranjita Maji, Basanti Maji, Rita Maji, Sukanti Maji, Nibedita Maji, Duhita Maji, Basanti Maji, Joysna Nayak, Arati Maji, Mally Nayak, Abanti Maji, Dalimba Maji, Santi Dehury	We all the residents of the region through the Anchalika surakhya mancha Chendipada are informing that on the day of the said public hearing we came in protest of about 5000 women and men and stood outside the platform. As per advertisement dtd 24/09/2024 for public hearing was held in connection with the environmental clearance of the proposed project at Chendipada was one sided. The affected people were not given a chance to enter and speak In the said meeting, the public hearing was quickly closed after the speeches of a few people including our M.L.A, District Councilor, Sarpanch and Samiti members. This is a gross insult to democracy in a democratic country. We regret to inform you that none of the villages		<p>A public hearing was conducted in accordance with the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments. The Additional District Magistrate chaired the public hearing to ensure equal participation of all the stakeholders present.</p> <p>Kumbhira Nala and Supai Nala (Gurkha Nala) pass through the ML. Supai Nala will be diverted, while Kumbhira Nala will remain undisturbed. All necessary precautionary measures as mentioned in the EIA will be implemented to ensure the conservation of water resources.</p> <p>Sec 7 refers to Land acquisition, Land Rights have been obtained by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation under Sec 11(1) of CBA & henceforth Sec 19 of CBA has been published.</p> <p>As per the forest record there are 29 numbers Schedule I Species listed in the study area. A comprehensive Regional Wildlife conservation plan (WLCP) is under preparation at DFO level. PP will deposit the proportionate amount as per the direction of Forest Department. Further Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWLCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.</p>	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>were informed about obtaining the company license (GMDC) nor was any notification issued under section 7 of the Act and subsequently the company and the administration carried out arbitrary genocide without any discussion with the villagers to acquire the land. Some of the employees of the company are tempting simple villagers to sign Aadhaar cards, documents and signature in plain papers. Chendipada village and surrounding villages are a densely populated area and 90 percent of the total population will be affected. Apart from this, Angul district has been declared as one of the hottest regions in the country due to the number of factories and mines that have been built in the entire region. There is a passage for animals such as</p>					

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>Elephants, bears, Monkeys and there are two water projects in this Chendipada jungle, the Kumbhira Canal Project and the Gurkha Canal Project, for which a lot of agricultural land will be lost due to the irrigation.</p> <p>Therefore, we respectfully request you to consider this matter carefully and provide us with proper justice. we will be grateful for you.</p>					
9.	Biswamitra saho (Secretary), Gobrdhana Nayak (President), Anchalika Surakhya Mancha, Chhendipada	<p>We, the 70 members of the community of Chendipada Tehsil Chendipada Jungle Village, Police Station No. 75, District Angul, declare that, as per the advertisement, a public hearing was held in Chendipada on 24/09/2024 in the context of the environmental clearance of the proposed project was one sided. The affected villagers were not allowed to enter the stage and not given the opportunity</p>		<p>A public hearing was conducted in accordance with the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments. The Additional District Magistrate chaired the public hearing to ensure equal participation of all the stakeholders present.</p> <p>There are no ecologically sensitive areas within the Mine Lease (ML) area. Kumbhira Nala and Supai Nala (Gurkha Nala) pass through the ML. Supai Nala will be diverted, while Kumbhira Nala will remain undisturbed. All necessary precautionary measures as mentioned in the EIA will be implemented to ensure the conservation of water resources.</p> <p>As per the forest record there are 29 numbers Schedule I Species listed in the study area. A comprehensive Regional Wildlife conservation plan (WLCP) is under preparation at</p>	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		<p>for speeches. In the said meeting, the public hearing was quickly closed with response of a few people including our M.L.A, District Councilor, Sarpanch and Samiti members.</p> <p>Apart from this, Angul district has been declared as one of the hottest regions in the country due to the number of factories and mines that have been built in the entire region. There is a passage of wild animals like elephants, bears, monkeys and there are two water projects in this Chendipada forest area, namely the Kumbhira nala project and the Gurkha canal project, for which a lot of agricultural land will be lost due to the irrigation.</p> <p>So we all public through Anchalika Surakhya Mancha, Chhendipada opposing this public hearing & we will</p>		<p>DFO level. PP will deposit the proportionate amount as per the direction of Forest Department. Further Site-Specific Conservation Plan has been prepared & approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha. A budgetary provision of 37.26 Cr (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years.</p>			

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		grateful for you if you could consider this & hold the public hearing. And we should be given full protection in a democratic nation.					
10.	Sri/Srimati Udayanath Dehuri father Chaitan Dehuri, Village Chendipada, Post Chendipada, Thana Chendipada, Tehsil Chendipada, District Angul	The proposed open cast coal project is a risky project Our crops, vegetables and fruits live in a peaceful environment with humans, and are a transit route and habitat for animals and birds. The above-mentioned are very fertile and is used for agricultural purposes for many crops including paddy, wheat, maize, pulses and a variety of vegetables. I demand the withdrawal of proposal issued for land acquisition and environmental clearance or the establishment of the coal project without taking my opinion. I cannot transfer this land for coal mining at any price. Therefore I informed you to		Mining operations will commence only after obtaining the necessary statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance (EC), Forest Clearance (FC), Consent to Establish (CTE), Consent to Operate (CTO), and other applicable approvals. All mining activities will be carried out in accordance with the Mine Plan approved by the MOC. Land Rights have been obtained by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation under Sec 11(1) of CBA & henceforth Sec 19 of CBA has been published. An attractive R&R package has been communicated to all the affected families, which is much better than the package specified in Odisha R&R policy 2006 & the previous RPDAC. The package includes cash compensation in lieu of homestead land and structures. Rs. 727.94 crores have been earmarked for R&R (excluding land compensation).	Nil	Nil	Nil

S. No.	Name and address of the Participants	Question/ Issues Raised	Category of Issue Raised	Commitment by Project Proponent	Year Wise Breakup		
					1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year
		take appropriate action					

Summary of activity and amount earmarked to address the PH concerns/issues

Sr. No.	Activities	Location (Name of School/Village/Area)	Year 1 (In Lakhs)	Year 2 (In Lakhs)	Year 3 (In Lakhs)	Total (In Lakhs)
1.	Development of Local Area (Rural infrastructure, Community Health, Art & Culture, Education & Sports etc.)*	Chhendipada Jangal, Chhendipada RF, Handigora, Machhakuta, Machhakuta Jangal, Porapara, Porapara Jangal, Tentuloi-Korasahi Village	100	150	150	400
2.	Protection of water bodies		335	335	330	1000
3.	Pollution Control*		2,266.55	3,391	3391	9048.55
4.	Skill Development /Employment to the local people*		50	50	75	175
5.	Compensation to land losers*		40000	60000	-	100000
6.	Protection of wildlife		3726.40	-	-	3726.40
7.	Concern for drinking water*		100	100	150	350
	Total		46577.95	64026	4096	114699.95

*The activity shall be continued till life of the mine and fund will be spent accordingly.

34.1.10: EMP Budget: The capital cost of the proposed project is Rs 385500 Lakhs and the capital cost for environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs 10072 Lakhs. The annual recurring cost towards the environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs 315 Lakhs. The employment generation from the proposed project is 1752 nos. The details of cost for environmental protection measures is as follows:

S. No	Activity	Capital Cost (in Lakhs)	Recurring Cost (in Lakhs)
1.	Truck Mounted Tanker with Mist Spray Sprinkling Arrangement (25m) for Haul Roads/Mine/Safety zone etc.	150	10
2.	Mobile Water Mist Spray Sprinkler for transport route	150	3
3.	Fixed type Mist spray at Coal stockpile/crusher/Transfer Points etc.	85	2
4.	Fixed type Mist Spray System (long range) at proposed Railway Siding	50	1
5.	Wind Barrier Wall & Vertical Greenery System at proposed Railway Siding	5	0.5
6.	Mechanized Sweeping of Roads Electrically Operated	30	1
7.	Dust arrester equipped with drilling machine	350	5.25
8.	Garland Drain	38	1
9.	Boulder Check Plug	5	0.075
10.	Mine Water Sedimentation Pond & Pumps	125	2
11.	Noise Level Indicator (Fixed)	24.5	0.3675

S. No	Activity	Capital Cost (in Lakhs)	Recurring Cost (in Lakhs)
12.	Continuous Air Monitoring Station	150	10
13.	Piezometer for Hydrogeological Monitoring (including drilling)	50	0.75
14.	Vibration Monitoring Equipment	10	0.15
15.	SW&GW Monitoring	5	0.075
16.	Solar lighting arrangement	50	5
17.	Rainwater Harvesting	75	1.125
18.	Soil Preservation	17.5	0.2625
19.	Green Belt Development including Plantation over backfilled, other area within ML and Fencing for green patch.	2474	221.62
20.	Fire tender	37.5	2
21.	Advance Firefighting equipment, Fire extinguisher, smoke detectors (for office and workshop), firefighting Drones, fire Automatic Fire Detection and alarm system etc,	200	3
22.	Personnel Protection Equipment (goggles, gloves, helmets, dust mask, safety boots)	5	2
23.	Topsoil Management	1026	1
24.	Awareness Programme (Display Boards (Digital) etc.	30	1
25.	Ecological Conservation Measures	50	2
26.	Barbed Wire Fencing for protection of void	94	0.375
27.	CCTV camera for monitoring loading and transport, mine blast, fire, dust generation monitoring,	10	0.15
28.	Equipment for Plantation O & M like water tanker, tractor with trolley, other equipment	50	2
29.	Biodiversity Conservation Measures	3726.40	10
30.	Action plan for Water Conservation (Supai Nala Diversion and Conservation, Construction of Kumbhira Nala Embankment, etc.)	1000	27
Total		10072.9	315.7

34.1.11: Plantation: Proposed greenbelt will be developed in 86.5 ha which is about 7.23% of the total ML area. A total of 1029.583 ha area (86.08% of total ML area) will be covered under plantation. A 5-10 m wide greenbelt, consisting of at least 3 tiers around mine boundary will be developed as greenbelt and green cover as per CPCB/MoEF&CC, New Delhi guidelines. Local and Native species will be planted with a density of 2500 trees per hectare. Total no. of 25,74,000 saplings will be planted and nurtured in 1029.583 hectares in 40 years.

34.1.12: Rehabilitation & Resettlement: PP submitted that, total 7 villages namely Chhendipada Jangal- (Part), Handigora- (Part), Machhakuta - (Part), Machhakuta Jangal- (Part), Porapara- (Part), Porapara Jangal - (Full), Tentuloi-Korasahi- (Part) are going to get affected by proposed project. Total Project Affected Families (PAF) is 2664 Nos and Project Displaced Families (PDF) is 1629 Nos. These displaced families will be resettled and rehabilitated socially, culturally and economically as per the latest R&R policy (2006 & subsequent amendments) of Govt. of Odisha. As on date Socio Economic Survey, Identification of Rehabilitation Site, etc have been completed. R&R cost is Rs. 72794 Lakhs.

34.1.13: Project Cost: PP submitted that the project cost is Rs. 385500 Lakhs and the capital cost for environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs 10072 Lakhs. The annual recurring cost towards the environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs 315 Lakhs.

34.1.14: Details of pending litigations: PP reported that there is no legal issue/violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam

Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project.

34.1.15: Undertaking/ Affidavit: PP vide an affidavit submitted that, there is no construction/mining done at the site, there is no litigation on the project either at Hon'ble NGT or any other Court of Law, that the land rights have been obtained by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation under Sec 11(1) of CBA & henceforth Sec 19 of CBA has been published and there will be R&R for displaced families, there is no difference in the documents submitted Le, Common Application Form. Form 1, Part A, Part B, Part C, EIA/EMP report and presentation being made to the EAC. As per EIA notification dated 14th September 2006 and its amendments, the project falls under Activity 1 (a) Mining of Minerals. As per MoEF&CC Notification No. S.O. 1886(E) dated 20th April 2022, all the Coal Mining Projects with lease area more than 500 ha has been classified as Category "A" projects. Therefore, the project will be considered at central level.

Further, vide an Undertaking, PP submitted that the information provided in Form-1 Part-A, Part-B & Part-C in physical form and/or in .pdf format in PARIVESH, to the Ministry/EAC members and PPT presentation during the EAC meeting to be held on 29th October 2025 have no deviation in respect of the proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/545513/2025 for EC for coal mining having 1196 ha of ML area/Project area and capacity of 15 MTPA for Coal Mine Project located at village Chhendipada Jangal, Chhendipada RF, Handigora, Machhakuta, Machhakuta Jangal, Porapara, Porapara Jangal, Tentuloi-Korasahi, Tehsil - Chhendipada, District – Angul, State – Odisha by M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC). There are no data entry errors in the information uploaded in PARIVESH system including names/email-id/mobile numbers/address of the project proponent, authorized person, etc. It is also certified that the supporting documents uploaded on PARIVESH portal are correct and duly authenticated by the Authorized Signatory. In case of any deviation in data found in any of the documents, the Authorized Signatory shall be held responsible and furthermore, the above said project shall be rejected for grant of amendment in EC.

34.1.17: Written Submissions: PP submitted the following during the meeting:

S. No.	Observation	Reply
1.	Plan for Construction of Hospital	GMDC is already in process for setting of a Hospital at Chhendipada Town in 10 acres area with estimated capital cost of Rs 18 Cr. The relevant Letter from GMDC to DC, Angul and letter from DC Angul to Tahsildar Chhendipada is submitted.
2.	Plan for construction of school	GMDC, through its Gram Vikas Trust, is planning to establish CBSE School up to 12th Standard at Chhendipada Town, Dist. Angul, Odisha with estimated capital cost of Rs 10.5 Cr. In this matter, we already have requested Regional Director of DAV School at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha vide letter dated 15/07/2025. Further, we also have requested the Collector & District Magistrate of Dist. Angul vide letter dated 30/07/2025 to allocate land for the setting up of English Medium CBSE School at Chhendipada, Dist. Angul. For allocation of land, an application has already been submitted to IDCO vide Form IA. Relevant communications in this regard are submitted.
3.	Details of Embankment	Earthen embankment of 3 km length & height of 3 m above HFL will be provided along the Kumbhira Nala for its protection. OB material shall be used for construction of embankment. Schematic diagram of embankment & Plan showing Kumbhira nala within ML area is submitted.
4.	Action plan for 3 MW solar power plant	GMDC will install both rooftop & Ground mounted solar power installations to generate 3 MW solar power with a capital budget of 12.24 Cr. There will be annual operation & maintenance cost of approx. 5% of CAPEX. The solar power will be used in office building, VTC, parking, workshop, CHP, high mast tower & conveyor belt, etc. The action plan is submitted.
5.	PH Action plan with Timeline	Revised PH Action plan is submitted.

S. No.	Observation	Reply												
6.	Coal Evacuation Plan for road transport (Norms for vehicle)	Dedicated road of 2.1 km up to nearest MDR shall be made for coal evacuation. For coal evacuation outside mine boundary, a mandatory condition will be included in the transport contract, mandating engagement of BS-VI compliant vehicles only.												
7.	Plan for deployment of electric vehicles to be used for internal transportation	For the transportation of 15 MT of coal from the mine to surface, total number of 50 dump trucks (capacity: 35 Te) will be required. Out of these, 20 Nos. of EV dump trucks will be deployed within first three years of start of mining operation.												
8.	Revised plantation budget with timeline	CAPEX of Rs. 51.46 Cr shall be earmarked for plantation program to cover 1029.583 ha area over a span of 40 years. The timeline & budget for plantation is submitted.												
9.	Phase wise installation of in-pit conveyor belt	The in-pit conveyor can be installed by 5 th year of mine operation due to availability of required space for the in-pit conveyor. Letter in this regard is submitted.												
10.	Capacity & Technology of STP	STP of MBBR Technology with total capacity of 120 KLD will be installed within ML area.												
11.	Mitigation measures for Tiger corridor	Mitigation measure for Tiger Corridor is submitted, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The User agency will take sufficient precautions for the habitation colony and Mineral transportation road to restrict the movement of Tiger in the lease area. 2. Habitat improvement programme to be implemented in the corridor. 3. Restoration of Habitat fragmentation in the corridor. 4. Water & Moisture conservation in the corridor to be implemented. 5. Wildlife habitat improvement to be developed by the Forest department, so that prey density for the Tiger to be maintained in the corridor. 6. Periphery of the corridor to be sealed by the Forest department to avoid the migration of Tiger to the habitation. 7. Massive awareness programmed to be undertaken by the Forest department in the fringe villages for conservation of the corridor. 8. The SSWLCP has been approved by the Chief wild life warden amounting to Rs. 35,48,96,160/- (Rupees Thirty Five Crore Forty eight lakhs ninety six thousand one hundred sixty) vide letter no- 10454 date 25.09.2025. 9. Besides this User agency will contribute @ of Rs.1,32,000 (Rupees One lakh Thirty two thousand) per hectare for the entire lease area of 1196 Ha. (both forest & non-forest area) towards RWLMP (Regional Wildlife Management Plan, which is under preparation by DFO, Angul) which also cover conservation of Tiger corridor. 												
12.	Schedule I species to be mention	There are 29 Schedule I species as per site Specific Wildlife conservation plan approved by PCCF & Chief wildlife warden, Odisha as well as mentioned in the EIA report. The list is submitted.												
13.	Updated Annexure II & Annexure III (agenda documents)	Updated Annexure II & Annexure III are submitted.												
14.	Grazing land details	<p>Details of grazing land for Baitarni West Coal Mine:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Village</th> <th>Total Gauchar land (Ha)</th> <th>Diversion of land under process (Ha)</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chendipada Jungle</td> <td>24.4379</td> <td>18.8838</td> <td>Payment under process</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handigura</td> <td>47.0128</td> <td>46.349</td> <td>Payment completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Village	Total Gauchar land (Ha)	Diversion of land under process (Ha)	Remarks	Chendipada Jungle	24.4379	18.8838	Payment under process	Handigura	47.0128	46.349	Payment completed
Village	Total Gauchar land (Ha)	Diversion of land under process (Ha)	Remarks											
Chendipada Jungle	24.4379	18.8838	Payment under process											
Handigura	47.0128	46.349	Payment completed											

S. No.	Observation	Reply			
		Machakuta	2.6225	2.479	Payment completed
		Machakuta Jungle	8.347	8.347	Payment completed
		Parapoda	10.838	-	-
		Parapoda Jungle	5.5917	0.746	Payment completed
		Tentoloi Kodasha	19.6298	-	-
			118.4797	76.8048	76.8048 Ha of Gauchar land is adequate for mining for 8 years.
15.	CAAQMS installation in buffer	2 no. CAAQMS inside ML area and 2 no. in buffer area will be installed in consultation with Odisha Pollution Control Board.			
16.	Wind Barrier	Wind barrier shall be provided at coal stock yard. Canon, Mist Spray Sprinkling Arrangement, Fixed type Mist spray at Coal stockpile/crusher/ Transfer Points will also be provided. Details are mentioned in EIA.			
17.	Plantation, solar plant & drinking water for schools within 1.0 km	There are 11 schools/college within 1 km of ML area. Three layer plantation shall be done for college/School within ML area till relocation. Thick plantation shall be provided along the boundary of the Schools/Academy outside the ML area in consultation with the concerned authorities. Solar power system & drinking water facility shall be provided to all Schools/Colleges within 1 km of ML area in consultation with the concerned authorities.			
18.	MoC letter for 1196 ha area	The letter from Ministry of Coal confirming the ML area of 1196 ha is submitted.			
19.	Training of ChatGPT & AI in skill development program	Training of ChatGPT & AI will be included in GMDC's skill development program			
20.	Land use to be corrected	Updated land use is submitted.			

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

34.1.17: Committee after deliberations noted the following:

1. The instant proposal is for grant of environment clearance to M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) for Baitarni West Opencast Coal Mine, within an area of 1196 Ha for the production capacity of 15 MTPA, located at villages: Chhendipada, Jangal, Handigora, Machhakuta, Machhakuta Jangal, Porapara Jangal, Tentuloikorasahi; Tehsil: Chhendipada; District: Angul; State: Odisha.
2. The instant proposal is a Greenfield opencast project.
3. The EAC took into consideration the project site through kml file on the Google Earth presented by the project proponent along with DSS of the project site on PARIVESH.
4. Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area/ Severely Polluted Area, as per CEPI Assessment 2018.
5. The project involves total 64.3723 Ha of forestland. Application for the same has been submitted by the PP and Stage – I forest clearance is yet to be obtained. There is no forestland broken till date and the said project does not involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Member Secretary apprised the EAC that, as per OM dated 09/09/2011, after the EAC has recommended the project for environmental clearance, it would be processed on file for obtaining decision of the Competent Authority for grant of environmental clearance. In the cases where the Competent Authority has approved the grant of environmental clearance, the

proponent will be informed of the same and a time limit of 12 months will be given to submit the requisite Stage – I forestry clearance. On receipt of the same, formal EC letter will be issued by the Ministry.

6. The project is not located within 10 KM of any ESZ/ ESA/ national park/ wildlife sanctuary/ biosphere reserve/ tiger reserve/ elephant reserve/ elephant corridor etc. As per the letter dated 25.08.2025, obtained from PCCF, it is informed that no elephant corridor is passing through the Mining Lease boundary of the project. However, there is a tiger corridor at a distance of 4 km from the ML area. Committee deliberated on the mitigation measures proposed to be followed for the said tiger corridor and PP submitted the same. Committee opined that all the mitigation measures shall be diligently followed in a time bound manner.
7. There is presence of several Schedule – I species within the study area. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, vide letter no. 10454/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0004-2025, dated 25.09.2025. A budgetary provision of Rs. 37.26 Crores (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of Odisha) is earmarked for 10 years. Committee opined that the allotted budget shall be deposited with the wildlife division at the earliest.
8. Committee deliberated on the sensitive receptors present within the ML area and within the buffer zone. Committee observed that there are several schools present within the study area and sought the protection measures proposed to be followed for the same and observed that the schools present within the ML area are proposed to be relocated as part of R&R plan. Further, as per the recommendations of the EAC, PP has submitted the protection measures for the schools within the close vicinity of the ML area. PP submitted that three layer thick plantation will be done with the native species around the schools within 1 km from the ML area within 2 years from the date of obtaining the EC by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height.
9. Committee observed that, the mine was earlier allotted to M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted Terms of Reference to Baitarni West Opencast Coal Mine of OMC with production capacity of 15 MTPA in an area of 1196 ha vide its letter with File No. IA-J- 11015/81/2017- IA-II (M) dated 10th November, 2021. Vesting order was issued in favor of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, being successful bidder, vide order NA-104/4/2023-NA, dated 08/06/2023, after auction of the mine, for the purpose of sale of coal including sale to affiliates and related parties, utilization of coal for any purpose including but not limited to captive consumption, coal gasification, coal liquefaction and export of coal.
Accordingly, M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd applied for transfer of Terms of Reference and has submitted the affidavit dated 22nd September, 2023 stating to comply with all the Environmental Safeguards as per the terms and conditions as stipulated in Terms of Reference (ToR) granted on 22.11.2021 to OMC Ltd. MoEF&CC transferred the TOR from M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd to M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., on the same terms and conditions as mentioned in the TOR issued vide file no : IA-J- 11015/81/2017- IA-II(M) dated 06.11.2023.
10. Mining Plan for 15 MTPA (Normative) capacity for Open Cast Mechanized operation was approved by MOC vide letter no SWCS/Baitarni West Coal Mine/OR/AN/2021/CCO-MCBA dt. 10.11.2021 and transferred in the name of GMDC through vesting order NA-104/4/2023-NA, dated 08/06/2023.
11. Method of mining to be adopted shall be opencast method of coal mining by surface miner, pay loader and tipper and OB removal by shovel dumper combination. The gross geological reserves are 662.94 MT and net geological reserves are 602.1106 MT out of which mineable reserves are 485.06 MT and extractable reserves are 468.27 MT. The percentage of extraction is 77.771%.
12. Grade of coal is G-12 and stripping ratio is 1.5278 m³/ tonne. Life of mine is 37 years (including construction period).

13. Committee deliberated on the details of top soil management and observed that, 1 nos of top soil dump is proposed in an area of 2.34 Ha. 1.866 million m³ of top soil is proposed to be generated and the same will be utilized for plantation activity on the backfilled area, external dump and embankment.
14. Committee further deliberated on the over burden generation and observed that, 1 nos. of External OB Dump within an area of 215.84 ha with 90 m height, accommodating 140.25 Mm³ of OB and 1 nos. of internal OB dump in an area of 623.71 Ha with 573.30 Mm³ of OB with a height of up to the ground level are proposed. Both the OB dumps will be reclaimed with plantation by the end of the mine life.
15. Committee deliberated on the method of evacuation of coal proposed for the said project and observed that from in-pit to surface, the coal is proposed to be transported through dumpers and conveyor. From surface to siding the coal is proposed to be transported by conveyor upto a distance of 3 km and from siding to loading the coal will be transported through rapid loading system. PP submitted that out of the total coal production of 15 MTPA, 12 MTPA shall be transported by rail and remaining 3 MTPA will be transported by road up to a distance of 100 km. Committee opined that only 10% of the total coal production (i.e., 1.5 MTPA) shall be allowed to be transported by road.

Apart from this, during the deliberation as per the submissions made by the PP Committee opined that the PP shall, deploy atleast 20 nos of electronic dump trucks for the mining project.

Committee opined that PP shall carryout regular maintenance of the potholes on roads, repair and maintenance of roads, scrapping of material fallen on roads, and removal of scraps from mining areas. Committee also opined that PP shall do intense plantation with the native species on both the side of the coal transportation road within 2 years from the date of obtaining the EC by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height to further control the dust and noise pollution.

Committee deliberated on the baseline data submitted by the PP and observed that, the baseline data has been collected during October to December 2023. The environmental parameters are observed to be within the permissible limits. Committee opined that, PP shall install 4 CAAQMS in the said project, 2 each in the core zone and the buffer zone, in consultation with the concerned SPCB.

16. The water requirement for the said project is observed to be 3620 KLD (1020 KLD for domestic use and 2600 KLD for industrial use). Initially the source of water shall be ground water and later the demand shall be fulfilled by mine inflow water. Application for permission of ground water has been submitted vide application no. MIN/OD/2025/534 dated 09.01.2025.

Committee observed that a small seasonal nallah flowing in the NE direction of the ML area is proposed to be diverted for mining operation in the 10th year of mining operations as per the approved mine plan. Length of diversion will be 2.3 km. Committee opined that, PP shall divert the said nallah with the prior approval of the State Water Resource Department.

Further, Committee opined that the PP shall develop an embankment along the Kumbhira nallah of 3 m height above the HFL level. Greenbelt shall also be developed along the embankment within 3 years from the date of obtaining the EC by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height.

17. Committee deliberated on the public hearing conducted for the said project. The PH action plan submitted also included the CSR activities. Committee sought a rectified PH action plan and PP submitted the same. The total amount proposed to be spent is Rs. 114699.95 Lakhs. Committee opined that the same shall be utilized in the time bound manner.
18. Committee deliberated on the EMP budget submitted by the PP and observed that the capital cost allotted is Rs. 10072.9 Lakhs and recurring cost allotted is Rs. 315.7 Lakhs.
19. Committee deliberated on the plantation plan submitted by the PP and observed that, greenbelt is proposed to be developed in 86.5 Ha area, i.e. 7.23 % of the total ML area. Including the greenbelt,

total 1029.583 Ha area will be covered under plantation. A 5-10 m wide greenbelt, consisting of at least 3 tiers around mine boundary will be developed as greenbelt and green cover within 3 years from the date of obtaining the EC by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height as per CPCB/MoEF&CC, New Delhi guidelines. Local and Native species will be planted with a density of 2500 trees per hectare. Total no. of 25,74,000 saplings will be planted and nurtured in 1029.583 hectares in 40 years by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height. Committee opined that PP shall also focus on community plantation and shall distribute fruit bearing species to the villagers to plant and nurture the same.

20. There are total 7 villages namely Chhendipada Jangal- (Part), Handigora- (Part), Machhakuta - (Part), Machhakuta Jangal- (Part), Porapara- (Part), Porapara Jangal - (Full), Tentuloi-Korasahi- (Part) are going to get affected by proposed project. Total Project Affected Families (PAF) is 2664 Nos and Project Displaced Families (PDF) is 1629 Nos. These displaced families will be resettled and rehabilitated socially, culturally and economically as per the latest R&R policy (2006 & subsequent amendments) of Govt. of Odisha. As on date Socio Economic Survey, Identification of Rehabilitation Site, etc have been completed. R&R cost is Rs. 72794 Lakhs. Committee opined that the R&R plan shall be implemented in a time bound manner and the compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry's concerned RO.
21. PP submitted that the project cost is Rs. 385500 Lakhs.
22. There is no legal issue/violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project.
23. Committee opined that PP shall also install a 3 MW solar power plant within the ML area and the same shall be utilized to meet the power requirements for the said project.
24. The Committee noted that the EIA/EMP report is in compliance of the ToR issued for the project, reflecting the present environmental status and the projected scenario for all the environmental components.
25. The EAC also deliberated on the written submissions of the project proponent and found it satisfactory.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.1.18: In view of the foregoing and after the detailed deliberation, the Committee *recommended* the instant proposal for grant of Environment Clearance **subject to uploading of written submission on PARIVESH Portal** under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 subject to the stipulation of following specific conditions and general conditions based on project specific requirements:

A. Specific Conditions:

1. Project proponent shall submit the Stage –I Forest Clearance (FC) for 64.3723 Ha of forest land under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 prior to grant of Environment Clearance.
2. Total 2664 Nos of Project Affected Families (PAF) and 1629 Nos of Project Displaced Families (PDF) of the villages namely Chhendipada Jangal- (Part), Handigora- (Part), Machhakuta - (Part), Machhakuta Jangal- (Part), Porapara- (Part), Porapara Jangal - (Full), Tentuloi-Korasahi- (Part) are proposed to be rehabilitated and resettled. These displaced families shall be resettled and rehabilitated socially, culturally and economically as per the latest R&R policy (2006 & subsequent amendments) of Govt. of Odisha. Compliance status in this regard shall be submitted to the concerned Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with the six-monthly compliance report.
3. The project proponent shall install a solar power plant of 3 MW within the ML area as

committed.

4. Project proponent shall develop an embankment along the Kumbhira nallah of 3 meters height above the HFL, within 3 years from the date of grant of EC and the embankment shall be strengthened with plantation of native species with the height of saplings of not less than 4 feet.
5. The project proponent shall obtain prior approval of State Water Resource Department for diversion of seasonal nallah flowing in the NE direction of the ML area to the length of 2.3 km only after leaving adequate safety distance from the mining operations, as per the DGMS guidelines. Compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with the six-monthly compliance report.
6. As committed, Project proponent shall establish a 30 bedded hospital at Chhendipada Town, with all the modern facilities and the requirements of the nearby villagers. The hospital shall be established within 5 years from the date of grant of EC.
7. As part of R&R Plan, project proponent shall establish an English medium CBSE School up to 12th Standard at Chhendipada Town, Dist. Angul, Odisha with estimated capital cost of Rs 10.5 Cr, as committed.
8. Project proponent shall install in-pit conveyor system from pit to the surface within 5 years from the date of grant of EC. Thereafter, the entire coal shall be transported only by in-pit conveyor and transportation by dumpers from pit to surface is not permitted.
9. As committed, project proponent shall construct a 2.1 km dedicated coal transportation road up to the MDR. Conveyor belt shall be installed from mine to the railway siding within 5 years from the date of grant of EC to transport the coal. The entire coal shall be transported by rail to the final consumer except 10% (i.e., 1.5 MTPA) of the total coal production shall be allowed to be transported by road to the local consumers.
10. Project proponent shall deploy at least 20 electronic dumpers for the coal transportation in the said project as committed.
11. Project proponent shall carryout regular maintenance of the potholes on roads, repair and maintenance of roads, scrapping of material fallen on roads, and removal of scraps from mining areas. Committee also opined that PP shall do intense plantation with the native species on both the side of the coal transportation road within 2 years from the date of obtaining the EC by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height to further control the dust and noise pollution.
12. Project proponent shall carryout plantation by the saplings of not less than 4 feet height in total 1029.583 Ha of the ML area in the 40 years. The plantation shall be carried out in the following the manner, as committed:

Timeline	Plantation Area (Ha)	Budget in Lakhs
Upto 3 rd Year	8.09	40.45
4-5 th Year	19.75	98.75
6-10 th Year	36.32	181.60
11-15 th Year	95.09	475.45
16-20 th Year	32.97	164.85
21-25 th Year	113.23	566.15
26-30 th Year	22.9	114.50
31-35 th Year	107.73	538.65
36-37 th Year	137.97	689.85
38-40 th year	455.233	2276.16

Timeline	Plantation Area (Ha)	Budget in Lakhs
Total	1029.583	5146.41

A 5-10 m wide greenbelt, consisting of at least 3 tiers around mine boundary will be developed as greenbelt and green cover within 2 years from the date of obtaining the EC by planting the saplings of not less than 4 feet height as per CPCB/ MoEF&CC, New Delhi guidelines. Local and Native species will be planted with a density of 2500 trees per hectare. Apart from this, PP shall also carryout community plantation and shall distribute 50,000 plant saplings mostly fruit bearing species to the villagers to plant and nurture the same with incentive till the life of mine. Compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office along with the six-monthly compliance report.

13. Project Proponent shall install 4 number of CAAQMS, 2 each in the core zone and the buffer zone, in consultation with the Odisha Pollution Control Board as committed.
14. The proposed budget of Rs. 110603.95 Lakhs for PH action plan shall be kept in a separate account and audited annually. Project proponent shall implement the action plan to address the issues raised during public hearing within a time frame of 3 years from the date of grant of EC. PP shall submit the progress report regarding the implementation of action plan to concerned RO along with the six-monthly compliance report.
15. Project proponent shall implement the protective measure proposed in Environment Management Plan (EMP) in a time-bound manner. The budget earmarked for the same is Rs. 10072.9 lakhs (Capital) and Rs. 315.7 Lakhs (recurring) and should be kept in separate accounts and audited annually. The implementation status along with the amount spent with documentary proof shall be submitted to the concerned Regional Office for the activities carried out during the previous year.
16. Project proponent shall relocate the Government Primary School, Khuntanali & School at Handigoda as part of R&R Plan and in consultation with the District Administrative Department.
17. Project proponent shall carryout thick plantation with the saplings of native species of not less than 4 feet height around the schools within 1 km from the ML area of the said project, within 2 years from date of grant of EC. Transportation of coal from the roads passing through these schools shall be avoided and dust mitigation measures shall be undertaken on the roads passing through these schools. Apart from this, solar lights and drinking water facilities shall also be provided in the schools and colleges within 1 km of the ML area. Compliance in this regard shall be submitted to the concerned RO along with the six-monthly compliance report.
18. As part of skill development program, PP shall also introduce training in artificial intelligence tools.
19. Project proponent shall install wind barriers at the coal stock yard. Canon, Mist Spray Sprinkling Arrangement, Fixed type Mist spray at Coal stockpile/crusher/ Transfer Points shall also be provided, as committed.
20. Project proponent shall make the arrangements of the alternate grazing land in place of 118.8397 Ha of grazing land involved in the said project, as per the rules of the State Government.
21. Project proponent shall deposit the budgetary provision of Rs. 37.26 Crores (Including 5% of the total financial outlay of the SSWCP to be deposited in Wildlife Society of

Odisha), with concerned wildlife division.

22. Project proponent shall carryout the following mitigation measures towards the protection of the tiger corridor.
- a) Sufficient precautions shall be taken for the habitation colony and Mineral transportation road to restrict the movement of Tiger in the lease area.
 - b) Habitat improvement programme shall be implemented in the corridor.
 - c) Restoration of Habitat fragmentation in the corridor shall be done.
 - d) Water & Moisture conservation in the corridor shall be implemented.
 - e) Wildlife habitat improvement shall be developed by the Forest department, so that prey density for the Tiger shall be maintained in the corridor.
 - f) Periphery of the corridor shall be sealed by the Forest department to avoid the migration of Tiger to the habitation.
 - g) Massive awareness programmed shall be undertaken by the Forest department in the fridge villages for conservation of the corridor.
 - h) The SSWLCP has been approved by the Chief wild life warden amounting to Rs. 35,48,96,160/- vide letter no- 10454 date 25.09.2025. The same shall be implemented in a time bound manner.
 - i) Besides this User agency shall contribute an amount of Rs.1,32,000 (Rupees One lakh Thirty two thousand) per hectare for the entire lease area of 1196 Ha. (both forest & non-forest area) towards RWLMP (Regional Wildlife Management Plan, which is under preparation by DFO, Angul) which also cover conservation of Tiger corridor.
23. PP shall make use of advanced computer simulation techniques for design and execution of blasting operation in the mine. PP shall make use of Electronic Delay Detonators for optimal blasting in coal and OB rock to minimize the environmental impacts of blasting such as ground vibration, fly rocks and excessive dust generation.
24. PP shall create a “Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System” for resolving any issues related to the pollution of mines and complaint has to resolve as soon as possible not beyond 30 days. In this regard, adequate awareness to be spread among the public to address their grievance to company with simple and easy manner and for which company needs to devise the mechanism. The same shall be reported to IRO within 3 months. A logbook to be maintained by PP on “Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System.
25. Third-party audit (by NEERI/CIMFR/IIT/NITs) for air & water quality shall be carried out annually to keep a check on the same. PP shall implement the recommendations of the audit and submit the outcome of the audit to the concerned RO of MoEF&CC.
26. The status of mine closure activities must be included in every six months compliance report submitted to the state pollution control board and RO of MoEF&CC.
27. Hon’ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8th January, 2020 has directed the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the

land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. Compliance of this condition after the mining activity is over at the cost of the mining lease holders/Project Proponent". The implementation report of the above said condition shall be sent to the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.

28. PP should establish in house (at project site) environment laboratory for measurement of environment parameter with respect to air quality and water (surface and ground. A dedicated team to oversee environment management shall be setup which should comprise of Environment Engineers, Laboratory chemist and staff for monitoring of air, water quality parameters on routine basis. Any non- compliance or infringement should be reported to the concerned authority.
29. PP shall ensure that all types of plastic waste generated from the plant shall be stored separately in isolated area and disposed of strictly adhering to the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 (as amended). In pursuant to the Ministry's OM dated 18/07/2022. PP shall also create awareness among the people working in the project area as well as in its surrounding area on the ban on Single Use Plastic (SUP) in order to ensure compliance of Ministry's Notification published by the Ministry on 12/08/2021. A report along with photograph on the measures taken shall also be included in the six-monthly compliance report being submitted by PP.
30. Water shed/Natural drainage shall be carefully managed so that flow of water should go down side in the main streams/nallah.
31. PP shall carry out Occupational Health study by the Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) to aware the employees, preventing injury, and reducing the health issues in the workplace. All the recommendations of the study shall be complied by the proponent and project for next phase of expansion shall be submitted only after the compliance of the same.
32. Project proponent is advised to implement the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign which was launched on 5th June 2024 on the occasion of the World Environment Day to increase the forest cover across the Country. This plantation drive is other than Greenbelt development. The action in this regard shall be submitted concerned RO in six monthly compliance report.

A. Standard Conditions:

1. Statutory Conditions:

- i. The Environmental clearance shall be subject to orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Courts, NGT and any other Court of Law, from time to time, and as applicable to the project.
- ii. The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.
- iii. Solid/hazardous waste generated in the mines needs to addressed in accordance to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016/ Hazardous & Other Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- iv. The maximum production or peak production at any given time shall not exceed the limit as prescribed in the EC.
- v. Validity of EC is as per life of the mine mentioned in EC letter or 30 years as per EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments therein.

2. Air Quality Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

- i. Project proponent shall obtain requisite consent from State Pollution Control Board for 15 MTPA coal mining.
- ii. Adequate ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for monitoring of pollutants, namely particulates, SO₂ and NO_x. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive receptors in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- iii. The Ambient Air Quality monitoring in the core zone shall be carried out to ensure the Coal Industry Standards notified vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25th September 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Data on ambient air quality and heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr and other monitoring data shall be regularly reported to the Ministry/Regional Office and to the CPCB/SPCB.
- iv. Effective control measures such as regular water sprinkling/rain gun/ Fog cannon /mist sprinkling etc., shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution with higher level of particulate matter all through the coal transport roads, loading/unloading and transfer points. Fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be controlled regularly. It shall be ensured that the ambient air quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central/State Pollution Control Board.
- v. Major approach roads shall be black topped and properly maintained.
- vi. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. All the vehicles engaged in mining and allied activities shall operate only after obtaining 'PUC' certificate from the authorized pollution testing centres.
- vii. PP should Install Wind breaker/shield arrangement along the railway siding for reducing the dust propagation in upwind direction.

3. Water Quality Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

- i. PP shall take approval from the CGWA/ Competent Authority prior to commencement of mining operations.
- ii. The effluent discharge (mine waste water, workshop effluent) shall be monitored in terms of the parameters notified under the Water Act, 1974 Coal Industry Standards vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25th September 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- iii. The monitoring data shall be uploaded on the company's website and displayed at the project site at a suitable location. The circular No.J-20012/1/2006-IA.11 (M) dated 27th May 2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- iv. Garland drains (of suitable size, gradient and length) around the critical areas i.e. mine shaft and low lying areas, shall be designed keeping at least 50% safety margin over and above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine sites. The sump capacity shall also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material of the surface runoff
- v. The water pumped out from the mine, after siltation, shall be utilized for industrial purpose viz. watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly
- vi. Industrial wastewater from coal handling plant and mine water shall be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made thereunder, and as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of workshop effluent. Sewage treatment plant of adequate capacity shall be installed for treatment of domestic wastewater.

- vii. Industrial effluent and domestic wastewater shall be treated in the Effluent treatment Plant (ETP) and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). After treatment, treated water shall be reused for plantation.

4. Noise and Vibration Monitoring and Prevention

- i. Adequate measures shall be taken for control of noise levels as per Noise Pollution Rules, 2016 in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc shall be provided with personal protective equipments (PPE) like ear plugs/muffs in conformity with the prescribed norms and guidelines in this regard. Adequate awareness programme for users to be conducted. Progress in usage of such accessories to be monitored.
- ii. The noise level survey shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines to assess noise exposure of the workmen at vulnerable points in the mine premises, and report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry/RO on six-monthly basis.

5. Mining Plan

- i. Project proponent shall obtain star rating as per the guidelines of Ministry of Coal.
- ii. Mining shall be carried out under strict adherence to provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and subordinate legislations made there-under as applicable.
- iii. No change in mining method, calendar programme and scope of work shall be made without obtaining prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- iv. Mining shall be carried out as per the approved mining plan (including Mine Closure Plan) abiding by mining laws related to coal mining and the relevant circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS).
- v. Efforts should be made to reduce energy and fuel consumption by conservation, efficiency improvements and use of renewable energy.

6. Land Reclamation

- i. Digital Survey of entire lease hold area/core zone using Satellite Remote Sensing survey shall be carried out at least once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report in 1:50,000 scale or as notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) from time to time shall be submitted to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
- ii. The final mine void depth should preferably be as per the approved Mine Closure Plan, and in case it exceeds 40 m, adequate engineering interventions shall be provided for sustenance of aquatic life therein. The remaining area shall be backfilled and covered with thick and alive top soil. Post-mining land be rendered usable for agricultural/forestry purposes and shall be diverted. Further action will be treated as specified in the guidelines for Preparation of Mine Closure Plan issued by the Ministry of Coal dated 27th August, 2009 and subsequent amendments.
- iii. The entire excavated area, backfilling, external OB dumping (including top soil) and afforestation plan shall be in conformity with the “during mining”/“post mining” land-use pattern, which is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan and the EIA/EMP submitted to this Ministry. Progressive compliance status vis-a-vis the post mining land use pattern shall be submitted to the MOEFCC/RO.
- iv. Further, it may be ensured that as per the time schedule specified in mine closure plan it should remain live till the point of utilization. The topsoil shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and shall not be kept unutilized. The top soil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purposes. Active OB dumps shall be stabilized with native grass species to prevent erosion and surface run off. The other overburden dumps shall be vegetated with native flora species. The excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested in line with the approved Mine Closure Plan. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the

vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Regional Office.

- v. The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.

7. Public Hearing and Human Health Issues:

- i. Adequate illumination shall be ensured in all mine locations (as per DGMS standards) and monitored.
- ii. The project proponent shall undertake occupational health survey for initial and periodical medical examination of the personnel engaged in the project and maintain records accordingly as per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955 and DGMS circulars. Besides regular periodic health check-up, 20% of the personnel identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check-up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, as amended time to time
- iii. Personnel (including outsourced employees) working in core zone shall wear protective respiratory devices and shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- iv. Skill training as per safety norms specified by DGMS shall be provided to all workmen including the outsourcing employees to ensure high safety standards in mines.
- v. Effective arrangement shall be made to provide and maintain at suitable points conveniently situated, a sufficient supply of drinking water for all the persons employed.
- vi. The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29th October, 2014, titled 'Impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining projects wherein habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area'.

8. Corporate Environment Responsibility:

- i. The company shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors. The environmental policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions. The company shall have defined system of reporting infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions and/or shareholders/stake holders
- ii. A separate Environmental Cell both at the project and company head quarter level, with qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of senior Executive, who will directly to the head of the organization.

9. Miscellaneous:

- i. The project proponent shall make public the environmental clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safeguards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days and in addition this shall also be displayed in the project proponent's website permanently.
- ii. The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- iii. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment

- clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
- iv. The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at environment clearance portal.
 - v. The project proponent shall submit the environmental statement for each financial year in Form V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and put on the website of the company.
 - vi. The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the MOEFCC regarding commencement of mining operations.
 - vii. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.
 - viii. The project proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report, commitment made during Public Hearing and also that during their presentation to the Expert Appraisal Committee.
 - ix. No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
 - x. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - xi. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
 - xii. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.
 - xiii. The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports
 - xiv. The above conditions shall be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

Agenda No. 34.2:

34.2: Ketki Expansion Underground Mine (ML area: 548.65 Ha with increase in production capacity from 0.42 MTPA to 0.87 MTPA) by **M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited**, located at village: Ketka; Tehsil: Surajpur; **District: Surguja; State: Chhattisgarh – Amendment in Terms of Reference – reg.**

[Online Proposal no. IA/CG/CMIN/553085/2025; Srushti Seva Pvt. Ltd - NABET/EIA/25-28/RA 0423 valid till 12.05.2028]

34.2.1: M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited has made an online application vide proposal no-IA/CG/CMIN/553085/2025, dated 06.10.2025, for seeking amendment in TOR granted vide Letter no. J-11015/535/2007-IA.II(M) dated 02.07.2025 for Ketki Expansion Underground Mine (ML area: 548.65 Ha with increase in production capacity from 0.42 MTPA to 0.87 MTPA), located at village: Ketka; Tehsil: Surajpur; District: Surguja; State: Chhattisgarh.

The instant proposal has been submitted to seek amendment in ToR, requesting to exempt the condition pertaining to conduct the public hearing.

Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:

34.2.2: Details of previous approvals:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/Expansion EC/Amendment in EC/Validity extension/Transfer of EC	Capacity (MTPA)	Area (ha)	Date of Issuance	Status of Implementation.
1	J-11015/535/2007-IA.II(M) dated 15/04/2009	Environment Clearance under EIA Notification 1994	0.42	548.65	15.04.2009	Being implemented

W.r.t the previous approvals, PP submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine and submitted that the mine became operational from 10.01.2023 onwards. Details of the same are as follows:

Year	Actual Coal Production in MTPA	Planned Coal production in MTPA as per Environmental Clearance	Excess production
2023-24	0.028	0.42	NIL
2024-25	0.125	0.42	NIL

Details of ToR obtained:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	TOR/ Expansion TOR/ Amendment in TOR/ Validity extension/ Transfer of TOR	Capacity (MTPA)	Area (Ha)	Date of issuance	Present status
1.	(i) TOR Identification No: TO24A0102CG5312564N File No: J-11015/535/2007-IA.II(M) dated 02.07.2025	TOR Amendment for specific conditions No. 1.1 & 1.2	0.87	548.65	02.07.25	Public hearing to be conducted

34.2.3: The details of the condition/ para for which amendment is sought and justification for the same is as follows:

Specific/ General Condition No.	Details of Conditions as per TOR	Amendment Sought	Justification
Specific ToR 1.1	Project proponent shall prepare the EIA-EMP report and thereafter conduct the Public Consultation, including public hearing, through concerned SPCB in the Surguja District as per the provisions/ procedure contained in the EIA Notification, 2006.	Exemption from conduct of Public Consultation, including public hearing.	The Ketki UG project is an operational mine with EC dated 15/04/2009 for a production capacity of 0.42 MTPA in a ML area of 548.65 ha. Now it is being proposed to
Specific ToR 1.2	Project Proponent shall submit the detailed activities proposed with year-wise budgetary provisions (Capital and recurring) as per the Ministry's OM dated 30.09.2020, to address	Since Exemption from conduct of Public Consultation, including public hearing, is being	enhance the production capacity only from the existing level of 0.42 MTPA to 0.87 MTPA

Specific/ General Condition No.	Details of Conditions as per TOR	Amendment Sought	Justification
	the concerns raised during the Public consultation including the public hearing. Activities proposed shall be part of the EMP. PP shall also carry out Occupational health survey in the study area and the same shall be included in the EIA/ EMP report.	sought as such this condition may be revoked.	without any change in ML area as well as method of work. A summarized comparison table is placed below for the existing project vis-a-vis the proposed expansion project :-

S. No.	Item	Existing Project	Proposed Expansion Project	Remarks
1	Name	Ketki UG	Ketki UG Expn.	Expansion
2	Capacity	0.42 MTPA	0.87 MTPA	Increase in production capacity
3	ML Area	548.65 ha	548.65 ha	No Change
4	Depth of Working	No Change		
5	No. of Workable seams	No Change		
6	Method of Work	Bord & Pillar with Caving	Bord & Pillar with Caving	No Change
7	Mechanization	Continuous Miner	Continuous Miner	No Change
8	Infrastructure	No Change		
9	LUP	No Change		
10	Coal Evacuation	By Road to Railway Siding	By Road to Railway Siding (There will be addition transport load)	No Change. However, the additional impact will be effectively controlled in the project so that the levels will remain within the permissible limits.
11	Crushing	Nil	Nil	No Change
12	Ambient Air Pollution	There will be increase in pollution level due to addition coal handling, but the additional impact will be effectively controlled in the project so that the levels will remain within the permissible limits.		
13	Surface Water Pollution	There will be no additional load, the existing system will continue to be operated and maintained. If need arises, necessary augmentation measures will be undertaken.		
14	Impact on Ground Water	There will be no change in the Mine take area, depth of working as such there will not be any additional impact during the implementation of the proposed expansion project.		
15	Ambient Noise Pollution	There will be increase in ambient noise level due to addition coal handling, but the additional impact will be effectively controlled in the project so that the levels will remain within the permissible limits.		
16	R& R	No Change		

From the above it is seen that except the production capacity, there is no change in the project parameters. The increase in production capacity will lead to additional coal handling only resulting into likely increase in the ambient air and noise level which will be effectively controlled as per the measures to be detailed out in the EIA/EMP and will be appropriately monitored during the entire life of operation of the mine.

In this context, it is hereby mentioned here that –

- A Public Hearing was already conducted on 24.02.2006 for the original project.
- All issues raised in the Public Hearing have been addressed, and an Action Taken Report (ATR) has been submitted, demonstrating compliance is as follows:

S. No.	Main issues raised	Action taken by Project Proponent as on date
1.	The polluted water generated from workshop from the proposed mine shall be treated as per the prescribed standards and subsequently utilized for plantation irrigation, dust suppression in mine-affected areas, and other related purposes." The mine discharge water, after proper treatment, shall be supplied to the nearby villages."	There is no workshop for washing HEMM and therefore there is no discharge of polluted water from workshop. However, the mine discharge pumped out from underground is initially settled in underground sumps and further settled in settling tanks on the surface before discharge of water into nearby Jobga Nallah which is utilized round the year by local villagers for irrigation purposes. The mine discharge water, after proper treatment in settling tank is used for dust suppression within the mine boundary using fixed sprinklers and on coal transportation route through mobile water tanker. Geotagged photographs (Irrigation photographs, fixed sprinklers, mobile water tanker, settling tank) are submitted.
2.	"Plantation in the surrounding areas shall be carried out on an ecological basis with the participation of the local villagers." This shall include plantation of local/native species."	The mine is surrounded with natural dense forest on two sides and agriculture land on the other side. However, 200 no's of plantation has been done around the mine office premises and around coal stockyard within the existing land possessed and RGK colony. However due to constraints in availability of land during the development phase of the mine, greenbelt development will be taken up during the depillaring phase of the mine. Plantation of native species are being carried out on an ecological basis in nearby areas by SECL, Bishrampur area through CGRVVN. Till date 4794618 no. of plantation has been done in Bishrampur Area.
3.	The colony roads within the proposed mine area shall be paved, and dense plantation shall be carried out along the roadsides.	All roads to the colony have been paved and plantation have also being carried out along the road. Geotagged photographs (black topped road and colony plantation) are submitted.
4.	Under community development, the mine shall, to the extent possible, facilitate the provision of electricity, water, education, and healthcare facilities in the nearby rural areas.	<u>Electricity:</u> Under community development CSR works, solar streetlights in habitation areas and high mast lights in market areas have been provided in the nearby villages for lighting. <u>Water:</u> The mine discharge water, after proper treatment in settling tank, supplied for irrigation purposes in mine-affected areas. <u>Education:</u> Strengthening infrastructure like providing seating benches for students in classroom, providing smart boards for smart classrooms, strengthening school building and boundary in local schools, apart from this drinking water facility in the school has been provided and school bus for commutation from and to the schools has been provided. <u>Healthcare:</u> Regular health camps for free checkups and distribution of basic medicines have been done at regular interval. Geotagged photographs are submitted.
5.	The level of noise pollution shall be maintained as per the prescribed standards.	The level of noise has been maintained as per the prescribed standards.

S. No.	Main issues raised	Action taken by Project Proponent as on date
		Monitoring report is submitted.
6.	The existing trees within the proposed mine premises shall not be cut.	The existing trees within the mine premises have not been cut as the project is an underground mine. Only an area of 5.30 ha out of 548.65 ha mine lease area has been utilized for setting up mine infrastructure and office built up area.
7	As far as possible, one member from each family of the landholders whose land/ livelihood has been acquired, including joint account holders, shall be provided employment or compensation as per government regulations.	Compensation has been provided as per the CIL R&R policy. Currently mine is in development stage. However, once depillaring stage starts, compensation will be provided to qualified landholders as per provisions of CIL R&R policy.
8	A laboratory shall be established in the proposed mine for the measurement of environmental parameters. Ambient air quality monitoring shall be carried out in all four directions of the mining area, and the reports shall be submitted to CECB Ambikapur, and to the Headquarters at Raipur. Furthermore, necessary equipment such as HVS and RDS for ambient air monitoring and DB meters for noise monitoring shall be made available with the industry.	A spot analysis laboratory has been established at Bishrampur Area for measurement of environmental parameters. Ambient air quality monitoring is being carried out in all four directions of the mining area, and the reports has been regularly submitted to CECB RO Ambikapur, and to the Headquarters at Raipur (Monitoring report is submitted). Furthermore, necessary equipment's have been deployed for ambient air quality monitoring and for noise monitoring. Geotagged photographs are submitted.
9	A Domestic Effluent Treatment Plant (DETP) shall be constructed for the treatment of domestic wastewater, and the residential colony shall be established at a distance of about five kilometers from the mine, in the direction opposite to the prevailing wind flow.	STP of 200 KLD capacity has been constructed for treatment of domestic wastewater. Residential colony has also been established at Rehar-Gayatri-Ketki (RGK) Sub Area which is at distance of about approx. 5 km. Geotagged photographs are submitted.
10	Blasting shall be carried out in a controlled manner as per the standards prescribed by DGMS.	Continuous miner package, a blasting- free and eco-friendly technology has been deployed inside the mine for coal extraction. Geotagged photographs are submitted.
11	Rainwater harvesting techniques shall be adopted.	Rainwater harvesting structure has been constructed inside the mine premises. Geotagged photographs are submitted.
12	Officials and employees working in the mines shall be provided with LPG gas for domestic use in place of coal.	Employees working in the mine have been provided with LPG gas for domestic use in place of coal. Salary slip of workers are submitted.
13	Workers working in dust-affected areas of the proposed mine shall be provided with dust filters or masks.	Workers working in dust-affected areas of the mine have been provided with dust masks.
14	Officials and employees working in the mines shall be provided with treated water, conforming to prescribed standards, for domestic use.	Officials and employees working in the mines have been provided with treated water, conforming to prescribed standards, for domestic use.
15	Fixed sprinklers shall be installed along the roads of the proposed mine to control fugitive emissions.	Fixed sprinklers have been installed along the roads of the mine to control fugitive emissions. Geotagged photographs are submitted.
16	Prior to commencing mining operations, necessary consents/NOCs shall be obtained from the Forest Department, concerned Panchayats, and Revenue Department.	Prior to commencing mining operations, necessary consents/NOCs have been obtained from the Forest Department, concerned Panchayats, and Revenue Department. Copy of FC stage-II and Gram panchayat NOC are submitted.
17	While transporting coal by trucks, the truck loads shall be covered with tarpaulin, and overloading shall be strictly avoided.	Coal transportation has been done through trucks covered with tarpaulin sheets. And proper SOP of CECB for covering of trucks is being followed. Geotagged photographs are submitted.

- **Further, additional pollution control measures are proposed to be taken up in the project and a budget of Rs. 683.46 lakhs has been allocated exclusively for pollution control measures. Details are as follows:**

1. Air Quality Management

Following air pollution control measures are and will be practiced within the mining area.

- Water spraying is being done regularly on approach roads within the mining area to minimise the dust generation.
- Water sprinkling arrangement has been provided at the transfer point of coal.
- Coal transportation to railway siding will be done in covered trucks.
- Regular monitoring of ambient air quality of project area.
- Regular cleaning of coal transport network to remove the spilled-up coal.

2. Water Quality Management

(a) Management of surface water drainage:

- Garland drains are made around the periphery of the mine.
- These drains are connected to the natural nalla(s), which will not be disturbed by mining operation. In the belowground workings, pumps are deployed which deliver water into settling tanks at the surface. Thereafter the accumulated water is discharged into these garland drains.

(b) Mine Water Discharge:

- The mine water discharge needs treatment before discharge to the surface water drainage. The collected water at the floor of mine sump will be pumped to the settling tank where suspended solids will get settled. The clear water after sedimentation will be re-used for water sprinkling, plantation, mining operations, etc.

(c) Domestic Effluent Treatment:

- Domestic effluent is to be treated in Sewage Treatment Plant for the Colony and conventional Soak-Pit system for Service Buildings.

(d) Oil & Grease Trap:

- Oil and grease trap is being provided in the workshop to check the oil and grease generated in the workshop during maintenance of the Continuous Miner and other machinery.

(e) Water Conservation:

- The recycled water will be used for dust suppression, green belt development purposes and firefighting etc.

(f) Water Quality Monitoring:

- For compliance of the statutory provision of MoEFCC and Pollution Control Board, water quality is being monitored and evaluated as per the prevailing norms. The corrective measures will be taken based on monitoring results.

(i) Water quality monitoring

- At present, water quality monitoring is being done in locations selected in the core and buffer zone of the project covering mine effluent, and ground water of the area.

3. Noise Management

The present noise levels are below the prescribed limits. If the impulsive noise levels increase due to mining operation, suitable measures will be adopted to maintain the noise level within permissible limits at working zone. The following measures are adopted and will be continued:

- Planting of rows of trees with thick foliage along roads and other noise generating centres to act as acoustic barriers.
- Isolating/enclosing the noisy machines/sources by using resilient mounting/altering structures.
- Routine maintenance schedules for machineries & equipment to eliminate noise as far as possible.
- Balanced and properly aligned conditioning of machines to reduce vibration.
- Provision of ear muffs / ear plugs to workers subjected to noise level above recommended limits.

Regular monitoring of noise level of project area.

- Since the present proposal involves no change in land requirement, no new R&R issues, and no change in mining method, only a marginal increase in production capacity, the need for a fresh Public Hearing may be exempted.

34.2.4: Details of Court Cases: PP reported that there is no legal issue/violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project.

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

34.2.5: Committee after deliberations noted the following:

1. MoEF&CC originally granted EC to M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited for Ketki Underground Mine for the production capacity of 0.42 MTPA within the ML area of 548.65 Ha as per the provisions of the EIA Notification 1994.
2. Later PP submitted an application for according ToR for the said project for expanded capacity from 0.42 MTPA to 0.87 MTPA and the same was accorded by the Ministry vide letter dated 02.07.2025.
3. PP submitted the instant application for seeking amendment in ToR accorded vide letter dated 02.07.2025 with the request to exempt the public hearing in the instant proposal.
4. PP submitted that the Ketki UG project is an operational mine with EC dated 15/04/2009 for a production capacity of 0.42 MTPA in a ML area of 548.65 ha. Now it is being proposed to enhance the production capacity only from the existing level of 0.42 MTPA to 0.87 MTPA without any change in ML area as well as method of work. PP also submitted a comparative table of the ongoing project and the expansion project, wherein, the only major difference was observed in the level of air and noise pollution due to increased production. PP submitted the mitigation measures to be followed for the same.
5. However, the Committee observed that the original EC was granted vide letter no. J-11015/535/2007-IA.II(M), dated 15.04.2009. Public hearing for the said EC was held on 24.02.2006 as per the procedures stated in EIA Notification dated 27.01.1994. The

project has not gone through the public hearing, as per the procedure prescribed in the EIA Notification 2006 till date.

Hence, EAC is of the view that the PP has to go through the public hearing process as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.2.6: In view of the foregoing and after detailed deliberations, the EAC *returned the proposal in its present form.*

Agenda 34.3

34.3: Gurha West Lignite Mine Project (having production capacity of 1 MTPA within the ML area of 1565.77 Ha), by **M/s Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd**, located at villages: Bithnok, Gura, Lakhasar, Khudi, Saliya; **District: Bikaner; State: Rajasthan – Prescribing of Terms of Reference – reg.**

[Online Proposal no. IA/RJ/CMIN/541920/2025; Consultant: EQMS Global Private Ltd. NABET/EIA/2225/RA 0303, valid up to 23.11.2025]

34.3.1: M/s. Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited has made an application online vide proposal no. IA/RJ/CMIN/541920/2025 dated 04/08/2025 along with the application in prescribed format (CAF & Form-I), copy of pre-feasibility report and proposed ToRs for undertaking detailed EIA study as per the EIA Notification, 2006 for the project mentioned above. The proposed project activity is listed at Item. No. 1(a) Mining of minerals Under Category “A” of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 and being appraised at Central Level. The project does not attracts General Condition.

The instant project of M/s Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd is for Gurha West Lignite Mine Project (having production capacity of 1 MTPA within the ML area of 1565.77 Ha), located at villages: Bithnok, Gura, Lakhasar, Khudi, Saliya; District: Bikaner; State: Rajasthan.

34.3.2: The Committee noted the following from the proposal submitted by the project proponent:

1. The instant proposal is for grant of ToR to M/s Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd is for Gurha West Lignite Mine Project (having production capacity of 1 MTPA within the ML area of 1565.77 Ha), located at villages: Bithnok, Gura, Lakhasar, Khudi, Saliya; District: Bikaner; State: Rajasthan.
2. It is a Greenfield project for Lignite Mining.
3. Committee observed that earlier the ToR was granted vide letter no. J-11015/335/2009-IA.II(M), dated 13.08.2010 and application for EC was considered in the 12th EAC meeting held on 27-28.02.2014. The proposal was deferred for want of additional information, out of which one point was mining plan and mine closure plan approved by the Ministry of Coal.

The mining plan and the mine closure plan got approved by the Ministry of Coal vide letter dated 23.06.2022. However, in the meantime, the ToR got lapsed and now the PP has submitted a fresh application for ToR by initiating the entire process de-novo.

4. During the deliberation the Committee observed that the said project is interlinked with a power plant which is proposed to be located within the ML area. However the said power plant is reportedly do not belong to M/s Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd.

It belongs to a different entity namely, M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. The same is envisaged in the Mining plan as well.

5. In the application and the documents submitted by the PP it is mentioned that the lignite will only be sent to the pit head power plant of M/s RVUNL and not to any other user. However, in the Chapter – 3 of pre-feasibility report, it is mentioned that, the Lignite from this mine is not for captive use; however, as per Block allocation condition of MoC, it has been planned that the lignite from this Block shall be used to feed lignite produced from this mine to 70 MW Pit Head Power Plant being sponsored by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RVUNL).
6. Committee also observed that in the application submitted on Parivesh Portal, PP has submitted that it is an interlinked project. Committee opined that, assuming the project to be interlinked with the power plant, even if the ToR is granted, a common EIA Report shall be prepared as per the Ministry's OM dated 24.12.2010 and accordingly a common public hearing has to be conducted.
For doing so, application for ToR shall be simultaneously processed by the respective Sectoral Expert Appraisal Committees. However, no application of ToR for the power plant has been received by the Ministry yet. As per the Ministry's OM dated 24.12.2010, interlinked project has to be processed simultaneously.
7. ***But since, both the entities of the lignite mine and the pit head power plant are different, a common EIA and a common public hearing cannot take place, as per the provisions of the Ministry's OM dated 24.12.2010. Therefore, the PP is advised to revisit the application and accordingly submit a fresh application along with the other relevant documents by envisaging the required changes in the said project.***
8. During the deliberation the committee also observed that the PP and the consultant were having difference in opinion with respect to the interlinking of the lignite mining and TPP project. Committee opined that such discussions shall be held between the PP and the consultant before the scoping process and both should be on the same grounds.
9. There were certain other observations made by the Committee, which are as follows:
 - i. PP submitted that water to be used for vehicle washing is proposed to be 5000 liters per day. Committee opined that PP shall submit a plan on water optimization plan for the water consumption.
 - ii. Committee during the deliberation observed that, in the presentation presented, it was mentioned that septic tank and soak pits are proposed to be installed. However during the deliberation, PP submitted that no septic tank is proposed in the instant project.
 - iii. During the deliberation the Committee observed that only diesel operated equipments are proposed to be used in the said project. Hence, the power requirement is stated to be low. Committee opined that PP shall submit an action plan for reducing the diesel requirement in the said project.
 - iv. Committee observed that baseline data is yet to be collected. However, PP did not even submitted the prevailing wind rose diagrams and locations for baseline data collections. The same is required to be submitted.
 - v. During the deliberation, no clarity was given on the lignite evacuation method and route from the said project. Complete lignite evacuation route (from in-pit to final consumer) is required to be submitted.
 - vi. During the deliberation Committee observed in the presentation that plantation over the OB dumps is proposed to be carried out in progressive manner. However, in the post – mining land use pattern, PP submitted that OB dumps are proposed to be re-handled and backfilled and plantation in proposed to be carried out. Discrepancies are observed in the information submitted.

10. Committee opined that PP shall revisit the entire proposal in totality including the above mentioned observations. Thereafter, appropriate changes in all the requisite documents such as common application form, pre-feasibility report and the presentation etc. shall be carried out and the proposal shall be submitted afresh for fresh consideration by the EAC.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.3.3: In view of the foregoing and after detailed deliberations, the EAC *returned the proposal in its present form.*

Agenda 34.4

34.4: Cluster XVII including Kalyaneshwari Opencast Coal Mining Project (having production capacity of 4 MTPA within the ML area of 1397.18 Ha), by **M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited**, located at **District: Burdwan; State: West Bengal – Amendment in Environment Clearance – reg.**

[Online Proposal no. IA/WB/CMIN/553455/2025; Consultant: CMPDIL: NABET/EIA/25-28/RA 0412 valid till 08/04/2028]

34.4.1: M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited has made an online application vide proposal no. IA/JH/CMIN/553455/2025 dated 29.09.2025 for amendment in Environment Clearance granted vide letter no. 11015/373/2013-IA.II(M) dated 01.02.2021 for Cluster XVII including Kalyaneshwari Opencast Coal Mining Project (having production capacity of 4 MTPA within the ML area of 1397.18 Ha), located at District: Burdwan; State: West Bengal.

34.4.2: Details of all the prior ECs including the EC for which amendment is sought:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/Expansion EC/Amendment in EC/Validity extension/Transfer of EC	Date	Capacity (MTPA)	Area
1	J-11015/373/2013-IA.II (M)	Original EC	01.02.2021	4	1397.18 ha

W.r.t the previous approvals, project proponent submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine and submitted that the mine became operational from 2021 onwards. CTO has been obtained from the SPCB and is valid up to 28.02.2026. Details of the same are as follows:

Year	Actual Coal Production in MTPA	Planned Coal production in MTPA as per Environmental Clearance	Excess production
2021-22	0.16	4.00	NIL
2022-23	0	4.00	NIL
2023-24	0	4.00	NIL
2024-25	0.13	4.00	NIL
2025-26 (up to Sep 25)	0.004	4.00	NIL

34.4.3: The details of the condition/ para for which amendment is sought and justification for the same is as follows:

Specific/ General Condition No.	Details of Conditions as per EC	Amendment Sought	Justification
Specific Condition no. 3(i)	EAC recommended for an amount of Rs 5375.00 lakhs towards Remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation plan to be spent within a span of three years. The details are given below:	The timeline for completion of Remediation plan and Bank guarantee is to be extended for further 5 years from the date of grant of amended EC	1. The EC was granted in the period just before the commencement of Second Wave of Corona in March 2021 that lasted upto October 2021, thus delaying the start of activities prescribed under the Remediation Plan and NCRAP.
Specific Condition no. 3(iii)	Remediation plan shall be completed in 3 years whereas bank guarantee shall be for 5 years. The bank guarantee will be released after successful implementation of the remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan, and after the recommendation by regional office of the Ministry, Expert Appraisal Committee and approval of the Regulatory Authority.	The timeline for completion of Remediation plan and Bank guarantee is to be extended for further 5 years from the date of grant of amended EC. The bank guarantee will be released after successful implementation of the remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan, and after the recommendation by regional office of the Ministry, Expert Appraisal Committee and approval of the Regulatory Authority	2. The coal production from the project was suspended until 17 th November 2024. The operation resumed only from 18 th November 2024. As mine operations were suspended, the progress of implementation of activities were also slow. 3. Construction of Road – one of the activity involving major part of expenditure was majorly impacted due to involvement of other stakeholders such West Bengal State Government and NHAI and delay in issuance of NOC thus impacted initiation of proposal for tender. District Administration has now been contacted for taking up the work on depository mode. However, the proposal is still under stage of estimation and site finalization. Thus, the completion of activity will require extension in the prescribed timeline. In the meantime, sand crisis in the state has led to delay in construction projects like road and bridge etc. awarded to the contractor.
Specific Condition no. 3(iv)	Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) of Rs. 1532 lakhs/- may be utilized as per Ministry's OM dated 20 th September 2020 i.e shall be utilized as part of EIA/EMP and compliance of issue of public hearing. The details of the implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry's regional office and to be spent in three years from the issue of this letter.	Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) of Rs. 1532 lakhs/- may be utilized as per Ministry's OM dated 20 th September 2020 i.e shall be utilized as part of EIA/EMP and compliance of issue of public hearing. The details of the implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry's regional office and to be spent in further 5 years from the date of issue of amended EC	

34.4.4: Current status of implementation of RP&NCRAP Activities:

Remediation Plan:

S. No.	Activity Proposed	STATUS	Reason for partial compliance
1	Installation of CAAQMS	Under Process	Retendering done as CAAQMS supplied was not as per USEPA standards.
2	Avenue plantation along NH2. Avenue plantation along NH2.	Completed	-

S. No.	Activity Proposed	STATUS	Reason for partial compliance
3	Vertical Greenery System and wind barrier at Damagoria Siding & NLOCP Siding	Work under progress	Ongoing Construction of flyover by NHAI
4	Construction of DB road.	A request has been done to District Administration as well as Director, NHAL to sign a MoU for the construction of the Road.	NOC taken for alternative road from WB Govt. due to hindrances in purchasing land for road
5	Construction of Pucca road from Ramanagar Village to Nakajuria Basti.	Completed	-
6	Construction of transportation road from Kalyanchak to Rakhapara Basti along with bridge construction on Khudia River.	Road Part is completed. However the bridge construction is under progress	Tendering of 3 rd party Quality checking of the Bridge

S. No.	Head	Activity Proposed	STATUS	Reason for partial compliance
1	Water Environment	Cleaning of Nearby Pond/ Jor/ Nalah.	Completed in 5 ponds.	For remaining 2 ponds, NoC from WB Govt awaited
1	Energy Conservation	Distribution of solar powered submersible Pump to nearby Villages (05 Nos.)	Proposal to be initiated after nod from District Administration	A request has been done to District Administration to sign a MoU for installation of the Solar street lights.
2		Solar power generation	Completed	-

Natural Resource Augmentation Plan:

S. No.	Activity Proposed	Status	Reason for partial compliance
1.	Rain water Harvesting in BCCL Colonies & Nearby Villages	Completed at Dahibari Colony.	For Lal bazaar and Sabanpur village, NoC yet to be given by WB Govt

Community Resource Augmentation Plan:

S. No.	Activity Proposed	Status	Reason for partial compliance
1	Stone Pitching on banks of Khudia River along with construction of Ghat.	Under Construction	-
2	Construction of School in nearby village.	Completed	-

S. No.	Activity Proposed	Status	Reason for partial compliance
3.	Construction of stadium and temple for nearby village people	Completed	-

34.4.5: Details of Court Cases: The EC has been granted under violation category. However, at present there is no legal issue/ violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act, CRZ Notification, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project.

34.4.6: Written Submissions: PP submitted the following details during the meeting:

1. Program for plantation in next three years and augment the plantation activity along with reasons for delay in plantation. It is hereby submitted that in mining lease area of 1397.18 ha and the status of land is mentioned below:

S. no.	Name of Mine (in Cluster XVII)	Lease Area (in ha)	Operational status	Currently land area under BCCL (in ha)
1	Kalyaneshwari OC	781.18	Operational	423.53
2	Begunia Colliery	306.00	Closed	18.34
3	Victoria West Colliery	310.00	Closed	17.47

Underground Mining were done in Victoria West Mine and Begunia Mine which is currently closed. As indicated above, surface area of these UG mines are also densely populated, encroached and BCCL has no surface rights. Due to Private land/Encroachment and land issues, the Mining activity and associated plantation activity were impacted.

Regarding history of Coal Block, it is mentioned that (mentioned in EIA-EMP):

- allocated to West Bengal Power Development Corporation on 27.02.2009
- deallocated from West Bengal Power Development Corporation on 21.10.2011
- allocated to CIL on 06.05.2013
- Coal block de-allocated on 25.08.2014 and then re-allocated under The Coal Mines (Special Provisions Ordinance 2014) in year 2014.

Finally, the OM of allotment was issued on 3rd October 2018. Thus, the plantation and related activities during earlier years i.e. before grant of EC was not implemented.

THREE YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR PLANTATION

Now the proposed plantation to be done in next three years is mentioned below:

S. No.	Year	Location for plantation/Grassing	Area for plantation/Grassing (in ha)
1	Year 0	Existing Plantation	17
2	Year 1	D1 OB Dump	20
		In Begunia Colliery	4
		River Side/Road Side	3
		Sub-Total	27
3	Year 2	D1 OB Dump	10
		River Side Plantation/Barren Area	4
		Grassing	10
		Sub-Total	24
4	Year 3	D1 OB Dump	10
		Grassing	15

	Near Railway Siding	2
	Sub-Total	27
	Total (Proposed)	78
	G. Total	95

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

34.4.7: Committee after deliberations noted the following:

1. MoEF&CC granted EC under violation category to M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited, for Cluster XVII including Kalyaneshwari Opencast Coal Mining Project (having production capacity of 4 MTPA within the ML area of 1397.18 Ha), located at District: Burdwan; State: West Bengal, vide letter no. 11015/373/2013-IA.II(M) dated 01.02.2021.
2. While the EC was granted, Ministry stipulated certain environmental conditions. It also included conditions pertaining to implementation of remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan and depositing of bank guarantee in this regard.
3. The remediation plan and the natural and community resource augmentation plan were supposed to be implemented within 3 years from the date of grant of EC and the bank guarantee was supposed to be deposited for a period of 5 years from the date of grant of EC.
4. PP submitted that, the EC was granted in the period just before the commencement of Second Wave of Corona in March 2021 that lasted upto October 2021, thus delaying the start of activities prescribed under the Remediation Plan and NCRAP. Also, the production from the said mines was suspended and could only resume in November 2024. PP also submitted that construction of road had a major share in the NCRAP and the same was delayed, as multiple stakeholders were involved in the same and unavailability of NOC from State Govt.
5. PP sought extension for 5 years from the date of grant of EC amendment for both, bank guarantee and implementation of remediation plan and the natural and community resource augmentation plan. Committee deliberated on the current implementation status of the RP&NCRAP. Details of the same are mentioned in para no. 34.4.4.
6. Committee sought justification for delay in submission of instant proposal for EC amendment, as the RP&NCRAP was supposed to be implemented by 31.01.2024. PP submitted that, although Environmental Clearance (EC) was granted on 01 February 2021, an Office Memorandum SO 221(E) dated 18 January 2021 stipulated that the period from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 should not be counted for the purpose of calculating validity. Accordingly, the effective implementation window is from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2024. On 03 April 2024, PP formally informed the MoEF&CC of the delay in implementation and proposed a revised timeline.
7. Committee observed that the PP has sought extension for 5 years for implementation of the RP&NCRAP and the bank guarantee as well. Committee opined that PP has already exceeded 3 years time for the implementation of RP&NCRAP and further PP shall complete all the activities within 2 years from the date of grant of EC amendment. Simultaneously, time extension for bank guarantee shall be given for 3 more years from the date of grant of EC amendment.

8. Committee also deliberated on the plantation activities carried out by the PP during all these years and observed that, existing plantation has only been done in 17 Ha of the ML area. PP submitted that, underground mining was being done in Victoria West Mine and Begunia Mine which is currently closed. As indicated above, surface area of these UG mines are also densely populated, encroached and BCCL has no surface rights. Due to Private land/Encroachment and land issues, the Mining activity and associated plantation activity were impacted. PP had further submitted the plan for plantation for the next 3 years. Committee opined that the same shall be carried out in a time bound manner.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.4.8: In view of the foregoing and after the detailed deliberations, the Committee *recommended* the instant proposal for grant of amendment in the EC granted vide letter no. 11015/373/2013-IA.II(M) dated 01.02.2021, as detailed below, subject to stipulation of the following additional specific conditions, and uploading of written submissions:

Para/ Conditions as per EC	Description as per approved EC dated	Recommendation of EAC
Specific Condition no. 3(i)	EAC recommended for an amount of Rs 5375.00 lakhs towards Remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation plan to be spent within a span of three years. The details are given below:	Partially Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows: <i>“EAC recommended for an amount of Rs 5375.00 lakhs towards Remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation plan to be spent within a span of two years from the date of grant of EC amendment. The details are given below:”</i>
Specific Condition no. 3(iii)	Remediation plan shall be completed in 3 years whereas bank guarantee shall be for 5 years. The bank guarantee will be released after successful implementation of the remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan, and after the recommendation by regional office of the Ministry, Expert Appraisal Committee and approval of the Regulatory Authority.	Partially Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows: <i>“Remediation plan shall be completed in 2 years whereas bank guarantee shall be for 3 years from the date of grant of EC amendment. The bank guarantee will be released after successful implementation of the remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan, and after the recommendation by regional office of the Ministry, Expert Appraisal Committee and approval of the Regulatory Authority.”</i>
Specific Condition no. 3(iv)	Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) of Rs. 1532 lakhs/- may be utilized as per Ministry’s OM dated 20 th September 2020 i.e shall be utilized as part of EIA/EMP and compliance of issue of public hearing. The details of the implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry’s regional	Partially Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows:

Para/ Conditions as per EC	Description as per approved EC dated	Recommendation of EAC
	office and to be spent in three years from the issue of this letter.	“Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) of Rs. 1532 lakhs/- may be utilized as per Ministry’s OM dated 30 th September 2020 i.e shall be utilized as part of EIA/EMP and compliance of issue on public hearing. The details of the implementation shall be submitted to the Ministry’s regional office and to be spent in two years from the issue of this letter.”

Additional Specific Conditions:

1. Project proponent shall carryout plantation in the next three years as per the following plan, as committed:

S. No.	Year	Location for plantation/ Grassing	Area for plantation/ Grassing (in ha)
1	Year 1	D1 OB Dump	20
		In Begunia Colliery	4
		River Side/ Road Side	3
		Sub-Total	27
2	Year 2	D1 OB Dump	10
		River Side Plantation/ Barren Area	4
		Grassing	10
		Sub-Total	24
3	Year 3	D1 OB Dump	10
		Grassing	15
		Near Railway Siding	2
		Sub-Total	27
		Total (Proposed)	78
		G. Total	78

Agenda No. 34.5:

34.5: Gayatri Underground Coal Mining Project (having production capacity of 0.88 MTPA within the ML area of 616.957 Ha), by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited, located at village: Getra; Tehsil: Ambikapur; District: Surguja; State: Chhattisgarh – Amendment in Environment Clearance – reg.

[Online Proposal no. IA/CG/CMIN/541206/2025; Consultant: CMPDIL: NABET/EIA/25-28/RA 0412 valid till 08/04/2028]

34.5.1: M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited has made an online application vide proposal no. IA/MP/CMIN/541206/2025 dated 04.07.2025 seeking for amendment in Environment Clearance granted vide letter no J-11015/26/2000-1A-JI (M) dated 09.11.2023 accorded for the project mentioned above.

34.5.2: Details of all the prior ECs including the EC for which amendment is sought:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/ Expansion EC/ Amendment in EC/ Validity extension/ Transfer of EC	Capacity (MTPA)	Area in (Ha)	Date of issuance	Status of implementation
1	J-11015/26/2000-1A-JI (M)	EC	0.30	507.472	27.11.2002	Implemented
2	J-11015/26/2000-1A-JI (M)	Re validation of EC	0.30	507.472	28.09.2022	Implemented
3	J-11015/26/2000-1A-JI (M)	Expansion EC	0.88	616.957	09.11.2023	Implemented

W.r.t the previous approvals, project proponent submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine and submitted that the mine became operational (with enhanced capacity) from December 2023 onwards. CTO renewal has been obtained from CECB and is valid up to 05.12.2025. Details of the same are as follows:

Year	Actual Production Coal in MTPA	Planned Coal production in MTPA as per Environmental Clearance	Excess production (MTPA) beyond the EC sanctioned capacity
2023-24	0.578	0.88	NIL
2024-25	0.88	0.88	NIL

34.5.3: The details of the condition/ para for which amendment is sought and justification for the same is as follows:

Specific/ General Condition	Details of Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Amendment sought	Justification for Amendment
Specific Condition no. 1.4	PP shall use of nearest Railway siding for maximum coal transportation and in future coal transportation through road shall be completely stopped. A report in this regard be submitted to IRO within 1 year to justify the adequacy. PP shall explore alternate route to prevent transportation through forest area and to complete the dedicated rail-road route for the transportation of coal within 2 years.	PP shall use of nearest Railway siding for maximum coal transportation. A report in this regard be submitted to IRO within 1 year to justify the adequacy.	Efforts are being made to revive already existing Jainagar railway siding. Work order has been issued to M/s RITES for maintenance activities at the siding. Even after the Siding comes into operation, the transportation of coal from Gayatri UG Mine to Jainagar Rly. Siding (approx. 20 kms) has to be done by road mode and therefore entire transportation through road cannot be stopped completely. However, mitigative measures like covered transportation of coal through trucks, water sprinkling and roadside solar lights are in place. Due to the fixed nature of underground access points and statutory safety considerations, shifting of these installations is not feasible. Consequently, routing of coal transportation through forest land becomes inevitable. It is a brownfield expansion project with remaining life of approx. 17 years. The mine is not linked to any particular industry or plant. It fulfils the coal requirement of a small/ marginal industries having limited daily requirement of coal. The production from the mine is not sufficient to cater the requirement of coal of even one rake / day. Considering the above constraints, complete stoppage of road transportation is practically not viable at this stage.

Specific/ General Condition	Details of Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Amendment sought	Justification for Amendment
			<p>Further, it has been explored and no alternate route could be identified in which coal transportation through forest area can be prevented.</p> <p>As on date, the work Rehabilitation and modification of Jainagar siding has been formally awarded to M/s RITES and work has started. We sincerely regret and offer our apology for the delay in submission of the adequacy report. A comprehensive adequacy report detailing the revival plan and expected timelines will now be submitted to the IRO at the earliest.</p>
Specific condition no. 1.12	PP shall conduct third party audit of compliance of EC condition at an interval six months and its report shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.	PP shall conduct third party audit of compliance of EC condition at an interval of every three years and its report shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.	<p>The condition may be read with condition no – 8.4 “Self-environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.”</p> <p>However, Condition 1.12 contradicts Condition 8.4 of this EC which warrants the PP to carry out third party audit every three years instead of every six months as specified here in condition 1.12, therefore, review of the conditions are required and either of the condition - 1.12 or 8.4 need to be condoned to avoid ambiguity.</p>
Specific Condition no. 1.15	PP shall transport the coal by trucks of fleet size 35-40 tons (Payload) and no village road or sensitive location shall be used for transportation of coal.	PP shall transport the coal by trucks of fleet size 25-40 tons.	<p>Gayatri Underground Mine is a small-capacity operation with an annual production of only 0.88 MTPA. The mine is not dedicated to any specific end-use plant or bulk consumer. Instead, it caters to a wide base of small and marginal coal consumers across multiple sectors and geographies under the Road Sale Mode of distribution.</p> <p>These consumers typically lift limited quantities of coal under Delivery Orders (DOs), for which no specific stipulation exists regarding truck size. Due to their low volume requirements, such consumers predominantly deploy trucks with payload capacity ranging from 25 to 35 tons, which are more economical and accessible in regional logistics markets.</p> <p>Secondly, the existing state govt road is being used by road sale trucks for coal transportation. When the siding becomes operational, the same road will be used for transportation of coal from Gayatri UG Mine up to Jainagar siding. On this stretch of road, there is habitation and settlements along the road on most of the part including schools and hospitals. Nevertheless, to mitigate environmental impacts arising from road transportation, the following pollution control measures are adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water sprinkling along the transportation route using mobile tankers and static sprinklers.

Specific/ General Condition	Details of Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Amendment sought	Justification for Amendment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarpaulin covering of coal-laden trucks. • Deployment of fog/mist cannons at key dust-generating points. • Regular maintenance and monitoring of transport route and ambient air quality.
Specific Condition no. 1.17	PP to plant additional 100,000 plants with three tier plantation along the transportation route, if not completed, and identified areas with consent to the gram panchayat within two year and plant for remaining within 2 years for their proper growth in additional already committed to plant to plantation in 8.49 ha project area.	PP to plant additional 100,000 plants, if not completed, and identified areas with consent to the gram panchayat within two year and plant for remaining within 5 years for their proper growth.	Most of the land involved along the coal transportation route is tenancy land. The road which is used for transportation of coal has either tenancy land or forest land on both sides in the maximum stretch and it is not feasible to acquire land for three tier plantation along the transportation route. However, we remain committed to explore all possibilities to plant trees along the road corridor as well as in other available sites, given relaxation is granted w.r.t site of plantation.
Specific Condition no. 1.21	PP shall deploy at least 20% of the overall fleet of dumpers/trucks as electrical or CNG/LNG-based dumpers/trucks for transportation of coal/OB, etc.	Exemption requested.	The market for dumpers/trucks fuelled by CNG/LNG and electric vehicles is currently limited, and it is a significant challenge to meet the 20% deployment requirement due to the scarcity of appropriate vehicles in the market. However, efforts will be made in this regard to promote deployment of such vehicles for coal transport.
Specific Condition no. 1.26	PP shall reduce the carbon footprint after sequestration of CO ₂ . IRO will review the progress of CO ₂ sequestration. The process of sequestration of CO ₂ will include the planting trees, by “Developing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies” and implementation of renewable energy. Further, PP shall carry out enough plantation to ensure carbon sequestration lost due to deforestation and other fossil fuel based activities.	PP shall reduce the carbon footprint after sequestration of CO ₂ . IRO will review the progress of CO ₂ sequestration. The process of sequestration of CO ₂ will include the planting trees and implementation of renewable energy. Further, PP shall carry out enough plantation to ensure carbon sequestration lost due to deforestation and other fossil fuel based activities.	<p>The Project Proponent remains committed to reducing the carbon footprint through ecological restoration and promotion of renewable energy. However, it may be noted that Gayatri Underground does not have any fixed or continuous source of CO₂ emissions such as boilers or combustion units typically found in power plants.</p> <p>In the absence of such point-source emissions, the development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies is technically infeasible. Furthermore, there are no geologically suitable formations—such as depleted oil or gas reservoirs, or saline aquifers—available in the region to support underground CO₂ storage.</p> <p>Despite these constraints, the Project Proponent has undertaken substantial initiatives towards carbon sequestration and sustainability within the Bishrampur Area: In FY 2024-25, a total of approximately 97600 saplings have been planted in and around various mines of the area. Ans since 1990, approximately 46 lakhs saplings have been</p>

Specific/ General Condition	Details of Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Amendment sought	Justification for Amendment
			<p>planted as part of a sustained afforestation drive, contributing significantly to carbon sequestration and ecological improvement. A cumulative 20 MW capacity of grid-connected, ground-mounted solar power systems has been commissioned across the Bishrampur Area, which supports both industrial and domestic energy needs. The installed capacity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 MW for industrial and mine-related operations. • 8 MW for domestic and colony-based consumption. <p>These efforts reflect the proactive approach of the Project Proponent in adopting green energy practices and natural carbon offset mechanisms, thereby aligning with the broader objective of reducing the environmental footprint in the absence of CCS infrastructure.</p>
Specific Condition no. 1.30	PP must explore innovative technology to recover methane from gases extracted from underground mine while venting.	Exemption requested.	<p>The degree of gassiness is based on the rate of emission of methane (in cubic meter) per ton of coal. The scale is as below :</p> <p>Degree I : < 1 m³ per ton of coal Degree II : between 1 m³ to 10 m³ per ton of coal Degree III : >10 m³ per ton of coal (according to Coal Mine Regulation, 2017)</p> <p>Gayatri ug mine has been categorised as a mine of Degree I gassiness and there is negligible amount of methane in return air vented out from the mine which cannot be feasibly extracted.</p>
Standard EC Condition no. 2.6	The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provisions and route proposed in the approved mining plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, it should be so constructed that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.	PP shall use of nearest Railway siding for maximum coal transportation.	<p>Efforts are being made to revive already existing Jainagar railway siding. However, the distance between Gayatri UG Mine and Jainagar Rly. Siding is approx. 20 kms and therefore entire transportation through road cannot be stopped completely. It is a brownfield expansion project with remaining life of approx. 17 years. The production from the mine is not sufficient to cater the requirement of coal of even one rake / day. Further, it has been explored and no alternate route could be identified in which coal transportation through forest area can be prevented.</p>
Standard EC Condition no. 2.9	Coal handling plant shall be operated with effective control	Exemption requested.	<p>There is no coal handling plant at Gayatri UG Mine.</p>

Specific/ General Condition	Details of Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Amendment sought	Justification for Amendment
	measures w.r.t. various environmental parameters. Environmentally friendly sustainable technology should be implemented for mitigating such parameters.		
Standard EC Condition no. 5.8	Transportation by Railway Siding shall be developed to avoid transportation by Road	Transportation by Railway Siding shall be developed.	Efforts are being made to revive already existing Jainagar railway siding. Work order has been issued to M/s RITES for maintenance activities at the siding. Even after the Siding comes into operation, the transportation of coal from Gayatri UG Mine to Jainagar Rly. Siding (approx. 20 kms) has to be done by road mode and therefore entire transportation through road cannot be stopped completely. The mine is not dedicated to any specific end-use plant or bulk consumer. Instead, it caters to a wide base of small and marginal coal consumers across multiple sectors and geographies under the Road Sale Mode of coal distribution.
Standard EC Condition no. 6.8	The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.	Exemption requested.	There is no grazing land in the Mine lease area. Therefore, the condition is not applicable.

34.5.4: Traffic Impact Assessment: Traffic density study has been done at entry/exist gate of the Mine on 25.06.2025.

Currently the coal is being transported to the Bhatgaon railway siding, which is at a distance of approximately 50 km from the ML area.

Once the Jainagar railway siding is commissioned, the road distance of coal transportation will be up to 20 km.

Level of Service (LOS) & Performance

S. No.	V/C Ratio	LoS	Performance
1	0.0-0.2	A	Represents a condition of free flow
2	0.2-0.4	B	Represents a zone of stable flow
3	0.4-0.6	C	The general level of comfort and convenience declines noticeably at this level
4	0.6-0.8	D	Represents the limit of stable flow
5	0.8-1.0	E	Represents operating condition when traffic volumes are at or close to the capacity level

Category of Road:

L1: 2 Lane Undivided (Two-Way) of 5.5m Width (Collector)

L2: 2 Lane Undivided (Two-Way) of 7.5m Width (Sub- Arterial road)

Analysis and Results:

The traffic density analysis of mine falls under LoS of B. It means it represent a condition of stable flow.

The peak hour of traffic is 9.00AM to 10.00AM for L1 and 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM for L2. The scenario has been presented as proposed case in the table below:

Traffic density (Existing and proposed scenario)

S. No	Parameter	Existing	Proposed*
1	Road	2 Lane Undivided (Two-Way) of 7.7m Width (sub-Arterial)	Not Required
2	V(volume in PCU/Day)	414.7	
3	C(Capacity in PCU/Day)	1200	
4	Existing V/C Ratio	0.345	
5	LoS	B(Represents a zone of stable flow)	

Air Quality Monitoring:

Station Name	St. Code	Date of sampling	Date of analysis	SPM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO ₂
Pondi Village Road Side	01	25.06.2025	29.06.2025	108	64	24	10	15
Mani Chowk	02	25.06.2025	29.06.2025	124	78	27	12	19
Dedri Village	03	26.06.2025	29.06.2025	101	62	23	10	14
Salaka Village Near Bridge	04	26.06.2025	29.06.2025	88	56	20	09	12
Kurunwa Bazar	05	26.06.2025	29.06.2025	94	60	22	10	15
Keshav Nagar Near NH-43 Tri-Junction	06	26.06.2025	29.06.2025	110	71	29	12	20
GM Office Bishrampur Area	07	26.06.2025	29.06.2025	121	78	34	13	23
Jainagar Siding	08	26.06.2025	29.06.2025	131	86	31	12	19

Noise Quality Monitoring:

Station Name	Station Code	Date of measurement	Value in dB(a)	Value in dB(a)
Pondi Village Raod Side	01	26.06.2025	50.5	41.5
Mani Chowk	02	26.06.2025	49.7	40.8
Dedri Village	03	26.06.2025	51.6	38.3
Salaka Village Near Bridge	04	26.06.2025	52.2	39.7
Kurunwa Bazar	05	26.06.2025	53.3	40.6
Keshav Nagar Near NH-43 Tri-Junction	06	26.06.2025	62.4	48.1
GM Office Bishrampur Area	07	26.06.2025	51.7	40.3
Jainagar Siding	08	26.06.2025	64.6	52.5

Details of existing control measures:

Fixed Sprinklers are installed along internal roads and 02 nos fog canons are installed near transfer points at coal stock yard. Water Sprinkling is being done on coal transportation route using 10 KL mobile water tanker. Coal transportation is being done through covered trucks and regular maintenance of transportation roads and monitoring of ambient air and noise quality along coal transportation route is being done.

34.5.5: Details of Court Cases: PP reported that there is no legal issue/violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project.

34.5.6: Written Submissions: PP submitted the following information during the meeting:

1. Details of proposed coal dispatch by road and rail mode
 - 80% of coal production from Gayatri UG mine expansion will be dispatched to consumers by rail mode through Jainagar railway siding after its commissioning (Proposed date of commissioning of Jainagar railway siding is June 2026).
 - 20% of coal production from Gayatri UG mine expansion will be dispatched to consumers by road mode through road sale.
2. This is to undertake with respect to **Gayatri UG mine expansion that road side plantation will be undertaken by the project proponent along the Coal Transportation Route in all feasible stretches. Further, permission from State Forest Department will be obtained to take up plantation along the Coal Transportation Route involving forest land by Monsoon 2026 & 2027.**
3. This is to undertake with respect to **Gayatri UG mine expansion that 20% CNG/LNG based trucks will be deployed in transportation fleet within 2 years, until then 50% of the fleet used will be BS-VI standard compliant trucks.**
4. This is to undertake with respect to **Gayatri UG mine expansion that the work order for revival and maintenance of Jainagar railway siding has been awarded to M/s RITES with an award value of Rs. 28.32 Crore. Proposed date of commissioning of Jainagar railway siding is June 2026.**
5. This is to undertake **that there is no grazing land involved in the project area of Gayatri UG mine expansion.**

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

34.5.7: Committee after deliberations noted the following:

1. MoEF&CC originally accorded EC to M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited for the Gayatri Underground Coal Mining Project, located at village: Getra; Tehsil: Ambikapur; District: Surguja; State: Chhattisgarh vide letter dated 27.11.2002 for the production capacity of 0.30 MTPA within the ML area of 507.472 Ha. The same was revalidated vide letter dated 28.09.2022 and later EC expansion was granted vide letter dated 09.11.2023 for the increased production capacity of 0.88 MTPA within the increased ML area of 616.957 Ha.
2. The above mentioned project is implemented and is under operation.

3. The instant project is for seeking amendment in certain conditions of EC dated 09.11.2023.
4. The first amendment is sought in the specific condition no. 1.4 of EC dated 09.11.2023, wherein, it was stipulated that, “PP shall use of nearest Railway siding for maximum coal transportation and in future coal transportation through road shall be completely stopped. A report in this regard be submitted to IRO within 1 year to justify the adequacy. PP shall explore alternate route to prevent transportation through forest area and to complete the dedicated rail-road route for the transportation of coal within 2 years.”

PP submitted that, the nearest railway siding is Jainagar railway siding, which is located at a distance of approximately 20 km from the said mines, and from mines to the railway siding the coal will be transported by road, hence coal transportation of road cannot be completely avoided. PP also submitted that, other routes have been explored and transportation of coal through forest area is inevitable.

Currently, the PP is transporting coal through Bhatgaon railway siding, which is at a distance of approximately 50 km from the ML area of the instant project. In order to reduce the distance of coal transportation by road, Jainagar railway siding is being revived, which is expected to become operational by June 2026.

Committee opined that PP shall evacuate 90% of the coal through the coal transportation road, up to Jainagar railway siding. Only 10% of the coal shall be allowed to be transported by road for the local and small scale users.

5. Committee deliberated on the traffic assessment study report submitted by the PP for the current coal transportation route. Committee observed that, traffic density analysis of mine falls under LoS of B (zone of stable flow). Committee deliberated on the AAQ parameters of CTR and observed the AAQ parameters within the prescribed limit. Committee further deliberated on the noise quality parameters and the same were found to be within the prescribed limits as well.

Committee deliberated on the mitigation measures being undertaken for the coal transportation by road and observed that, Fixed Sprinklers are installed along internal roads and 02 nos fog canons are installed near transfer points at coal stock yard. Water Sprinkling is being done on coal transportation route using 10 KL mobile water tanker. Coal transportation is being done through covered trucks and regular maintenance of transportation roads and monitoring of ambient air and noise quality along coal transportation route is being done.

Committee opined that, PP shall carryout intensive plantation with the native and fruit bearing species on both the sides of the coal transportation road in consultation with the highway/ PWD authorities within 2 years from the date of amendment of EC

Further, PP shall carryout regular maintenance of the potholes on roads, repair and maintenance of roads, scrapping of material fallen on roads, and removal of scraps from mining areas. Along with this, PP shall make sure that all the pollution control equipments are in good working condition and maintenance of those equipments is regularly carried out.

6. Another amendment sought by the PP is in specific condition no. 1.12, which is in contradiction to standard condition no. 8.4. In specific condition no. 1.12 it is stipulated

that, “PP shall conduct third party audit of compliance of EC condition at an interval six months and its report shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.” However, in standard condition no. 8.4, it is stipulated that, “Self environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.”

Since both the conditions are in contradiction to each other, PP sought exemption in the specific condition no. 1.12.

7. Another amendment sought by the PP is in specific condition no. 1.15, wherein, it is stipulated that, “PP shall transport the coal by trucks of fleet size 35-40 tons (Payload) and no village road or sensitive location shall be used for transportation of coal.”

PP submitted that, Gayatri Underground Mine is a small-capacity operation with an annual production of only 0.88 MTPA. The mine is not dedicated to any specific end-use plant or bulk consumer. Instead, it caters to a wide base of small and marginal coal consumers across multiple sectors and geographies under the Road Sale Mode of coal distribution. Coal is delivered to these consumers in small quantities. Hence, PP sought amendment to reduce the fleet size to 25-40 tons.

PP also submitted that currently state govt. road is being used by trucks for coal transportation and the same is proposed to be used for transportation of coal from Gayatri UG Mine up to Jainagar siding. On this stretch of road, there is habitation and settlements along the road on most of the part including schools and hospitals. Though the mitigation measures are being followed by the user agency, such as, water sprinkling along the coal transportation route, deployment of fog/mist cannons at key dust-generating points, Regular maintenance and monitoring of transport route and ambient air quality.

8. Another amendment sought by the PP is in specific condition no. 1.17, wherein, it is stipulated that, “PP to plant additional 100,000 plants with three tier plantation along the transportation route, if not completed, and identified areas with consent to the gram panchayat within two year and plant for remaining within 2 years for their proper growth in additional already committed to plant to plantation in 8.49 ha project area.”

PP submitted that, most of the land involved along the coal transportation route is tenancy land. The road which is used for transportation of coal has either tenancy land or forest land on both sides in the maximum stretch and it is not feasible to acquire land for three tier plantation along the transportation route.

9. Another amendment sought by the PP is in specific condition no. 1.21, wherein, it is stipulated that, “PP shall deploy at least 20% of the overall fleet of dumpers/ trucks as electrical or CNG/ LNG-based dumpers/ trucks for transportation of coal/ OB, etc.”

PP sought exemption in the said condition, stating that, the market for dumpers/trucks fueled by CNG/LNG and electric vehicles is currently limited, and it is a significant challenge to meet the 20% deployment requirement due to the scarcity of appropriate vehicles in the market.

Committee opined that PP shall explore the feasibility to deploy fleet of dumpers/trucks as electrical or CNG/LNG-based dumpers/trucks for transportation of coal/OB, etc.

10. Another amendment sought by the PP is in specific condition no. 1.26, wherein, it is stipulated that, *“PP shall reduce the carbon footprint after sequestration of CO₂. IRO will review the progress of CO₂ sequestration. The process of sequestration of CO₂ will include the planting trees, by “Developing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and implementation of renewable energy. Further, PP shall carry out enough plantation to ensure carbon sequestration lost due to deforestation and other fossil fuel based activities.”* PP sought exemption in the said condition. PP submitted that, Gayatri Underground does not have any fixed or continuous source of CO₂ emissions such as boilers or combustion units typically found in power plants. In the absence of such point-source emissions, the development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies is technically infeasible. Furthermore, there are no geologically suitable formations—such as depleted oil or gas reservoirs, or saline aquifers—available in the region to support underground CO₂ storage.

PP further submitted that, PP has taken substantial initiatives towards carbon sequestration and sustainability within the Bishrampur Area. A total of approximately 97600 saplings have been planted in and around various mines of the area. And since 1990, approximately 46 lakhs saplings have been planted as part of a sustained afforestation drive, contributing significantly to carbon sequestration and ecological improvement. Also, a cumulative 20 MW capacity of grid connected, ground-mounted solar power systems has been commissioned.

11. Another amendment sought by the PP is in specific condition no. 1.30, wherein, it is stipulated that *“PP must explore innovative technology to recover methane from gases extracted from underground mine while venting.”* PP submitted that, the degree of gassiness is based on the rate of emission of methane (in cubic meter) per ton of coal. Gayatri UG mine has been categorized as a mine of Degree I gassiness and there is negligible amount of methane in return air vented out from the mine which cannot be feasibly extracted. Hence, PP sought exemption in the said condition.
12. Further, PP sought amendment in the standard condition no. 2.6, wherein, it is stipulated that, *“The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provisions and route proposed in the approved mining plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, it should be so constructed that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.”*

As discussed in the specific condition no. 1.4, it is not possible to completely eliminate the road transportation of coal and the coal transportation route will inevitably involve the habitation and forest area. Committee opined that PP shall take adequate measures to reduce the air and noise pollution and the accidents.

13. PP sought another amendment in the standard condition no. 2.9, wherein, it is stipulated that, *“Coal handling plant shall be operated with effective control measures w.r.t. various environmental parameters. Environmentally friendly sustainable technology should be implemented for mitigating such parameters.”* PP submitted that since there is no coal handling plant at Gayatri UG, hence exemption is required for the said condition.
14. Another amendment sought by the PP is in standard condition no. 5.8, wherein, it is stipulated that, *“Transportation by Railway Siding shall be developed to avoid transportation by Road.”* PP submitted that an already existing railway siding, i.e.,

Jainagar siding, situated at the distance of approximately 20 km from the ML area is being revived. Hence, construction of a new railway siding is being asked to exempt.

15. Another amendment sought by the PP is in the standard condition no. 6.8, wherein, it is stipulated that *“The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.”*

PP submitted that there is no grazing land involved within the ML area of the said project, therefore, exemption in the said condition is requested.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.5.6: In view of the foregoing and after the detailed deliberations, the Committee **recommended** the instant proposal for grant of amendment in the EC granted vide letter no. J-11015/26/2000-1A-JI (M) dated 09.11.2023, as detailed below, subject to stipulation of the following additional specific conditions, and uploading of written submissions:

Para/ Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Description as per approved EC dated 09.11.2023	Recommendations of EAC
Specific Condition no. 1.4	PP shall use of nearest Railway siding for maximum coal transportation and in future coal transportation through road shall be completely stopped. A report in this regard be submitted to IRO within 1 year to justify the adequacy. PP shall explore alternate route to prevent transportation through forest area and to complete the dedicated rail-road route for the transportation of coal within 2 years.	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows: <i>“Project proponent shall use Bhatgaon railway siding for transportation of coal till June 2026. While the time, Jainagar railway siding shall be commissioned and thereafter 90% of the total coal production shall be transported by Jainagar railway siding and only 10% of the total coal production shall be allowed to be transported by road to the local and small scale consumers.”</i>
Specific condition no. 1.12	PP shall conduct third party audit of compliance of EC condition at an interval six months and its report shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to delete the said condition.
Specific Condition no. 1.15	PP shall transport the coal by trucks of fleet size 35-40 tons (Payload) and no village road or sensitive location shall be used for transportation of coal.	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows: <i>“Project proponent shall transport the coal by trucks of fleet size 25-40 tons, by undertaking adequate mitigation measures while transporting the coal through public road.”</i>
Specific Condition no. 1.17	PP to plant additional 100,000 plants with three tier plantation along the transportation route, if not completed, and identified areas with consent to the gram	Partially Agreed.

Para/ Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Description as per approved EC dated 09.11.2023	Recommendations of EAC
	panchayat within two year and plant for remaining within 2 years for their proper growth in additional already committed to plant to plantation in 8.49 ha project area.	With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows: <i>“Project proponent shall carryout plantation along the coal transportation road in all feasible stretches, in consultation with the highway/ PWD authorities within 3 years after obtaining the amendment in EC. Apart from this, plantation shall also be carried out within 3 years with the permission of State Forest Department in those stretches of the CTR where the forestland is involved.”</i>
Specific Condition no. 1.21	PP shall deploy at least 20% of the overall fleet of dumpers/trucks as electrical or CNG/LNG-based dumpers/trucks for transportation of coal/OB, etc.	Partially Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to amend the same as follows: <i>“PP shall explore the feasibility for deployment of dumpers/ trucks/ other vehicles/ passenger cars as electrical or CNG/ LNG based for transportation of coal/ OB etc. Considering the ambient air quality, all the vehicles carrying the coal shall comply the BS-VI standards”</i>
Specific Condition no. 1.26	PP shall reduce the carbon footprint after sequestration of CO ₂ . IRO will review the progress of CO ₂ sequestration. The process of sequestration of CO ₂ will include the planting trees, by “Developing carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies” and implementation of renewable energy. Further, PP shall carry out enough plantation to ensure carbon sequestration lost due to deforestation and other fossil fuel based activities.	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to delete the said condition
Specific Condition no. 1.30	PP must explore innovative technology to recover methane from gases extracted from underground mine while venting.	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to delete the said condition
Standard EC Condition no. 2.6	The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provisions and route proposed in the approved mining plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, it should be so constructed that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.	Not Agreed.
Standard EC Condition no. 2.9	Coal handling plant shall be operated with effective control measures w.r.t. various environmental parameters.	Agreed.

Para/ Conditions as per EC dated 09.11.2023	Description as per approved EC dated 09.11.2023	Recommendations of EAC
	Environmentally friendly sustainable technology should be implemented for mitigating such parameters.	With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to <i>delete</i> the said condition
Standard EC Condition no. 5.8	Transportation by Railway Siding shall be developed to avoid transportation by Road	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to <i>delete</i> the said condition
Standard EC Condition no. 6.8	The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.	Agreed. With regard to the changes in the said condition, Committee agreed to <i>delete</i> the said condition

Additional Specific Conditions:

1. Proponent shall carryout regular maintenance of the potholes on roads, repair and maintenance of roads, scrapping of material fallen on roads, and removal of scraps from mining areas. Along with this, project proponent shall make sure that all the pollution control equipments are in good working condition and maintenance of those equipments is regularly carried out.
2. Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) and Noise quality data along the entire coal transportation route shall be monitored and the data shall be submitted along with the six monthly compliance to the concerned Regional Office and also kept on the web portal of the company.
3. Thick plantation with the native and fruit bearing species shall be carried out on both the sides of the coal transportation road in consultation with the highway/ PWD authorities and the forest department within 3 years after obtaining the amendment in EC. Height of the saplings shall not be less than 4 feet.
4. The transporters shall be sensitized and trained for carrying coal through the public road, to avoid accidents and speed limits shall be maintained accordingly.
5. Continuous water sprinkling shall be done on the coal transportation road for dust suppression.

30TH OCTOBER, 2025 [THURSDAY]

Agenda 34.6

34.6: Kulda Expansion Opencast Project (having production capacity of 21 MTPA within the ML area of 634.205 Ha) by M/s **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited**, located at villages: Balinga, Tumulia, Siarmal, Kulda & Bankibahal; Tehsil: Hemgir; **District: Sundargarh; State: Odisha - For environment clearance dated 24/05/2022 issued under O.M. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07/05/2022 [Availed total 50% relaxation of OM under clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006] – Consideration based on ADS reply – reg.**

[Proposal number IA/OR/CMIN/416510/2023; File no. J-11015/10/1995-IAII(M); Consultant: CMPDIL; NABET/EIA/25-28/RA 0142 valid till 08/11/2028]

34.6.1: M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has made an online application vide proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/416510/2023 dated 31/01/2023 along with copy of EIA/EMP report seeking regularization of EC dated 24.05.2022 issued under O.M. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07/05/2022 [Availed total 50% relaxation of OM under clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006]. The proposal was initially considered in the 40th meeting of EAC (Coal) held on 16th February 2023–17th February 2023. The proposal was deferred for want of additional information. The proponent submitted the ADS reply vide letter dated 07.08.2023. Subsequently, the proposal was again considered in the 48th EAC (Coal) held on 28th Aug 2023 for reconsideration. The proposal was again deferred, and ADS raised on 19th September 2023. Afterwards, the project sought an amendment to the EC dated 24.05.2022, which MoEF&CC granted on 05th Jan 2024 and 21st Feb 2025. The reply of ADS was submitted to MoEF&CC vide letter dated 10th April 2025 and 10th Oct 2025. The project is now listed for reconsideration in the 34th EAC meeting scheduled on 30th Oct 2025.

Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:

34.6.2: Previous Approvals: PP submitted the details of previous approvals in the chronological order as follows:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/Expansion EC/Amendment in EC/ Validity Extension of EC	Capacity in (MTPA)	Area (in ha)	Date	Status of implementation
1.	J-11015/10/95-IA. II(M)	EC	10.00	878.290	24/12/2002	Implemented
2.	J-11015/10/1995-IA II(M)	Expansion EC	14.00	634.205	22/03/2018	Implemented
3.	J-11015/10/1995-IA. II(M)	EC validity extension	14.00	634.205	28/03/2019	Implemented
4.	J-11015/10/1995-IA.II(M)	EC validity extension	14.00	634.205	10/01/2020	Implemented
5.	J-11015/10/1995-IA.II(M)	Expansion EC (under 7(ii) clause of EIA Notification, 2006 (Ministry OM dtd 15 th September 2017)	16.80	634.205	02/03/2021	Implemented
6.	J-11015/10/1995-IA.II(M)	Expansion EC (under 7(ii) clause of EIA Notification, 2006 (Ministry OM dtd 15 th September 2017)	19.60	634.205	14/02/2022	Implemented
7.	J-11015/10/1995-IA. II(M)	Expansion EC (under 7(ii) clause of EIA Notification, 2006 (Ministry OM dtd 07.05.2022)	21.00	634.205	24/05/2022	Being implemented

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/Expansion EC/Amendment in EC/ Validity Extension of EC	Capacity in (MTPA)	Area (in ha)	Date	Status of implementation
8.	J-11015/10/1995-IA. II(M)	Amendment in EC	21.00	634.205	09/01/2023	Being implemented
9.	J-11015/10/1995-IA-II(M)	Amendment in EC	21.00	634.205	05/01/2024	Being implemented
10.	J-11015/10/1995-IA-II(M)	Amendment in EC	21.00	634.205	21/02/2025	Being implemented

W.r.t the previous approvals, PP submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine and submitted that the mine became operational from 2007-08 onwards. CTO renewal has been obtained from the OSPCB, and the existing CTO is valid up to 31.03.2026. Details of the same are as follows:

Year	EC sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual Production (MTPA)	Excess production beyond the EC sanctioned capacity
2007-08	10.0	0.15	--
2008-09	10.0	2.47	--
2009-10	10.0	3.43	--
2010-11	10.0	5.02	--
2011-12	10.0	5.54	--
2012-13	10.0	5.50	--
2013-14	10.0	5.27	--
2014-15	10.0	4.80	--
2015-16	10.0	8.02	--
2016-17	10.0	10.00	--
2017-18	14.0	10.07	--
2018-19	14.00	12.81	--
2019-20	14.00	13.62	--
2020-21	16.80	15.73	--
2021-22	19.60	18.49	--
2022-23	21.00	21.00	--
2023-24	21.00	21.00	--
2024-25	21.00	21.00	--
Total		183.93	--

In pursuance to the OM dated 07/05/2022, certified compliance report of the EC granted for 40% expansion, along with EIA/EMP report, for the additional capacity of 10% was submitted on PARIVESH portal on 01.03.2023 by the project proponent. Based on these documents, Ministry has to ascertain the adequacy of the proposed environmental safeguards and stipulate necessary conditions, if required, which shall be monitored as a part of the EC compliance monitoring.

Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussion held during the meeting, are given as under:

34.6.3: Certified Compliance Report: In compliance to the Ministry's O.M dated 07.05.2022 the project was earlier inspected by IRO, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar office on 24.01.2023 and CCR obtained on 31.01.2023. As the report's validity has been lapsed, the project was again inspected by the RO, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar on 16.05.2025 and CCR was issued vide letter no. 101-1014/2023/EPE dated 10.07.2025. Action taken report of the issued CCR dated 10.07.2025 was submitted by the project proponent on 09.08.2025.

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/General	Response of PP
1	Additional air pollution control measures should be taken along roads being used for transport of coal including e-/CNG/LNG vehicles.	During visit use of e vehicle for transportation of personal has been observed. PP reported deployed of 07 no of vehicle has been provided at area level. However, e-/CNG/LNG vehicle yet to be deployed for transportation of coal. PP submitted that 02 mobile fog cannon, 02 mechanical road sweeper deployed along the transportation road. During visit use of fixed sprinkler has been observed towards Sardega siding and in the road constructed towards Taparia for a length of 2.3 km (approx.). PP also submitted that 188 no of fixed type mist sprinkler 3332 nos of tree have been planted along the coal transportation route.	21.02.2025	Specific Condition no. 1.3	<p><u>Assured to Comply</u> At present, use of e-vehicles for transportation of personnel has been initiated within Basundhara Area. However, deployment of CNG-/LNG-based vehicles for coal transportation has not yet been operationalized due to absence of adequate refuelling infrastructure in the vicinity.</p> <p>MCL is actively exploring the feasibility of phased induction of cleaner fuel-based transport modes in line with the MoC's sustainability roadmap and CIL's policy on green transportation. The following steps are under consideration / implementation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOR is under preparation by NPC Patna for induction of e-vehicles of higher capacity for coal transportation. 2. Promotion of eco-friendly transport practices, including deployment of mechanical road sweepers, mobile fog cannons, and fixed sprinklers along coal transportation routes to minimize dust pollution until full green transition is achieved. 3. MCL is planning to set up Pipe conveyor from inpit upto Sardega siding to eradicate coal transportation by Diesel tippers which is expected to be completed by Dec 2026.
2	PP to submit the Progress report for mechanization of 4.5 MTPA (i.e., 21MTPA-16.5 MTPA) before submitting application for the validation of EC dated 24.05.2022	Action plan for 12.5 MTPA in pit belt from Kulda & Garjanbahal mines has been furnished. However, the pit belt conveyor is yet to be implemented. Sardega RLS with conveyor arrangement has commenced its operation reportedly since 22.12.2024.	05.01.2024	Specific Condition no. 1.1	<p><u>Assured to Comply</u> An amendment to the EC has been obtained for this condition by MoEF&CC vide letter dated 21.02.2025, with justification. The new timeline for implementation of 12.5 Mty belt conveyor +5 MTPA ATLS is Dec'26. Currently, the coal is being dispatched through the established railway sidings through dedicated coal transportation routes, not passing through any villages en- route. Sardega RLS of 20 MTY capacity has commenced since 22.12.2024. For the implementation of the pipe conveyor system, Financial bid opened on 05.08.2025. L1 bidder has been finalised. Work will be awarded by 30.10.2025.</p> <p>Timeline : 31.12.2026</p>

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/ General	Response of PP
3	PP shall engage third party independent expert agency for monitoring/auditing of compliance of EC condition every year.	Third party Audit for compliance of EC condition carried out by NEERI of report indicated November 2023 has been furnished. Third party auditing of compliance of EC condition for 2024 has not been furnished.	14.02.2022	Specific condition no. vii	<p><u>Assured to comply.</u></p> <p>In 2024, a request was sent to NEERI, ISM Dhanbad and IIT Kharagpur requesting a quotation for conducting third-party audit and subsequently quotation was received from NEERI and ISM Dhanbad) But due to some circumstances the project received delayed reply and to process the tender it got delayed. Proposal for conducting third party audit has been approved and work will be carried out by ISM Dhanbad. The study report will be submitted at the earliest.</p> <p><i>Timeline : 31.03.2026</i></p>
4	PP should not transportation of coal through road passing through any village and further ensures that its consumers of coal are also not using village road and passing through any sensitive location such as schools, hospitals etc. PP shall take legal undertaking from its consumers accordingly.	PP reported that PP is not sending coal through road passing through any villages. It was also informed that MCL has already issued a notice vide no.-MCL/GM/BA/M&S/20 22-23/140, date – 23.05.2022, to submit a legal undertaking to MCL office. However, legal undertaking from consumers yet to be furnished. On the way from Kulda to Taparia, vehicles are passing through village. Bypass road has been constructed on the way from Kulda to Kanika and Kulda to Sardega. Further, it was also informed that PP has submitted 1.78 Crore as environment compensation to SPCB, Odisha in this regard, on date – 10.05.2023	14.02.2022	Specific condition no. ix	<p><u>Assured to comply.</u></p> <p>A 6-lane bypass road incl service road from north boundary of Siarmal mine towards Taparia (SH) is also being undertaken through OBCC (Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation Limited with an estimated cost of Rs. 351.53 Crs which will bypass all major villages Gopalpur, Jhupurunga & Tumulia.</p> <p>The length of the diversion road is 6.235 Kms. Construction of the new diversion road will lead to uninterrupted mining operations as well as hassle-free transportation of local public and all mining vehicles through the Duduka - Gopalpur-Taparia Road as it is a major mining corridor road. Sanction order for the same has been issued on 24.10.2025.</p> <p><i>Timeline: 31.01.2027</i></p>
5	PP shall obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) for extraction of Ground water from Central water authority for expansion capacity.	NoC has been accorded by CGWA with validity up to 08.12.2022 vide NoC No. CGWA/NOC/MIN/OR IG/2020/9245 dated 09.12.2020 as per the document furnished online application submitted after	14.02.2022	Specific condition no. xvii	<p><u>Assured to comply.</u></p> <p>NoC has been granted by CGWA with validity up to 08-12-2022 vide NoC No. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2020/9245 dated 09.12.2020. The approval was obtained in view of the expanded capacity of the mines. The application for the 1st NoC renewal filed on date-03.12.2022 has been rejected and application has been submitted for the</p>

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/ General	Response of PP
		payment of revival charge and abstraction charge. However, NOC is awaited.			revival of the renewal application and a payment of Rs. 10,000 has been paid as revival charges on date: 20.03.2024. The revival was approved on date: 17.04.2025 by CGWA and a mail of approval was received. After the payment of the revival charges an amount of Rs. 64,82,400.00 has been paid on 21.01.2025 as abstraction charges and new application has been submitted for issue of NoC. EAC was conducted via online VC mode on 04.08.2025, and a revised application was submitted as per EAC recommendation. Currently awaiting for approval of application and subsequent issue of NOC.
6	The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provision and envisaged in the approved Mining Plan or environment monitoring plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, it should be so constructed so that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.	PP reported that transportation of the coal from mine to stock yard/Sardega siding is done by tipper through the existing road bypassing the village area. Special corridors have been constructed for coal transportation as follows: 25 Km four lanes dedicated coal corridor from Duduka to Kanika was completed with an expenditure of 209.40 Crores. Coal corridor from Bankibahal to Bedabahal has been constructed with partly four lanes and partly two lanes, with a small patch remaining. A road has been constructed from Kulda to Taparia, passing through the village. PP informed that the road transportation from Kulda to Taparia is being done by the consumer. Ministry may like to take a view in the matter.	14.02.2022	Standard condition no. 4.1 (b) iv	Assured to comply. Transportation of the coal from mine to stock yard/Sardega Siding is done by tipper through the existing road avoiding the village area. Special corridors have been constructed for coal transportation as follows: 25 Km four lanes dedicated coal corridor from Duduka to Kanika was completed with an expenditure of 209.40 Crores. The work of 04 lane road has been completed from Bankibahal to Kalobahal Chak. The double lane road from Kalobahal Chak to Bedabahal has been fully completed. PP is not sending coal through road passing through any villages. But it requires ensuring the coal consumers follow the same as stipulated in the respective condition. For this purpose, MCL has already issued a notice vide no. – MCL/GM/BA/M&S/2022-23/140, date – 23.05.2022, to submit a legal undertaking to MCL office. The response from the coal consumers is still awaited. Further, it is informed that PP has submitted 1.278 Crore as environment compensation to SPCB, Odisha in this regard, on date – 10.05.2023. A 6-lane bypass road incl service road from north boundary of Siarmal mine towards Taparia (SH) is also being undertaken through OBCC (Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation Limited with an estimated cost of Rs. 351.53 Crs which will bypass all major villages Gopalpur, Jhupurunga & Tumulia.

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/ General	Response of PP
					The length of the diversion road is 6.235 Kms. Construction of the new diversion road will lead to uninterrupted mining operations as well as hassle-free transportation of local public and all mining vehicles through the Duduka - Gopalpur-Taparia Road as it is a major mining corridor road. Sanction order for the same has been issued on 24.10.2025.
7	Catch and/or garland drains and siltation ponds in adequate numbers and appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, coal heaps & OB dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and water bodies. Further, dump material shall be properly consolidated/ compacted and accumulation of water over dumps shall be avoided by providing adequate channels for flow of silt into the drains. The drains/ponds so constructed shall be regularly de-silted particularly before onset of monsoon and maintained properly settling of silt material. The water so collected in the sump shall be utilized for dust suppression and green belt development and other industrial use. Dimension of the retaining wall constructed, if any, at the toe of the OB dumps within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data. The plantation of native species to be made between toe of	Garland drains of reported dimensions (7632m x 1.5m x 1.5m) and Berm of reported dimension (4809m x 1.5m x 1.5m) has been provided. Catch drains of reported dimension (3349m x 1m x 1m) has been provided at coal stocks and internal dump. PP reported that water so collected in the catch drains has been channelized into the mine sump (capacity 20 lakh cum) of Kulda OCP, which is further utilized for industrial purposes like dust suppression and firefighting, green belt development etc. Fresh Plantation has been observed on the external dump. PP reported Plantation of 25000 nos. over an area of 10 ha at the toe of the external OB Dump. However, retaining wall all along the external OB dump yet to be provided.	14.02.2022	Standard condition no. 4.1 (c) vi	<p><u>Assured to comply</u> The retaining wall construction is hindered at location where truck parking is constructed and in place where electric pole is there. Also, Kulda and Garjanbahal OCP is in the merger process in the upcoming year of 2026 leading to common boundary are not being constructed with retaining wall. PP ensures once the hindrance is over or removed the retaining wall will be constructed at the remaining portion.</p> <p><i>Timeline: 31.03.2027</i></p>

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/ General	Response of PP						
	the dump and adjacent field/habitation/water bodies.										
8	The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures to ensure riverine/riparian ecosystem in and around the coal mine up to a distance of 5 km. A riverine/riparian ecosystem conservation and management plan should be prepared and implemented in consultation with the irrigation/water resource department in the state government.	PP informed that the riverine/riparian ecosystem management plan is under preparation for Basundhara River and the estimation has been completed. It was also informed that the plan will be implemented as per the direction of irrigation department of Odisha Government.	14.02.2022	Standard condition no. 4.1 (c) xi	<p><u>Assured to comply</u></p> <p>The Basundhara River Conservation Plan for a cost of ₹ 261 crores has been prepared by MCL in consultation with relevant stakeholders and approved by State Water Resources Department, Bhubaneswar. The plan has been submitted to the Department of Water Resources, Sundargarh, for the preparation of DPR and implementation of the work.</p> <p>The following steps have been taken and are in progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for river conservation works is currently under preparation by the State Water Works Department. 2. River embankment works all along the identified vulnerable stretches along the mines have already been constructed to minimise silt inflow and protect the river banks. <p>The conservation plan is being designed for year-wise phased execution, ensuring ecological restoration, flow regulation, and pollution control in alignment with environmental standards. The DPR from the Department of Water Resources is being actively pursued, and implementation shall commence immediately upon receipt. Regular follow-up with the State Department is being done to expedite the process.</p> <p><u>Timeline: 31.12.2027</u></p>						
9	The entire excavated area, backfilling, external OB dumping (including topsoil) and afforestation plan shall be in conformity with the “during mining”/ “post mining” land-use pattern, which is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan and the EIA/EMP submitted to this Ministry. Progressive compliance status vis-à-vis the post mining	PP furnished the details of post mining land use details and present land use details. The details regarding excavation, back filling, external dumping in comparison to during mining land use pattern at present has not been furnished.	14.02.2022	Standard condition no. 4.1 (f) iii	<p><u>Assured to comply.</u></p> <p>The details regarding excavation, back filling, external dumping in comparison to during mining land use pattern at present has been furnished below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Particulars</th> <th>Actual achieved in ha as on 30.09.2025</th> <th>As per approved Mining Plan in ha</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Particulars	Actual achieved in ha as on 30.09.2025	As per approved Mining Plan in ha			
Particulars	Actual achieved in ha as on 30.09.2025	As per approved Mining Plan in ha									

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/ General	Response of PP												
	land use pattern shall be submitted to the MoEFCC/RO.				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Total excavated area</td> <td>321.91</td> <td>321.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Backfilled Area</td> <td>161.67</td> <td>211.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OB dumping</td> <td>69.04</td> <td>160.50 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plantation at Backfilled area</td> <td>65.39</td> <td>211.47</td> </tr> </table> <p>The satellite-based land use data has been furnished. Timeline for completion of plantation: 31.10.2029</p>	Total excavated area	321.91	321.91	Backfilled Area	161.67	211.47	OB dumping	69.04	160.50 2	Plantation at Backfilled area	65.39	211.47
Total excavated area	321.91	321.91															
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10	The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z-11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29th October, 2014, titled 'impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining projects wherein habitations and village are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area'.	PP reported that activity such as use of surface miner, Dust suppression system, ETP, shifting of village from mining lease area as per the R&R plan, minimize illumination and noise in the residential area, green belt development, control blasting, development of grazing land, fixed and movable water sprinkler provided on the transportation road. However, road from Kulda to Taparia passes through village for which bypass road yet to be implemented.	14.02.2022	Standard condition no. 4.1 (h) (v)	<p><u>Assured to comply.</u></p> <p>A 6-lane bypass road incl service road from north boundary of Siarmal mine towards Taparia (SH) is also being undertaken through OBCC (Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation Limited with an estimated cost of Rs. 351.53 Crs which will bypass all major villages Gopalpur, Jhupurunga & Tumulia.</p> <p>The length of the diversion road is 6.235 Kms. Construction of the new diversion road will lead to uninterrupted mining operations as well as hassle-free transportation of local public and all mining vehicles through the Duduka - Gopalpur-Taparia Road as it is a major mining corridor road. Sanction order for the same has been issued on 24.10.2025.</p>												
11	Mitigative measures shall be undertaken to control dust and other fugitive emissions all along the roads by providing sufficient numbers of water sprinklers. Adequate corrective measures shall be undertaken to control dust emissions as presented before the Committee, which would include mechanized sweeping, water sprinkling/mist spraying on haul	During visit water sprinkling as well as tanker has been observed to be plying on the road from mine to Sardega siding. PP reported that 4 tankers of capacity 28 kl, 2nos. of 20 kl tankers and 2 nos. of 12 kl does the work of suppressing dust inside the mine premises. A total number of 70 fixed sprinklers are provided at locations such as near weighbridges, on the external CT road, near	22.03.2018	Specific condition no. iv	<p><u>Assured to Comply</u></p> <p>The observation was related to Laikera Siding. At Laikera Railway siding the vertical concrete structure of wind barrier of approximately 500 m has been constructed, the remaining work is under progress and the work will be completed as per the schedule. For that SPCB has given a timeline by 31.12.2025 and as per schedule the work is progressing and will be completed on time. Vertical greenery and green belt is already present in the siding .</p> <p>Timeline: 31.12.2025</p>												

Sl. No.	Partially complied / Non-compliance details	Observation of RO (abridged)	EC date	Specific/ General	Response of PP
	roads and loading sites, long range misting/fogging arrangement, wind barrier wall and vertical greenery system, green belt, dust suppression arrangement at railway siding, etc.	office building, etc. to suppress dust. 3 no's of instant water showering systems are also present at the entry and exit of the mines. 7 nos. of static fog cannon and 10 nos. of mobile fog cannon have been provided for dust suppression in and outside the mine area. However, wind barrier wall, vertical greenery system green belt yet to be provided at railway siding.			

34.6.4: Compliance of Ministry's OM dated 07.05.2022.

S. No.	Condition as per OM	Compliance
(i)	An application shall be made on the PARIVESH Portal for exemption under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006.	Applied for EC capacity of 21 MTPA on 31.01.2023 for exemption under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006.
(ii)	In the view of exigency as detailed above and as per the provisions of Para 4(iii a) of EIA Notification as amended, all such expansion, irrespective of the mine area, shall be considered by the Ministry at the Central level.	Application has been considered by MoEF&CC vide its meeting dated 16.02.2023 & 28.08.2023. Reconsideration of the proposal based on ADS reply scheduled on 30.10.2025.
(iii)	The increase in production capacity up to 50% of original EC shall be allowed within the same mine lease area, based on the available reserves in the coal block, on same terms and conditions of the existing EC granted for 40% expansion of production capacity.	MoEF&CC issued EC for 21 MTPA with the same terms and conditions of the existing EC granted for 40% expansion of production capacity, i.e. 19.6 MTPA vide its letter dated 24.05.2022.
(iv)	Certified Compliance Report of the EC granted for 40% expansion, along with EIA/EMP report, prepared based on standard ToRs for the additional capacity of 10% shall be submitted on PARIVESH portal within six months of enhancement of production beyond 40%.	Certified Compliance Report: In compliance to the Ministry's O.M dated 07.05.2022 the project was earlier inspected by IRO, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar office on 24.01.2023 and CCR obtained on 31.01.2023. This has been submitted in the online EC application vide proposal IA/OR/CMIN/416510/2023 dated 31.01.2023.
(v)	Based on the documents as mentioned in Para (iv) above, Ministry shall ascertain the adequacy of the proposed environmental safeguards and stipulate necessary conditions, if required, which shall be monitored as a part of the EC compliance monitoring.	PP has agreed to comply.

34.6.5: Environmental Site Settings: The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo-sheet No: 64 N/12 & 64 N/16 on RF 1:50000 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from -Latitude: 21°42'00" to 21°44' 30" N; Longitude: 83° 43'00" to 83°46'30"

Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA)/ Severely Polluted Area (SPA) as per CEPI Assessment 2018.

Mining Lease: PP submitted the following details of mine lease:

Acquired under	Govt. order/ Notification	Area (in ha)	Remarks
CBA(A&D) Act 1957	9(1) SO No.3055 dtd.29.10.1990	929.830	The ML area of 634.205 ha is part of this land acquired area; the rest of the area is kept for future expansion of the mine.

Forest Area: The project involved total 227.890 ha of forest land. The details of the approval already obtained or applied for is as follows:

S. No.	Obtained vide letter No.	Area (ha)	Stage I/II	Validity
1.	8-176/1997-FC dtd. 08.08.2007	227.890	Stage II	----
	Total	227.890		

Total broken forestland is 219.37 Ha and there is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Protected Area: The project is not located within 10 KM of any ESZ/ ESA/ national park/ wildlife sanctuary/ biosphere reserve/ tiger reserve/ elephant reserve/ tiger corridor/ elephant corridor etc.

PP further submitted that for the existing project, an amount of Rs. 43,182,750.00/- has been deposited for the implementation of the regional wildlife management plan submitted on 13.08.2014 & 04.08.2015.

As per the Wildlife Protection Act, 2022, schedule I species are found to be present in the study area. A “Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for Expansion of Kulda Opencast Coal Mine Project by MCL, located in IB Valley Coal Field (Basundhara Area)” was prepared by DFO, Sundargarh Division.”

Also, it is to be noted as per the report, there is no wildlife Corridor in the Division. However, movement of elephant is very erratic around the Zone of Impact. Better presence of elephant is felt near to Garjan Pahad RF in Hemgir range. Movement of wildlife like Fox, Wild boar, Rabbit, Jungle Cat, Jungle fowl etc was reported by forester as well as surveyors. However, there is sparse presence & movement in this area.

As per site specific wildlife conservation plan an amount of Rs. 1115.12 Lakh has been approved by CCF (WL-III), office of PCCF.

Other Sensitive Receptors (within 5km radius of the ML area)

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km (within 5 km from the ML area)		
	Habitation	Distance in km	Direction (w.r.t to mine boundary)
i. Habitation	Barpali I R&R site	0.5-1 Km	N
	Chatenpalli R&R site (Siarmal village displaced)	20 Km	NE
	Tumulia Village	3-4 Km	SW
	Sardega Village	4-5 Km	NW

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km (within 5 km from the ML area)		
ii. School	Schools	Distance in km	Direction (w.r.t to mine boundary)
	Bankibahal RR site Primary school	2.82	NE
	Barpali UP School Class up to 8	3.35	NE
	Sunajori Primary School	4.79	W
	Garjanbahal Primary School	4.22	SE
	Garjanbahal UP School	4.70	SE
	Garjanbahal High School	4.70	SE
	Karlikachhar Primary School	2.69	S
	Tumulia UP School	2.70	SW
	Tumulia High School	2.72	SW
	Tumulia +2 College	2.50	SW
	Tumulia Degree College	2.30	SW
	Prajapara Primary School	4.96	S
	Tikilipara UP School	4.20	N
	Basundhara High School, Tikilipara	3.65	N
	Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Tikilipara	4.53	N
	Basundhara DAV public School	3.22	N
	Kuisira Primary School	3.39	NE
iii. River/ Waterbody	Name of the water bodies	Distance in km	Direction
	Chattanjore stream	Within mine lease area	--
	Basundhara River (HFL: 259 m)	0.07 Km	N
	Bhaina Stream	0.5 Km	SW
	Barjharria stream	3.16 Km	NW
iv. Forest	Forest	Distance	Direction
	Lalma RF	Adjacent	S
	Pandripani RF	100m	N
	Jatikhol RF	800m	SE
	Garjanpahar RF	1.6 km	SW
	Garjanjor RF	2.78 km	W
	Punjipahar RF	2.73 km	E
	Kalatpani RF	3.9 km	N
	Balijori RF	4.0 km	E
	Jamakani RF	4.6 km	NW
v. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected site	No		
vi. Any other	Dispensary	Distance in km	Direction
	Homeopathy center – Tumulia	3.0 km	
	Public health center -Duduka	6.0 km	

34.6.6: Method of Mining and Mining Plan –

The Mining Plan (including Mine Closure Plan) was approved MCL Board in its 248th board meeting vide minutes No. MCL/SBP/CS/BD248/Exct/2022/12600, dated 20.06.2022. Further Addendum Mining Plan & Mine Closure Plan approved by Board vide letter no. MCL/SBP/CS/CR-06/2024-25/14284, dated 24-08-24. Further 2nd Addendum Mining Plan & Mine Closure Plan approved by Board vide letter no. MCL/SBP/CS/BD-281/Exct/2025/14879, dated 08-07-25.

1. Method of Mining to be adopted shall be Opencast. The Capacity of the mine applied for normative capacity peak capacity as per approved mining plan is 21.0 MTPA. (19.60 MTPA to 21.0 MTPA i.e. Phase III 50%)

2. Excavation of Coal is through Shovel-Dumper in OB and Surface miner in coal.
3. Total Geological Reserve is 245.71 Mt with 200.66 Mt (including depleted reserves) as mineable reserves. Out of total mineable reserve, 199.08 (Remaining reserve – 15.15 Mt (as on 01.04.2025)) are available for extraction. Percentage of extraction is 81.02 % w.r.t. Geological reserve.
4. 03 major seams with maximum thickness ranging from 1.84 to 34.07 are workable. Overall Grade of Coal is D to G (Avg.- G12), Stripping ratio is 0.57 (As on 01.04.2025), while gradient is 2.75⁰ - 8⁰
5. Life of mine is 1 year as on 01.04.2025.
6. The project has 02 OB dump (within ML area), one of 69.04 ha with 90 m height and 38.33 Mm³ of OB and other is 91.462 ha OB dump site area in which OB shall be dumped in future expansion project. Also, 1 internal OB dump (over backfilled area) in an area of 211.47 ha with 93.50 Mm³ of OB is envisaged in the project.
7. Total quarry area is 321.91 ha out of which backfilling will be done in 211.47 ha and final mine void will be created in an area of 17.64 ha. The depth of the mine void will be 175 m. This mine shall be further expanded. On closure of the mine after further expansion, the final depth of the mine will be 40m by filling OB from nearby mines and fly ash from neighbouring thermal power plants.
8. Land-use details:
 - a. Pre-mining:

S. No.	Type of Land	Within ML	Total
(a)	Agricultural	259.794	259.794
(b)	Forest	227.890	227.890
(c)	Waste land	146.521	146.521
(d)	Grazing	--	--
(e)	Surface water bodies	--	--
	Total	634.205	634.205

b. Post mining:

S. No.	Category	Land use (area in ha)					Total
		Plantation/ grass carpeting	Water body	Dip side slope & haul road	Undis- turbed	Built-up area	
1	Excavation Area	211.47	17.64	92.80	-	-	321.91
2	OB dump Area (External)	160.502	-	-	-	-	160.502
3	Infrastructure	25.23	-	-	-	100.927	126.157
4	Embankment	3.51	-	-	-	14.049	17.559
5	Other area, including safety zone & Road/ stream Diversion	8.077	-	-	-	-	8.077
	Total	408.789	17.64	92.80	-	114.976	634.205

9. Details of transportation:

- (i) In-pit to surface: Through dumpers and tippers
- (ii) Surface to siding: Through CT Road to TRH; TRH to Sardega siding through closed conveyor belt.
- (iii) Siding to loading: Through Rapid Loading system & wharf wall loading.

Name of the mine	Capacity of the mine in MTPA	Production target for FY 2024-25 MTPA	Coal evacuation rail arrangements with existing capacities			Road sale
			Sardegga Siding	Kanika Siding	Laikera Siding	
			40 MTPA	8 MTPA	6.67 MTPA	--
Kulda Opencast project	21	21	8 MTPA	4 MTPA	4 MTPA	5 MTPA
	Through Railway sidings: 16 MTPA		Towards Sardegga siding through road (4.1 km) and belt conveyor (2 km) Addl. 4.245 Km belt is to be constructed.	Through dedicated concrete coal corridor of 30 km and afterwards through wharf wall loading onto the wagons at siding	Through dedicated concrete coal corridor of 12 Km and afterwards through wharf wall loading onto the wagons at siding	Through road (30-60 km)

(iv) Quantity being transported by rail/ road/ conveyor/ ropeway:

Name of the mine	Capacity of the mine in MTPA	Through Rail in MTPA	Through Road in MTPA
Kulda Opencast project	21	16	5

(v) Proposed changes in Transportation

Name of the mine	Capacity of the mine in MTPA	Coal evacuation rail arrangements with existing capacities	
		Barpalli Bulb Siding (To be commissioned in June 2027)	Sardegga Siding
		90 MTPA	40 MTPA
Kulda Opencast project	21	21 MTPA	--
	Through Railway sidings: 21 MTPA	Through 2.5 km closed conveyor only	Through 6.245 km closed conveyor only Standby arrangement if Barpalli bulb is put on stall due to maintenance.

10. **Details of reclamation:** The reclamation plan includes i) Afforestation shall be done progressively covering an area of: 408.789 ha at the end of mining. This will include:

- a. Reclaimed external OB dump (in ha): 160.502 ha (OB dump within ML area)
- b. Internal dump (in ha): 211.47 ha will be reclaimed with plantation/grass carpeting.
- c. Green belt (in ha): 8.077 ha (includes safety zone)
- d. Density of tree plantation (in no of plants): 2500 nos. per ha.
- e. Void (in ha) at a depth of (in m) which is proposed to be converted into water body: 17.64 ha, Depth 175 m – This mine shall be further expanded. On closure of the mine after further expansion, the final depth of the mine will be 40m by filling OB from nearby mines and fly ash from neighbouring thermal power plants.
- f. Others in ha (such as excavation area along ML boundary, along roads and infrastructure, embankment area and in township located outside the lease etc): 28.74 ha (Infrastructure: 25.23 ha + Embankment: 3.51 ha)

34.6.7: Baseline data:

Period	Post Monsoon: Oct 2022 to Dec 2022																																																																																																												
AAQ parameters at 10 Locations (min and max)	<p>Air quality-10 Stations (Core zone-2, Buffer zone -8)</p> <p>Core Zone: PM₁₀ = 61.5 to 147.4 µg/m³ PM_{2.5} = 31.6 to 86.7 µg/m³ SO₂ = 17.4 to 34.3 µg/m³ NO_x = 21.1 to 38.7 µg/m³ CO = 0.29 to 0.48 mg/m³</p> <p>Buffer Zone: PM₁₀ = 47.8 to 89 µg/m³ PM_{2.5} = 23.6 to 46.8 µg/m³ SO₂ = 7.0 to 24.7 µg/m³ NO_x = 10.0 to 27.4 µg/m³ CO = 0.20 to 0.35 mg/m³</p>																																																																																																												
Incremental GLC Level	<p>The incremental increase in the values were projected to be 23.25 µg/m³ for PM₁₀, 2.94 µg/m³ for PM_{2.5}, 10.38 µg/m³ for SO₂, and 13.72 µg/m³ for NO_x <i>in the core zone</i>, while</p> <p>2.97 µg/m³ for PM₁₀, 0.41 µg/m³ for PM_{2.5}, 0.84 µg/m³ for SO₂, and 1.28 µg/m³ for NO_x <i>in the buffer zone</i>, in the buffer zone</p> <p><i>Note: the incremental GLC values have been provided for the maximum baseline readings in core and buffer zones</i></p>																																																																																																												
Ground water quality at 4 Locations	<p>Core Zone</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Parameter</th> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>pH at 25°C</td><td>6.85</td><td>7.12</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>TDS (mg/L)</td><td>174</td><td>208</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Total Hardness as CaCO₃ (mg/L)</td><td>104</td><td>118</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>Nitrate (mg/L)</td><td>1.31</td><td>2.08</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Chlorides (mg/l)</td><td>28.99</td><td>45.99</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Fluoride (mg/l)</td><td>0.1</td><td>0.1</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>Calcium(mg/L)</td><td>19.2</td><td>25.7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>Sulphate(mg/L)</td><td>16.01</td><td>25.32</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>Copper (mg/L)</td><td>0.02</td><td>0.02</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>Manganese (mg/L)</td><td>0.05</td><td>0.21</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>Iron (mg/L)</td><td>0.05</td><td>0.31</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>Zinc(mg/L)</td><td>1.16</td><td>3.38</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>Lead(mg/L)</td><td>0.005</td><td>0.005</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>Cadmium (mg/L)</td><td>0.002</td><td>0.002</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>Total Chromium (mg/L)</td><td>0.1</td><td>0.1</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>Arsenic(mg/L)</td><td>0.005</td><td>0.005</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>Selenium(mg/L)</td><td>0.005</td><td>0.005</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>TSS (mg/L)</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Buffer Zone:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Parameter</th> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>pH at 25°C</td><td>6.69</td><td>6.87</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>TDS (mg/L)</td><td>272</td><td>336</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Total Hardness as CaCO₃ (mg/L)</td><td>91</td><td>124</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>Nitrate (mg/L)</td><td>23.6</td><td>32.2</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>Chlorides (mg/l)</td><td>76.9</td><td>90.9</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Fluoride (mg/l)</td><td>0.1</td><td>0.1</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>Calcium(mg/L)</td><td>20.8</td><td>35.3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S. No.	Parameter	Minimum	Maximum	1	pH at 25°C	6.85	7.12	2	TDS (mg/L)	174	208	3	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	104	118	4	Nitrate (mg/L)	1.31	2.08	5	Chlorides (mg/l)	28.99	45.99	6	Fluoride (mg/l)	0.1	0.1	7	Calcium(mg/L)	19.2	25.7	8	Sulphate(mg/L)	16.01	25.32	9	Copper (mg/L)	0.02	0.02	10	Manganese (mg/L)	0.05	0.21	11	Iron (mg/L)	0.05	0.31	12	Zinc(mg/L)	1.16	3.38	13	Lead(mg/L)	0.005	0.005	14	Cadmium (mg/L)	0.002	0.002	15	Total Chromium (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	16	Arsenic(mg/L)	0.005	0.005	17	Selenium(mg/L)	0.005	0.005	18	TSS (mg/L)	5	5	Sl. No.	Parameter	Minimum	Maximum	1	pH at 25°C	6.69	6.87	2	TDS (mg/L)	272	336	3	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ (mg/L)	91	124	4	Nitrate (mg/L)	23.6	32.2	5	Chlorides (mg/l)	76.9	90.9	6	Fluoride (mg/l)	0.1	0.1	7	Calcium(mg/L)	20.8	35.3
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Surface water quality at 4 Locations	Core Zone														
	Sl. No.	Parameter	Minimum	Maximum											
	1	pH at 25°C	6.69	7.22											
	2	TSS (mg/L)	10	32											
	3	BOD (mg/L)	2.4	8.7											
	4	COD (mg/L)	5	30											
	5	TDS (mg/L)	59	392											
	6	Fluoride (mg/l)	0.1	0.2											
	7	Iron(mg/L)	0.1	0.17											
	8	Total Chromium (mg/L)	<0.1	<0.1											
	9	Nitrate (mg/L)	0.92	3.89											
	10	Chloride (mg/L)	21.99	22.49											
	11	Total Coliform (mg/L)	14	45											
	12	Total Hardness (mg/L)	28	58											
	Buffer Zone														
	Sl. No.	Parameter	Minimum	Maximum											
	1	pH at 25°C	6.78	7.25											
	2	TSS (mg/L)	7	16											
	3	BOD (mg/L)	<2	2.8											
	4	COD (mg/L)	<5	15											
	5	TDS (mg/L)	59	264											
	6	Fluoride (mg/l)	<0.1	<0.1											
	7	Iron(mg/L)	0.14	0.66											
	8	Total Chromium (mg/L)	<0.1	<0.1											
9	Nitrate (mg/L)	1.42	3.65												
10	Chloride (mg/L)	18.99	66.98												
11	Total Coliform (mg/L)	14	38												
12	Total Hardness (mg/L)	41	102												
Noise levels Leq (Day and Night) at 10 locations (Core zone-2, Buffer zone -8)	Core zone: 47.1 to 70.5 dB(A) for the daytime and 33.7 to 59.50 dB(A) for the Night time. Buffer zone: 46.00 to 50.80 dB(A) for the daytime and 33.30 to 40.20 dB(A) for the Night time.														
Traffic assessment study findings	<p>A cumulative assessment of the coal transportation through Sardega route has been carried out, considering this total dispatch volume of 20.0 MTPA. Out of 20.0 MTPA, 12.0 MTPA of coal from Garjanbahal OCP is being transported to Sardega Siding and 8.0 MTPA of coal from the Kulda OCP. Traffic study has been conducted at CT Road towards Sardega Siding. The PCU/hr for this road was found to be 632.70, while the V/C ratio was 0.44, which categorizes LoS in 'good' category.</p> <p>For the CT road towards Sardega Siding:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Location</th> <th colspan="3">Traffic Assessment</th> </tr> <tr> <th>No of PCU's/hr</th> <th>V/C</th> <th>LoS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Road to Sardega Siding</td> <td>632.70 PCU/Hr @ 20.00 to 21.00 Hrs</td> <td>0.44</td> <td>C</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Location	Traffic Assessment			No of PCU's/hr	V/C	LoS	Road to Sardega Siding	632.70 PCU/Hr @ 20.00 to 21.00 Hrs	0.44	C
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Road to Sardega Siding	632.70 PCU/Hr @ 20.00 to 21.00 Hrs	0.44	C												

	<p>2 lane (Two Way) divided as per IRC: 106 -1990 - 1500 PCUs (width: approx. 12 meters)</p> <p>For the road towards Laikera Siding: Currently, 2.20 MTPA of coal from Garjanbahal OCP and 4.0 MTPA coal from Kulda OCP are being transported through Laikera Siding. Accordingly, a cumulative assessment of the coal transportation through Laikera siding road has been carried out, considering a total dispatch of 6.20 MTPA. The PCU/hr for this road was found to be 221.50, while the V/C ratio was 0.25, which categorizes LoS in the 'very good' category.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Location</th> <th colspan="3">Traffic Assessment</th> </tr> <tr> <th>No of PCU's/hr</th> <th>V/C</th> <th>LoS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Road to Laikera Siding</td> <td>221.50</td> <td>0.25</td> <td>B</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2 lane (Two Way) undivided as per IRC: 106 -1990 – 900 PCUs/hr (width: 9 meters)</p> <p>For the road towards Kanika Siding: Currently, 2.0 MTPA of coal from Garjanbahal OCP and 4.0 MTPA coal from Kulda OCP are being transported to Kanika Siding. Accordingly, a cumulative assessment of coal transportation through Kanika Siding Road has been carried out, based on a total dispatch of 6.0 MTPA. The PCU/hr for this road was 205.15, while the V/C ratio was 0.14, which categorizes LoS as 'excellent'.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Location</th> <th colspan="3">Traffic Assessment</th> </tr> <tr> <th>No of PCU's/hr</th> <th>V/C</th> <th>LoS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Road to Kanika Siding</td> <td>205.15</td> <td>0.14</td> <td>A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2 lane (Two Way) divided as per IRC: 106 -1990 - 1500 PCUs (width:12 meters)</p>	Location	Traffic Assessment			No of PCU's/hr	V/C	LoS	Road to Laikera Siding	221.50	0.25	B	Location	Traffic Assessment			No of PCU's/hr	V/C	LoS	Road to Kanika Siding	205.15	0.14	A
Location	Traffic Assessment																						
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Location	Traffic Assessment																						
	No of PCU's/hr	V/C	LoS																				
Road to Kanika Siding	205.15	0.14	A																				
Flora and fauna	This is a running mine. For present Kulda OCP an amount of Rs. 43,182,750.00/- has deposited for the implementation of Regional Wild Life Management Plan (RWLMP) to the Forest Department.																						
Water Requirement	<p>Source of Water: a) Surface Water – Nil b) Ground Water – 4141 KLD</p> <p>Ground Water Intersection: 8.0 to 8.5 m</p> <p>Water Requirement: Potable: 721 KLD Industrial: 3420 KLD</p> <p>Surface water NOC details: No surface water is being utilized. The potable water requirement is being met from the reservoir of Basundhara East old quarry of M/s MCL. The same arrangement will continue for the expansion project till Integrated Water Supply Scheme is implemented. Industrial water demand is met from existing Kulda OCP mine sump water.</p> <p>The status of the CGWA NoC renewal for the project is provided below: Application No.: CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2020/9245 Application Code: 10710 Name of Project: Kulda Opencast Project Status: Renewal Application has been accepted & scrutiny of application has been completed by CGWA. Payment of Rs. 64,82,400/- as one-year advance charges of groundwater abstraction has been demanded. Payment for the abstraction charges could not be done due to technical issues in NOCAP portal and the same has been taken up with CGWA pending facilitation of payment.</p> <p>Revival was accepted, and for the renewal of NoC, Internal EAC meetings were held on 08.07.2025 (231st meeting), 15.07.2025 (232nd meeting) & 04.08.2025 (234th meeting). Query raised and CGWA asked to revise the renewal application for 2024-26. All the queries and documents have been submitted as of now—approval awaiting from CGWA for NoC.</p>																						

34.6.8: Water Requirement: Total water demand for the project is 4141 KLD (Potable: 721 KLD, Industrial: 3420 KLD). Industrial water is being supplied from the mine sump stored water, while potable water requirements are met from the reservoir at the Basundhara East old quarry. The potable water is used, followed by treatment in the water treatment plant of 7.2 MLD (1.6 MGD) located on the mine premises.

Earlier, Chattajhore stream passing through the lease had been straightened with permission from Tehsildar, Hemgir vide letter no. 2609 dtd 17.12.2019. No, further diversions are proposed.

34.6.9: Power Requirement and details of diversion of Hi-Tension/ Transmission Line:

The power required for the said project is 9.721 MW, which is sourced from the 220 kV Main sub-station at Garjanbahal. No diversion of Hi tension/transmission lines have been proposed.

34.6.10: Solid and Hazardous Waste:

Sl. No.	Type of Waste	Source	Quantity: Tons per annum	Mode of Treatment & Disposal
1	Domestic waste	Administrative building & residential area	539.04	Municipal solid waste collection and disposal
2	Plastic Waste	Colonies, office premises, regional stores & workshops	26	Waste segregation and selling to authorised recyclers.
3	e-waste	Administrative buildings	0.22	Auctioned to authorised recyclers by SPCB
4	Batteries waste	HEMM workshop	3.605	Auctioned to authorised recyclers by SPCB
5	Biomedical waste	Area Dispensary	3.65	Waste Segregation & Incineration
6	Filters	HEMM Workshop	0.98	Handed over to CHTDSF, authorised by SPCB
7	Used Oil	HEMM Workshop	4.05	Auction to recyclers authorised by SPCB.
8	Oily Sludge	ETP	1193.06	Handed over to CHTDSF, authorised by SPCB.
9	Oil & grease	HEMM Workshop	0.12	Auction to recyclers authorized by SPCB.
10	Overburden	Quarry area	51448133	Backfilling

34.6.11: Status of implementation of action plan as per the Public Consultation held on 10.01.2018 for the EC dated 22.03.2018:

Details of advertisement given	New Indian Express (English), Dharitri (Odiya), Date of Advertisement: 07.12.2017
Date of public consultation	10.01.2018
Venue	Stadium Field near Jagannath Mandir, Basundhara Area.
Presiding Officer	1. Sri Bhaskar Chandra Turuk, ADM, Sundargarh 2. Sri Niranjan Mallick, Regional Officer, SPCB
Number of Person Attended Hearing	Total 300 people attended the meeting.
Number of representations received in writing from the district and outside of district, please give details:	A total of 300 people attended the meeting, out of which 285 representations were received as per the PH proceedings. 61 written representations were obtained within the district.
Major issues raised	Enhancing mitigative measures on Air pollution, Water pollution, Drinking water Employment.

Action Plan as per MoEF&CC O.M. dated 30.09.2020: -

As life of the project is only 1 year (as on 01.04.2025), the project has incurred majority of its expenditure in the following heads as per issues raised in the public hearing dtd 10.01.2018.

Further, the project is in the process of expanding its lease area (ToR obtained by MoEF&CC vide dtd 13.12.2022), for which a public hearing was held from 18.02.2025 to 20.02.2025. A fresh action plan has been prepared by the project for an amount of Rs. 682.61 Crs, which will be implemented in the expansion phase of the project.

S. No.	Area of Focus	Expenditure Rs. in lakhs
1.	Air pollution/Water Pollution control measures	4100.00
2.	Plantation	2335.00
3.	Skill development initiatives/Employment	832 .00
4.	Drinking water supply	2453.35
Total		9720.35

Apart from the above, for Infrastructure development (Construction of Roads, & railway infra.), an expenditure of **Rs. 2590.25 Crs** has been incurred for eco-friendly dispatch of coal.

Compliance of the earlier PH held on 10.01.2018 is provided below:

S. No.	Issues raised by the Public	Action taken by the project along with budgetary provisions till date																																																																																																
1.	Air Pollution due to coal dust.	<p>a. Various control measures like deploying of Fog cannons (mobile and fixed), mechanical road sweeper, wheel washing system, instant shower system, vertical greenery etc. has been taken up inside and outside the project.</p> <p>b. Besides the above, infrastructure projects such as the doubling of the Sardega rail line and the Barpali bulb loop (90 Mty) are in the pipeline.</p> <p>c. The control measures have been significantly increased and the details with expenditure are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Air Quality Control Measures</th> <th>Capacity/Quantity</th> <th>Commissioned period</th> <th>Investment In Rs.</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">Air Quality Control Measures</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Mobile fog cannons (40 m throw)</td> <td>11</td> <td>2020-2024</td> <td>440 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Mobile water sprinklers</td> <td>19</td> <td>2018-2023</td> <td>2280 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Fixed mist Sprinklers</td> <td>250</td> <td>2019-2024</td> <td>50 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Trolley-mounted Fog Cannons</td> <td>8</td> <td>2020-2023</td> <td>70 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Mechanical Road Sweepers</td> <td>4</td> <td>May 2023</td> <td>272 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Wheel Washing Units</td> <td>3</td> <td>Oct 2022</td> <td>108 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>Instant Shower Systems</td> <td>3</td> <td>May 2018</td> <td>60 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.</td> <td>Weighbridge/Boom barrier</td> <td>17/3</td> <td>2010-2023</td> <td>145 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.</td> <td>Wind Barrier System</td> <td>1</td> <td>Oct 2024</td> <td>500 Lakhs</td> <td>Operational</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.</td> <td>Plantation up to 2024-25</td> <td>427373</td> <td>2018-2024</td> <td>2335 Lakhs</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Apart from above, the following implemented infrastructures further have led to the significant reduction in fugitive emissions due to transportation of coal.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Name of Infrastructure</th> <th>Capacity/Quantity</th> <th>Commissioned on</th> <th>Investment In Rs.</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">Rail & Road Infrastructure</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Jharsuguda - Sardega Railway line (Single line)</td> <td>53.1 Km</td> <td>April 2018</td> <td>1129 Cr.</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Sardega Spur siding</td> <td>20.0 Mty</td> <td>April 2018</td> <td>17.99 Cr</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sl. No.	Air Quality Control Measures	Capacity/Quantity	Commissioned period	Investment In Rs.	Remarks	Air Quality Control Measures						1.	Mobile fog cannons (40 m throw)	11	2020-2024	440 Lakhs	Operational	2.	Mobile water sprinklers	19	2018-2023	2280 Lakhs	Operational	3.	Fixed mist Sprinklers	250	2019-2024	50 Lakhs	Operational	4.	Trolley-mounted Fog Cannons	8	2020-2023	70 Lakhs	Operational	5.	Mechanical Road Sweepers	4	May 2023	272 Lakhs	Operational	6.	Wheel Washing Units	3	Oct 2022	108 Lakhs	Operational	7.	Instant Shower Systems	3	May 2018	60 Lakhs	Operational	8.	Weighbridge/Boom barrier	17/3	2010-2023	145 Lakhs	Operational	9.	Wind Barrier System	1	Oct 2024	500 Lakhs	Operational	10.	Plantation up to 2024-25	427373	2018-2024	2335 Lakhs	Completed	Sl. No.	Name of Infrastructure	Capacity/Quantity	Commissioned on	Investment In Rs.	Remarks	Rail & Road Infrastructure						1	Jharsuguda - Sardega Railway line (Single line)	53.1 Km	April 2018	1129 Cr.	Completed	2	Sardega Spur siding	20.0 Mty	April 2018	17.99 Cr	Completed
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S. No.	Issues raised by the Public	Action taken by the project along with budgetary provisions till date					
		3	Concrete road to Sardega Spur siding.	6.0 Km	March 2019	19.50 Cr	Completed.
		4	Transport Road from Siarmal to Bankibahal	2.7 Km	January 2020	16.36 Cr	Completed
		5	Strengthening & widening of Transport Road from Dudka to Kanika siding	25 Km	July 2020	209.40 Cr	Completed
		6	RLS with surge bin adjacent to Sardega siding	20 Mty	Dec 2024	403.66 Cr.	Completed
		7	Coal corridor road from Bankibahal to Bhedabahal	31 Km	2023-2024	676.00 Cr.	Completed
		8	Duduka to Toparia Road	22.2 Km	2023-2024	118.34 Cr.	Completed
2	Water Pollution : Pollution due to Coal Dust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garland drains (6632m x 1.5m x 1.5m) and Berm (4809m x 1.5m x 1.5m) has been provided all around the mine boundary and External dump with a cost of 30 lakhs. Catch drains (3349m x 1m x 1m) has been provided at coal stocks and internal dump at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs. The water so collected in the catch drains is channelized into the mine sump (capacity - 21 lakhs cum) of Kulda OCP, which is further utilized for industrial purposes like dust suppression and firefighting, green belt development etc. The drains are cleaned and de-silted pre-monsoon and post-monsoon, annually twice. A retaining wall along the external OB dump of (500m X 0.40m X 2m) for Rs. 71 lakhs have been completed on 30.06.2021 which arrest the surface runoff of OB dumps. An ETP of capacity 450 KLD has been provided for the workshop, and the treated water is directed into the mine sump, ensuring zero discharge. The oil and grease traps are also operational and working efficiently. The monitoring report of the effluent of ETP is being submitted to the IRO, MoEF&CC, regularly. The Cost of Modification of ETP is 59.00 Lakhs. 					
3	Drinking Water Supply to peripheral villages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the villages have been shifted to the R&R sites constructed by MCL, which have tap water provisions with Overhead tanks. Further, artificial water harvesting ponds have been constructed to cater for the needs of local people. Drinking water supply is being done for far peripheral villages during the summer (90 days) through water tankers after treatment of mine water through water treatment plant established in the mine. As per requirement MCL is supplying drinking water to all the nearby villages in consultation with district administration. A total of Rs. 253.85 Lakhs has been spent on supplying the drinking water to the peripheral villages in last 8 years. 					

S. No.	Issues raised by the Public	Action taken by the project along with budgetary provisions till date		
		Employment for unemployed youth	Provided	To be provided
4	Employment for unemployed youth	Direct Employment	345 nos.	35 nos. are under process
		Indirect employment	489 nos. have been employed.	61 nos.
		(Skill development Initiatives)	Under various programs as detailed below:	
		<p>1. Under the ‘CCDP-Utthan’ Comprehensive Community Development Programme, 6174 families living in 40 villages of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Angul and Sambalpur districts have been given training on livelihood and skill development for five and half years commencing from 2018-19. Training has been given for cattle development, goat development, backyard poultry farming, fodder development programme, Agri horticulture development programme, awareness creation and capacity building programme etc. Beneficiaries: 6174 families; Expend. ₹ 20.29 Crore</p> <p>2. Multi-Skill Training Programme: A MoU was signed between MCL and Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology, Centre for Skilling & Technical Support, Bhubaneswar. Under this project, a six-month multi-skill training on electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and agricultural tools is being given to the unemployed youths among the project-affected families. Expenditure: Rs. 41.45 Lakhs</p> <p>3. Ahaar Mandal & Desi Beej Ghar Programme: In association with Project ‘Ahaar Mandal’, an initiative of promoting organic farming among the rural community of Hemgir block, Sundargarh district, under CSR of MCL: Beneficiaries: 200 SC & ST farmers of 10 villages-₹ 25 Lakhs.</p> <p>4. Desi Beej Ghar: The project to provide support for cultivation & preservation of indigenous seeds and create an eco-system for marketing the product to fellow farmers through seed bank. The project was implemented in the Hemgir block, Sundargarh district. Overall, 200 farmers have been provided training on mechanisms for the preservation of indigenous seeds. Beneficiaries: 200 farmers ₹ 22.53 lakhs</p> <p>Besides this, there are scopes of indirect employment in the mines. The villagers are being employed in various departments of Kulda OCP for looking after day-to-day work on a contract basis.</p>		

34.6.12: EMP Budget: Total Capital Costs is Rs. 622.21 crores (including additional 319.25 Crs for expansion), Cost for implementing EMP is Rs. 1349.08 Lakhs (capital) while recurring cost estimated was Rs.365.74 Lakhs.

S. No.	Description of Item	Existing (Rs. in Lakh)			
		Capital Cost (Budget)	Recurring Cost (Estimated)	Expenditure against Capital Cost As on date	Recurring Cost (actual)
i.	Dust suppression cost	478.49	23.93	6357	381.42
ii.	ETP & STP	176.23	8.82	59.00	3.54
iii.	Garland and Storm water drainage	183.60	9.18	95.20	4.76

S. No.	Description of Item	Existing (Rs. in Lakh)			
		Capital Cost (Budget)	Recurring Cost (Estimated)	Expenditure against Capital Cost As on date	Recurring Cost (actual)
iv.	Compensatory afforestation cost	211.01	10.56	67.51	4.05
v.	Arboriculture including avenue plantation	114.50	5.73	1648.23	98.89
vi.	Rainwater Harvesting	22.80	1.14	1.56	0.08
vii.	Peripheral Village community development	127.45	6.38	1788.23	107.29
viii.	Environment data generation	35.00	300	48.14	413.04
	Total	1349.08	365.74	10064.87	1013.07

34.6.13: Plantation: 211.47 ha of Backfilled quarry area, which shall be reclaimed with plantation. 8.077 ha (includes safety zone, etc.) of green belt will be created, 64.45% w.r.t ML area (634.205 ha) will be brought under green cover. Details of the plantation already done and further proposed to be carried out is given below:

S. No.	Category	Plantation proposed in ha	Plantation done in ha
1.	Backfilled area reclaimed with plantation	211.47	61.88
2.	Embankment	3.510	3.510
3.	Safety Zone & Green belt area	8.077	15.297
4.	OB dumps (within ML area)	160.502	9.800
5.	Infrastructure	25.23	41.911
	Total	408.789	132.398

34.6.14: Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R): A total of 572 PAFs (1972 project-affected persons) was involved during the R&R of the project.

S. No.	Particulars	Nos.
1.	No. of PAFs eligible for plot at R&R site/ Cash compensation	507
2.	PAF's opted for plot at R&R site/ Cash compensation	445
3.	Balance	62
<hr/>		
1.	No. of persons eligible for employment	414
2.	No. of persons provided employment/ cash compensation in lieu of employment	385
3.	Balance	29

34.6.15: Project Cost: The capital cost of the existing project is Rs.622.21 Crores and the capital cost for environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs. 1349.08 Lakhs. The annual recurring cost towards the environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs. 365.74 Lakhs.

34.6.16: Details of pending litigation: As on date, no Court cases is pending for the existing project.

34.6.17: Undertaking/Affidavit: PP vide an affidavit submitted that there is no construction done at the site or the construction done at Kulda OCP without any deviation as per the existing Environment Clearance obtained for Kulda Opencast Coal Mine Project with production

capacity from 19.6 MTPA to 21 MTPA in Mine Lease area of 634.205 ha of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located at village Balinga, Tumulia, Siarmal, Kulda & Bankibahal, Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundargarh (Odisha) vide letter no.- J-11015/10/1995-IA-II(M). The land has been acquired under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 and vested in the company by Govt. of India on dtd. - 30.03.1993. The land is in our possession, and there is no R&R issue.

That there is no litigation on the project pending either at NGT or any court of Law.

There is no difference in the documents submitted i.e., Form 1 (part A, B &C), Basic information (Annexure II), Project brief (Annexure III) EIA/EMP report, ADS replies, and the presentation being made to the EAC.

And this affidavit has been submitted to MoEF&CC with respect to the proposal of Kulda OCP for regularisation of the environment clearance granted to Kulda OCP vide letter no. dated 24.05.2022, within the mine lease area of 634.205 ha under the Ministry's O.M dated 07.05.2025.

34.6.18: ADS Reply:

M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has made an online application vide proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/416510/2023 dated 31-01-23 along with copy of EIA/EMP report seeking regularization of EC dated 24/05/2022 issued under O.M. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07/05/2022 [Availed total 50% relaxation of OM under clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006]. The proposal was initially considered in 40th meeting of EAC (Coal) held on 16th February 2023–17th February 2023. Proposal was deferred for want of additional information. The proponent submitted the ADS reply vide letter dated 07.08.2023 uploaded on PARIVESH portal. Subsequently, the proposal was again considered in the 48th EAC (Coal) held on 28th Aug 2023– Reconsideration for EC.

- i. *PP to submit the application after physical progress of 50% work w.r.t. construction of mechanized system for 16.5 MTPA with CHP by submitting documentary proof with photograph and video footage.*
- ii. *PP to deploy immediately truck size of 40-50 tonne still the mechanized put in place. In this regard proper accounting in the form of logbook, certified by SPCB.*
- iii. *PP shall submit the status of rest of the work to be completed w.r.t. EMP measures:*
 - a. *192 nos. of mist type water sprinklers*
 - b. *Wind Barrier of dimension 1000m x 10m*
 - c. *1 CAAQMS for monitoring of air quality.*
 - d. *Plantation of 80000 numbers as a part of green belt development.*

The proponent submitted the ADS reply vide letter dated 10-04-25 uploaded on PARIVESH on 10-04-25. Point-wise reply of ADS is given as below:

S. No.	ADS point	Reply/response of PP				
1.	Physical progress of 50% work w.r.t. construction of mechanized system for 16.5 MTPA with CHP by submitting documentary proof with photograph and video footage is yet to be completed.	Project Proponent has submitted the chronology for delay in submission of proposed CHP along with revised timeline which is given below:				
		Sl. No.	Chronology of events	Date of events	Anticipated Timelines	Remarks
		1	NIT floated for the arrangement	31.07.2023	--	
		2	Technical bid opened	12.10.2023	--	After Oct'2023 the proposal was under tender evaluation & scrutiny till May'2024.

S. No.	ADS point	Reply/response of PP				
		3	Tender cancelled	13.06.2024	--	Technical modifications in screening unit & incorporation of crushing arrangement to screen 100 mm coal. Change in the configurations if the pipe conveyor: 600 mm dia/3000 TPH/4 X 750 kW to 650 mm dia/3600 TPH/4 X 1000 kW with total motor power from 3914 kW to 5290 kW.
		4	Fresh Tender floated on	22.11.2024	--	Cancelled due to Contract Management Manual (Turnkey Contract-Jan 2025) revised by CIL
		5	Again, Tender floated on	20.02.2025	--	
		5(a)	Technical Bid opening date	15.04.2025	--	
		5(b)	Financial Bid opening date	05.08.2025		L-1 Bidder finalised. MEL (Macmet Engineering Ltd) Crew JV, Kolkata based company, has been selected as the L1 Bidder. MCL board on dated 16.10.2025, approved to award the work to L1 bidder.
		6	Stage I FC approval for the proposed arrangement	29.09.2025	--	Proposal no. FP/OR/OTHERS/502419/2024 of 4.21 ha of forest land is involved under linear forest diversion. Application applied on 29.09.25.
		7	Letter of Agreement /Issuance of Work order	--	31.10.2025 (tentative)	
		8	Date of completion	--	31.12.2026	As per amended EC letter dtd. 21-02-25
2.	PP to deploy immediately truck size of 40-50 tonne still the mechanized put in place. In this regard proper accounting in the form of log book, certified by SPCB.	<p>Approximately 180 Trucks have been deployed for transportation up to Railway siding at present. All the trucks deployed for transportation of coal from Mine face to Siding are of 40 tonnes capacity. Proper accounting is being done for all these trucks in a digitized manner through Boom Barrier.</p> <p>Further, integration of i3MS (Integrated Mines & Minerals Management System) developed by the Govt. of Odisha has no provision for truck overloading through a combination of digital tracking, real-time verification, and regulatory enforcement mechanism through RTO. The e-pass system ensures that only trucks with valid permits and approved load limits can move coal. These passes are digitally linked to transport schedules, routes, and weighbridge data.</p>				
3.	<p><i>PP shall submit the status of rest of the work to be completed w.r.t. EMP measures:</i></p> <p>a. 192 nos. of mist type water sprinklers</p> <p>b. Wind Barrier of dimension 1000m x 10m</p> <p>c. 1 CAAQMS for monitoring of air quality.</p>	<p>All the above-mentioned works has been completed by Project proponent. Point-wise their compliance status is given below:</p> <p>a. 192 nos. of mist type water sprinklers A total of 286 sprinklers {inclusive of the 195 sprinklers towards Sardega siding (80 existing+115 additionally installed) and 91 sprinklers from Bankibahal to Siarmal Chowk} have been installed.</p> <p>b. Wind Barrier of dimension 1000m x 10m Wind barrier of 1000 m x 10 m have been set up at around coal stocks of Kulda OCP.</p> <p>c. 1 CAAQMS for monitoring air quality. 01 CAAQMS has been installed at Core Zone of Kulda OCP at Tumulia Village (22°02'02.9"N 83°43'42.2"E)</p> <p>d. Plantation of 80000 numbers as a part of green belt development.</p>				

S. No.	ADS point	Reply/response of PP																								
	<p>d. Plantation of 80000 numbers as a part of green belt development.</p> <p>e. Concrete external coal transportation road of length 30 Km</p> <p>f. Rapid Loading system at Sardega Siding.</p>	<p>The details of the plantation done in the last two years within Kulda OCP is given below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Area (ha)</th> <th>Number of Plants</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023-24</td> <td>22.4</td> <td>56000</td> <td>OB Dump (Within ML Area)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-25</td> <td>8.6</td> <td>21500</td> <td>Safety Zone & OB Dump (Within ML Area)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-25</td> <td>6</td> <td>15000</td> <td>Over backfilled Area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025-26</td> <td>5</td> <td>14400</td> <td>Over backfilled Area & OB Dump (Within ML Area)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>42</td> <td>1,06,900</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>e. Concrete external coal transportation road of length 30 km Concrete external coal transportation road of length 30 Km from Bankibahal to Bedabahal has been completed. Photographs of the same have been provided for reference.</p> <p>f. Rapid Loading system at Sardega Siding The Rapid load loading system at Sardega has been fully completed and is fully under operation. Necessary Photographs have been provided for reference</p>	Year	Area (ha)	Number of Plants	Location	2023-24	22.4	56000	OB Dump (Within ML Area)	2024-25	8.6	21500	Safety Zone & OB Dump (Within ML Area)	2024-25	6	15000	Over backfilled Area	2025-26	5	14400	Over backfilled Area & OB Dump (Within ML Area)	Total	42	1,06,900	
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Further, an ADS was raised vide dated 17.04.2025 by MoEF&CC, and the Project Proponent has submitted the following vide its reply submission dated 10.10.2025.

S. No	ADS sought by EAC during the meeting held on 17.04.2025	Reply of PP
1.	<p>It has come to the Ministry's notice that, there is an ongoing court case (related to public hearing - W.P.(C) No.5151 of 2025) on the expansion project of the same mine for which Ministry has granted ToR vide letter dated 13.12.2022. Complete details of the same are required to be submitted. As per the order dated 21/03/2025, 12. No final recommendation on environmental clearance shall be made until these objections have been fully considered, and a reasoned order addressing them is placed on record. In this regard, it is requested to submit the list of following documents:</p> <p>a. Complete copy of petition</p> <p>b. Affidavit filed by MCL</p> <p>c. Previous Public Hearing proceedings and its compliance status (of EC accorded for 634.205 Ha)</p> <p>d. Present status of the case</p> <p>e. Certified compliance report of the Regional Office</p>	<p>The documents as sought by the Ministry have been provided by the Project Proponent vide its reply dated 10.10.2025 in Parivesh portal. It was informed that this case is related to the expansion of Kulda mines project.</p>
2.	<p>Besides, proponent may kindly explain the reasons for not disclosing the above case neither in the amendment application submitted vide proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/442462/2023, which was considered during 20th – 23rd January 2025 nor in the instant proposal. It appears that proponent is deliberately suppressing the information.</p>	<p>It is respectfully submitted that the omission of W.P (C) No. 18034 of 2024 and W.P.(C) No. 5151 of 2025 from earlier amendment proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/442462/2023 was unintentional and not a case of information suppression.</p> <p>It has been submitted that at the time of applying EC amendment, vide proposal no. IA/OR/CMIN/442462/2023 on 28.12.2024 and further its appraisal during 20th EAC held on 20th – 23rd</p>

S. No	ADS sought by EAC during the meeting held on 17.04.2025	Reply of PP
		January 2025 there was no court case pending on Kulda OCP, MCL. The Writ Petition was in the case of new expansion proposal (Area expansion from 634.205 ha to 921.305 ha), and not for the EC granted earlier for 634.205 ha, 21.0 MTPA.

34.6.19: Written Submission: PP submitted the following during the meeting:
PP submitted the following during the meeting:

1. PP to provide a plantation programme for at least 2 years and not less than 20,000 Saplings.

Reply: Currently, Kulda OCP has a 1-year mine life with a post-closure phase of 3 years. As per the MP&MCP and EIA EMP, the current scenario is presented herewith.

Sl. no.	Particulars	Actual achieved. in ha as on 30.09.2025	As per approved Mining Plan in ha
1	Total excavated area	321.91	321.91
2	Backfilled Area*	161.67	211.47
3	OB dumping	69.04	160.502
4	Plantation in the Backfilled area	65.39	211.47

*Backfilling is still undergoing and yet to obtain RL level, hence the part which has been completely technically reclaimed has been planted, i.e. 65.39 ha

Accordingly, the plantation programme for Kulda OCP is provided below in the table.

Sl no.	Year	Internal Plantation (within ML area)		External Plantation (Outside ML area)	
		Plants (nos.)	Area (ha)	Plants (nos.)	Area (ha)
1	2025-26	14,226	5.69	60,000	1.50
2	2026-27	1,00,000	40.00	95,000	Avenue
3	2027-28	1,00,000	40.00	40,000	8.00
4	2028-29	1,51,000	60.40	2,00,000	5.00
	Total	3,65,226	146.09	3,95,000	14.50 + Avenue RKM

2. PP to revisit the ATR to CCR, obtained vide F.No.101-1014/2023/EPE dtd 10.07.2025 from IRO, MoEF&CC.

Reply: The following summary is presented below based on the CCR obtained from IRO vide F.No.101-1014/2023/EPE dtd 10.07.2025 from RO, MoEF&CC. Details are submitted in the para 34.6.3 mentioned above.

EC letter no.	Total conditions	Complied /Being complied	Partially complied/non-compliances	Total conditions	Complied /Being complied	Assured to comply
<i>As per IRO's letter vide no. 101-1014/2023/EPE dated 10.07.2025 communicated to project.</i>				<i>As per project's ATR submitted on 09.08.2025 Self assessment</i>		
21.02.2025	7	3	4	7	6	1
05.01.2024	8	5	3	8	7	1

09.01.2023	5	5	0	5	5	0
24.05.2022	6	6	0	6	6	0
14.02.2022	101	73	28	101	93	8
02.03.2021	82	79	3	82	82	0
10.01.2020	9	9	0	9	9	0
22.03.2018	69	66	3	69	68	1
Total	287	246	41	287	276	11
Compliance %: 85.71			Compliance %: 96.00 (approx.)			

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

34.6.20: Committee after deliberations noted the following:

1. M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has originally obtained the EC for the said project vide letter dated 24.12.2002, for the production capacity of 10 MTPA within the ML area of 878.290 Ha. Later EC expansion was granted for the production capacity of 14 MTPA within the reduced ML area of 634.205 Ha vide letter dated 22.03.2018 and its validity extension was granted vide letter dated 28.03.2019 and 10.01.2020. Later another EC expansion was granted for the increased production capacity of 16.80 MTPA, 19.60 MTPA and 21 MTPA (to avail 50% dispensation as per Ministry's OM dated 07.05.2022) within the existing lease area of 634.205 Ha vide letter dated 02.03.2021, 14.02.2022 and 24.05.2022 respectively.
2. The above-mentioned project is implemented and the mine is under operation.
3. The instant proposal is for reconsideration of EC obtained vide letter dated 24.05.2022 to avail 50% dispensation as per Ministry's OM dated 07.05.2022. PP applied for the same by delay of more than one month beyond the prescribed time limit of six months. The delay took place due to collection of baseline data in October 2022 – December 2022 (post monsoon). Said aspect was also deliberated in the 40th EAC meeting held on 16-17 February 2023.
4. The proposal was initially considered in the 40th meeting of EAC (Coal) held on 16th February 2023–17th February 2023. The proposal was deferred for want of additional information. The proponent submitted the ADS reply vide letter dated 07.08.2023. Subsequently, the proposal was again considered in the 48th EAC (Coal) held on 28th Aug 2023– Reconsideration for EC. The proposal was again deferred, and ADS raised on 19th September 2023. Afterwards, the project sought an amendment to the EC dated 24.05.2022, which MoEF&CC granted on 05th Jan 2024 and 21st Feb 2025. The reply of ADS dtd 19th September 2023 was submitted to MoEF&CC vide letter dtd. 10th April 2025, and subsequently ADS dtd 17th April 2025 was raised by MoEF&CC. For which reply has been submitted by PP vide letter dtd 10th Oct 2025.
5. The EAC took into consideration the project site through KML file on the Google Earth presented by the project proponent along with DSS of the project site on PARIVESH.
6. Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA)/ Severely Polluted Area (SPA), as per CEPI Assessment 2018.
7. The project involves total 227.80 Ha of forestland and Stage – II forest clearance has been obtained vide letter no. 8-176/1997-FC, dated 08.08.2007. Total broken forestland

is 219.37 Ha and there is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

8. The project is not located within 10 KM of any ESZ/ ESA/ national park/ wildlife sanctuary/ biosphere reserve/ tiger reserve/ elephant reserve/ tiger corridor/ elephant corridor etc. PP submitted that, there is no wildlife Corridor in the Division. However, movement of elephant is very erratic around the Zone of Impact. Better presence of elephant is felt near to Garjan Pahad RF in Hemgir range. Movement of wildlife like Fox, Wild boar, Rabbit, Jungle Cat, Jungle fowl etc was reported by forester as well as surveyors. PP submitted that, an amount of Rs. 43,182,750.00/- has been deposited for the implementation of the regional wildlife management plan submitted on 13.08.2014 & 04.08.2015.

A “Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for Expansion of Kulda Opencast Coal Mine Project by MCL, located in IB Valley Coal Field (Basundhara Area)” was prepared by DFO, Sundargarh Division.” As per site specific wildlife conservation plan an amount of Rs. 1115.12 Lakh has been approved by CCF (WL-III), office of PCCF. The same is yet to be deposited by the PP. Committee opined that, the amount approved shall be deposited by the PP with the wildlife division as the earliest and timely implementation of SSWLCP shall be ensured.

9. The Mine plan and the mine closure plan for the said has been approved by the board of M/s MCL vide letter dated 20.06.2022. Further Addendum Mining Plan & Mine Closure Plan approved by Board vide letter dated 24-08-2024 and 2nd addendum Mining Plan & Mine Closure Plan approved by Board vide letter dated 08-07-2025.
10. Method of Mining to be adopted shall be Opencast. The Capacity of the mine applied for normative capacity peak capacity as per approved mining plan is 21.0 MTPA. (19.60 MTPA to 21.0 MTPA i.e. Phase III 50%). Excavation of Coal is through Shovel-Dumper in OB and Surface miner in coal.
11. Total Geological Reserve is 245.71 Mt with 200.66 Mt (including depleted reserves) as mineable reserves. Out of total mineable reserve, 199.08 (Remaining reserve – 15.15 Mt (as on 01.04.2025) are available for extraction. Percentage of extraction is 81.02 % w.r.t. Geological reserve. Life of mine is 1 year as on 01.04.2025.
12. The project has 02 OB dump (within ML area), one of 69.04 ha with 90 m height and 38.33 Mm³ of OB and other is 91.462 ha OB dump site area in which OB shall be dumped in future expansion project. Also, 1 internal OB dump (over backfilled area) in an area of 211.47 ha with 93.50 Mm³ of OB is envisaged in the project.
13. Total quarry area is 321.91 ha out of which backfilling will be done in 211.47 ha and final mine void will be created in an area of 17.64 ha. The depth of the mine void will be 175 m. This mine shall be further expanded. On closure of the mine after further expansion, the final depth of the mine will be 40m by filling OB from nearby mines and fly ash from neighboring thermal power plants.
14. Committee deliberated on the method of evacuation of coal from the said project and observed that, the coal from surface to siding is being transported by through coal transportation road to TRH and from TRH to siding by closed conveyor belt.

From siding to loading, the same is being transported through Rapid Loading system & wharf wall loading and to the final consumers through railway. Total 16 MTPA of the coal is being transported through railway and remaining 5 MTPA is being transported through road up to the distance of 30-60 km. Committee observed that, the entire coal is proposed to be transported by railway after the commissioning of Barpalli Bulb siding.

15. Committee deliberated on the baseline data submitted by the PP, collected during October 2022- December 2022 and observed the parameters to be within the limits.
16. Total water demand for the project is 4141 KLD (Potable: 721 KLD, Industrial: 3420 KLD). Industrial water is being supplied from the mine sump stored water, while potable water requirements are met from the reservoir at the Basundhara East old quarry. The potable water is used, followed by treatment in the water treatment plant. Committee also observed that, Chattajhore stream passing through the lease had been straightened with permission from Tehsildar, Hemgir vide letter no. 2609 dtd 17.12.2019. No, further diversions are proposed.
17. The power required for the said project is 9.721 MW, which is sourced from the 220 kV Main sub-station at Garjanbahal. No diversion of Hi tension/ transmission lines have been proposed.
18. Committee deliberated on the public consultation held on 10.01.2018 for the EC obtained vide letter dated 22.03.2018. Committee observed that, a total of Rs. 9720.35 Lakhs has been spent on the issued raised by the public during the public consultation.
19. Committee deliberated on the expenditure incurred by the PP on the EMP and observed that a total of Rs. 10064.87 lakhs had been spent as capital cost against the allotted budget of Rs. 1349.08 Lakhs. And Rs. 1013.07 Lakhs has been spent as recurring cost per annum.
20. Committee deliberated on the plantation activities carried out by the PP and observed that plantation has already been carried out in 132.398 Ha of the ML area. Further plantation is to be carried out in 276.391 Ha. By the end of the mine life plantation will carried out in total 408.789 Ha.

Committee found the plantation to be inadequate and opined that PP shall plant at least 20,000 saplings of the native species in the next 1 year. PP submitted the following plan:

S. no.	Year	Internal Plantation (within ML area)		External Plantation (Outside ML area)	
		Plants (nos.)	Area (ha)	Plants (nos.)	Area (ha)
1	2025-26	14,226	5.69	60,000	1.50
2	2026-27	1,00,000	40.00	95,000	Avenue
3	2027-28	1,00,000	40.00	40,000	8.00
4	2028-29	1,51,000	60.40	2,00,000	5.00
	Total	3,65,226	146.09	3,95,000	14.50 + Avenue RKM

21. Committee deliberated on the rehabilitation and resettlement issues of the said project and observed that the project involved 572 PAFs and 1972 PAPs. 507 nos. of PAFs

were eligible for R&R site/ cash compensation, out of which 62 nos of PAFs are yet to be compensated. 414 nos. of PAPs were eligible for employment out of which 385 have already been provided the employment and remaining 29 nos. of PAPs are yet to be given employment.

22. Committee deliberated on the ADS reply submitted by the PP and observed that the wind barriers installed around the ML area are not adequate and instead of using PVC wind barrier net, PP shall carryout plantation over it using creepers and create a green wall.
23. Committee observed that there is no court case pending on the said project.
24. Committee deliberated on the ADS reply and the written submissions made by the PP and found the same to be satisfactory.
25. Committee opined that the PP shall align its activities with the sustainable development goals.
26. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has given an undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and no information has been suppressed in the EIA/EMP reports. If any part of data/information submitted is found to be false/ misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and Environmental Clearance given, if any, will be revoked at the risk and cost of the project proponent.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.6.21: Based on the submissions made by the Project Proponent, EAC *recommended* the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance for Kulda Expansion Opencast Project for increase in production capacity from 19.60 MTPA to 21 MTPA (increase of 10% to its original EC i.e., 1.4 MTPA) in the existing ML area of 634.205 Ha by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited, located at villages: Balinga, Tumulia, Siarmal, Kulda & Bankibahal; Tehsil: Hemgir; District: Sundargarh; State: Odisha, , as per the provisions of OM vide no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III, dated 07.05.2022, under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto *subject to uploading the written submission and the compliance of the following additional terms & conditions/ specific conditions* for environmental safeguards as stated below:-

Additional specific conditions:

1. As committed by the project proponent, the following time – bound action plan shall be implemented in order to comply with the partially complied conditions as per the closure report of the Ministry’s RO and compliance of the same shall be submitted along with the six-monthly compliance report:

S. No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Implementation of pipe conveyor from inpit upto Sardega siding to eradicate coal transportation by Diesel tippers	December 2026
2	Third party Audit for compliance of EC condition for the year 2024 and 2025 shall be submitted	March 2026
3	A 6 – lane bypass road including service road from north boundary of Siarmal mine towards Taparia shall be constructed	January 2027
3	Retaining walls along the OB dumps shall be constructed	March 2027

S. No.	Activity	Timeline																																								
4	The riverine/riparian ecosystem management plan for the Basundhara river shall be implemented	December 2027																																								
5	Avenue plantation of 1,00,000 nos. of plants along the Duduka-Kanika coal transportation road	October 2026																																								
6	Plantation of 30,000 nos. along the Bankibahal-Bedabahal coal transportation road and 15,000 nos. along the Bankibahal-Taparia coal transportation road	October 2026																																								
7	R&R site/ cash compensation shall be provided to the remaining eligible PAFs (62 nos.) and employment shall be given to the remaining eligible PAPs (29 nos).	November 2026																																								
8	Greenbelt of 7.5 m shall be developed all along the mine boundary	November 2026																																								
9	Plantation shall be carried out as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">S. no.</th> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th colspan="2">Internal Plantation (within ML area)</th> <th colspan="2">External Plantation (Outside ML area)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Plants (nos.)</th> <th>Area (ha)</th> <th>Plants (nos.)</th> <th>Area (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2025-26</td> <td>14,226</td> <td>5.69</td> <td>60,000</td> <td>1.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2026-27</td> <td>1,00,000</td> <td>40.00</td> <td>95,000</td> <td>Avenue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>2027-28</td> <td>1,00,000</td> <td>40.00</td> <td>40,000</td> <td>8.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>2028-29</td> <td>1,51,000</td> <td>60.40</td> <td>2,00,000</td> <td>5.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>3,65,226</td> <td>146.09</td> <td>3,95,000</td> <td>14.50 + Avenue RKM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. no.	Year	Internal Plantation (within ML area)		External Plantation (Outside ML area)		Plants (nos.)	Area (ha)	Plants (nos.)	Area (ha)	1	2025-26	14,226	5.69	60,000	1.50	2	2026-27	1,00,000	40.00	95,000	Avenue	3	2027-28	1,00,000	40.00	40,000	8.00	4	2028-29	1,51,000	60.40	2,00,000	5.00		Total	3,65,226	146.09	3,95,000	14.50 + Avenue RKM	October 2029
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10	Project proponent shall obtain the renewed ground water clearance from CGWA for 4141 KLD of water being utilized for the said project.																																									

2. Plantation shall be carried out over the wind barriers using creepers to create a permanent green wall.
3. Project proponent shall provide safe passage for the movement of elephant and other wild animals, as movement of elephants is erratic around the zone of impact. Apart from this, PP shall also sensitize the mine workers and transportation staff to implement measures such as speed limits, speed bumps, and time-bound traffic restrictions in sensitive wildlife areas. PP shall use appropriate fencing along linear infrastructures (like roads or railways) to guide animals towards the designated safe crossing points.
4. Project proponent is advised to implement the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign every year which was launched on 5th June 2024 on the occasion of the World Environment Day to increase the forest cover across the Country. This plantation drive is other than greenbelt development. The action in this regard shall be submitted concerned RO in six monthly report.
5. All other terms and conditions as prescribed in the previous EC letters issue by the Ministry shall remain the same and need to be complied by PP.

Standard Conditions:

1. Statutory Conditions:

- i. The Environmental clearance shall be subject to orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Courts, NGT and any other Court of Law, from time to time, and as applicable to the project.
- ii. The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.
- iii. Solid/hazardous waste generated in the mines needs to be addressed in accordance to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016/Hazardous & Other Waste Management Rules,

2016.

- iv. The maximum production at any given time shall not exceed the limit as prescribed in the EC.
- v. Validity of EC is as per life of the mine mentioned in EC letter or 30 years as per EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendments therein.

2. Air Quality Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

- i. Project proponent shall obtain requisite consent from State Pollution Control Board for 21 MTPA coal mining.
- ii. Adequate ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for monitoring of pollutants, namely particulates, SO₂ and NO_x. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive receptors in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- iii. The Ambient Air Quality monitoring in the core zone shall be carried out to ensure the Coal Industry Standards notified vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25th September, 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Data on ambient air quality and heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr and other monitoring data shall be regularly reported to the Ministry/Regional Office and to the CPCB/SPCB.
- iv. Effective control measures such as regular water sprinkling/rain gun/ Fog cannon /mist sprinkling etc., shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution with higher level of particulate matter all through the coal transport roads, loading/unloading and transfer points. Fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be controlled regularly. It shall be ensured that the ambient air quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central/State Pollution Control Board.
- v. Major approach roads shall be black topped and properly maintained.
- vi. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. All the vehicles engaged in mining and allied activities shall operate only after obtaining 'PUC' certificate from the authorized pollution testing centers.
- vii. PP should Install Wind breaker/shield arrangement along the railway siding for reducing the dust propagation in upwind direction.
- viii. The raw coal shall be stacked properly at earmarked site (s) within stockyards fitted with wind breakers/shields. Adequate measures shall be taken to ensure that the stored mineral does not catch fire
- ix. PP shall submit an action plan for using and developing Renewable Energy for its consumption in its utilities/machinery/equipment instead of using electricity from Grid/generated from Thermal Power Plants. PP shall Install additional solar power generation units

3. Water Quality Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

- i. The effluent discharge (mine waste water, workshop effluent) shall be monitored in terms of the parameters notified under the Water Act, 1974 Coal Industry Standards vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25th September, 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- ii. The monitoring data shall be uploaded on the company's website and displayed at the project site at a suitable location. The circular No.J-20012/1/2006-1A.11 (M) dated 27th

May, 2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.

- iii. Garland drains (of suitable size, gradient and length) around the critical areas i.e. mine shaft and low lying areas, shall be designed keeping at least 50% safety margin over and above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine sites. The sump capacity shall also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material of the surface runoff
- iv. The water pumped out from the mine, after siltation, shall be utilized for industrial purpose viz. watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly
- v. Industrial wastewater from coal handling plant and mine water shall be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made thereunder, and as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of workshop effluent. Sewage treatment plant of adequate capacity shall be installed for treatment of domestic wastewater.
- vi. The surface drainage plan including surface water conservation plan for the area of influence affected by the said mining operations shall be prepared, considering the presence of any river/rivulet/pond/lake etc., with impact of mining activities on it, and implemented by the project proponent. The surface drainage plan and/or any diversion of natural water courses shall be as per the provisions of the approved Mining Plan/ EIA-EMP submitted to this Ministry and the same should be done with due approval of the concerned State/GoI Authority. The construction of embankment to prevent any danger against inrush of surface water into the mine should be as per the approved mining plan and as per the permission of DGMS.
- vii. The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures to ensure reverian/ riparian ecosystem in and around the coal mine up to a distance of 5 km. A reverian /riparian ecosystem conservation and management plan should be prepared and implemented in consultation with the irrigation / water resource department in the state government.
- viii. Industrial effluent and domestic wastewater shall be treated in the Effluent treatment Plant (ETP) and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). After treatment, treated water shall be reused for plantation.

4. Noise and Vibration Monitoring and Prevention

- i. Adequate measures shall be taken for control of noise levels as per Noise Pollution Rules, 2016 in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc shall be provided with personal protective equipments (PPE) like ear plugs/muffs in conformity with the prescribed norms and guidelines in this regard. Adequate awareness programme for users to be conducted. Progress in usage of such accessories to be monitored.
- ii. The noise level survey shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines to assess noise exposure of the workmen at vulnerable points in the mine premises, and report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry/RO on six-monthly basis.

5. Mining Plan

- i. Project proponent shall obtain star rating as per the guidelines of Ministry of Coal.
- ii. Mining shall be carried out under strict adherence to provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and subordinate legislations made there-under as applicable.

- iii. No change in mining method, calendar programme and scope of work shall be made without obtaining prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- iv. Mining shall be carried out as per the approved mining plan (including Mine Closure Plan) abiding by mining laws related to coal mining and the relevant circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS).
- v. Efforts should be made to reduce energy and fuel consumption by conservation, efficiency improvements and use of renewable energy.

6. Land Reclamation

- i. Digital Survey of entire lease hold area/core zone using Satellite Remote Sensing survey shall be carried out at least once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report in 1:50,000 scale or as notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) from time to time shall be submitted to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
- ii. The final mine void depth should preferably be as per the approved Mine Closure Plan, and in case it exceeds 40 m, adequate engineering interventions shall be provided for sustenance of aquatic life therein. The remaining area shall be backfilled and covered with thick and alive top soil. Post-mining land be rendered usable for agricultural/forestry purposes and shall be diverted. Further action will be treated as specified in the guidelines for Preparation of Mine Closure Plan issued by the Ministry of Coal dated 27th August, 2009 and subsequent amendments.
- iii. The entire excavated area, backfilling, external OB dumping (including top soil) and afforestation plan shall be in conformity with the “during mining”/“post mining” land-use pattern, which is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan and the EIA/EMP submitted to this Ministry. Progressive compliance status vis-a-vis the post mining land use pattern shall be submitted to the MOEFCC/RO.
- iv. Further, it may be ensured that as per the time schedule specified in mine closure plan it should remain live till the point of utilization. The topsoil shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and shall not be kept unutilized. The top soil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purposes. Active OB dumps shall be stabilized with native grass species to prevent erosion and surface run off. The other overburden dumps shall be vegetated with native flora species. The excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested in line with the approved Mine Closure Plan. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Regional Office.
- v. The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land

7. Public Hearing and Human Health Issues:

- i. Adequate illumination shall be ensured in all mine locations (as per DGMS standards) and monitored.

- ii. The project proponent shall undertake occupational health survey for initial and periodical medical examination of the personnel engaged in the project and maintain records accordingly as per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955 and DGMS circulars. Besides regular periodic health check-up, 20% of the personnel identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check-up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, as amended time to time
- iii. Personnel (including outsourced employees) working in core zone shall wear protective respiratory devices and shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- iv. Skill training as per safety norms specified by DGMS shall be provided to all workmen including the outsourcing employees to ensure high safety standards in mines.
- v. Effective arrangement shall be made to provide and maintain at suitable points conveniently situated, a sufficient supply of drinking water for all the persons employed.
- vi. The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29th October, 2014, titled 'Impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining projects wherein habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area'.

8. Corporate Environment Responsibility:

- i. The company shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors. The environmental policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions. The company shall have defined system of reporting infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions and/or shareholders/stake holders
- ii. A separate Environmental Cell both at the project and company head quarter level, with qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of senior Executive, who will directly report to the head of the organization.

9. Miscellaneous:

- i. The project proponent shall make public the environmental clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safeguards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days and in addition this shall also be displayed in the project proponent's website permanently.
- ii. The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- iii. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environmental clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
- iv. The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions on the website of the Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change at environment clearance portal.

- v. The project proponent shall submit the environmental statement for each financial year in Form V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and put on the website of the company.
- vi. The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the MOEFCC regarding commencement of mining operations.
- vii. The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.
- viii. The project proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report, commitment made during Public Hearing and also that during their presentation to the Expert Appraisal Committee.
- ix. No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- x. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- xi. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
- xii. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.
- xiii. The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports
- xiv. The above conditions shall be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

Agenda No. 34.7:

34.7 Rajnagar Underground Coal Mining Project (having production capacity of 0.85 MTPA with reduction in the ML area from 1848.112 Ha to 841.420 Ha) by **M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited** located at village: Rajnagar; Tehsil: Kotma; **District: Anuppur; State: Madhya Pradesh - Revalidation of Environment Clearance as per S.O. No. 1530(E) dated 06/04/2018 based on ADS reply – reg.**

[Online Proposal no. IA/MP/CMIN/77089/2005; Consultant: CMPDIL: NABET/EIA/25-28/RA 0412 valid till 08/04/2028]

34.7.1: M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited has made an online application vide proposal no. IA/MP/CMIN/77089/2005 dated 30.08.2018 along with copy of EIA/EMP report, certified compliance report (as part of ADS reply) and sought for revalidation of Environment Clearance

(EC) accorded for Rajnagar UG Project vide letter no. J-11015/135/2005-IA.II(M) on 24.05.2005 for production capacity of 0.85 MTPA under EIA Notification, 1994. The proposed project activity is listed at Item. No. 1(a) (Mining of Minerals) Under Category “A” of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 and does not attract general condition being appraised at Central Level. The instant proposal is for obtaining revalidation of EC under EIA notification, 2006, in compliance of the Gazette Notification S.O. No. 1530(E) dated 06/04/2018 for existing project with reduction in ML area from 1848.112 Ha to 841.420 Ha. The proposal was initially considered in 38th meeting of EAC (Coal Mining Sector) held on 27.09.2018. Proposal was deferred for want of additional information.

The ADS reply was initially submitted by the Project Proponent on 11.09.2025, following which subsequent ADS were raised on 15.09.2025. The ADS reply was submitted on 29.09.2025. Now the proposal has been placed in 34th EAC meeting held on 30.10.2025 for appraisal based on ADS replies submitted by the PP.

Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:

34.7.2: Previous approvals in chronological order: Project proponent submitted the details of the previous approvals in the chronological order as follows:

S. No.	Details of Letter No.	EC/ Expansion EC/ Amendment in EC/ Validity extension/ Transfer of EC	Capacity (MTPA)	Area (Ha)	Date of issuance	Status of implementation
1	J-11015/135/2005-IA.II(M)	EC expansion under EIA 1994	0.85	1848.112	24.05.2005	Implemented

W.r.t the previous approvals, proponent submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine from 1993-94 and submitted that the mine became operational from 1974 onwards. CTO renewal has been obtained from MPPCB and is valid up to 31.05.2026. Details of production are as follows:

Year	Sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual production (MT)	Excess production the EC sanctioned capacity
1993-94	0.61 (CTO)	0.758	0.148
1994-95	0.61 (CTO)	0.805	0.195
1995-96	0.61 (CTO)	0.837	0.227
1996-97	0.61 (CTO)	0.778	0.168
1997-98	0.61 (CTO)	0.740	0.13
1998-99	0.61 (CTO)	0.803	0.193
1999-20	0.61 (CTO)	0.825	0.215
2000-01	0.61 (CTO)	0.832	0.222
2001-02	0.61 (CTO)	0.840	0.23
2002-03	0.61 (CTO)	0.820	0.21
2003-04	0.61 (CTO)	0.815	0.205
2004-05	0.61 (CTO)	0.800	0.19
2005-06	0.85 (EC)	0.739	Nil
2006-07	0.85 (EC)	0.623	Nil
2007-08	0.85 (EC)	0.613	Nil
2008-09	0.85 (EC)	0.580	Nil
2009-10	0.85 (EC)	0.515	Nil
2010-11	0.85 (EC)	0.524	Nil
2011-12	0.85 (EC)	0.525	Nil
2012-13	0.85 (EC)	0.518	Nil
2013-14	0.85 (EC)	0.483	Nil

Year	Sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual production (MT)	Excess production the EC sanctioned capacity
2014-15	0.85 (EC)	0.447	Nil
2015-16	0.85 (EC)	0.306	Nil
2016-17	0.85 (EC)	0.220	Nil
2017-18	0.85 (EC)	0.208	Nil
2018-19	0.85 (EC)	0.304	Nil
2019-20	0.85 (EC)	0.268	Nil
2020-21	0.85 (EC)	0.202	Nil
2021-22	0.85 (EC)	0.207	Nil
2022-23	0.85 (EC)	0.190	Nil
2023-24	0.85 (EC)	0.130	Nil
2024-25	0.85 (EC)	0.145	Nil

34.7.3: Certified Compliance Report: The status of compliance of earlier EC was obtained from MoEF&CC, RO Bhopal vide letter no – 3-39/2005(Env) dated 11.07.2025. The action taken report regarding the partially/ non-complied condition was submitted to Regional Officer MoEF&CC, Bhopal vide letter no: SECL/HSD/ENVT/2025/126, dated: 19.10.2025. The details of the observations made by RO in the CCR report with ATR/ compliance status as furnished by PP is given:

S.no.	EC Condition	Comments/ Observations of IRO	ATR/Present status
(v)	Green belt should be raised by planting the local species along the mine boundary, ore stock pile, if any, ventilation fan, roads, and in selected open area in consultation with local DFO/Agriculture Department. Density of tree should be at least 2000 plants per hectare.	During site visit, it is informed by PP that no surface rights are available for the development of greenbelt, as the surface land has been exclusively acquired for project infrastructure and residential colony purposes. However, Forest Department has sought an amount of ₹3,28,74,214/- for undertaking gap plantation over an area of 190 hectares falling within the mine lease area, which is likely to be deposited shortly for implementation of the plantation work by the Forest Department. Compliance in progress.	Plantation activities have been done in 114.92 Ha inside the mine lease, comprising 40.54 Ha of plantation within Rajnagar RO UG and 74.38 Ha of plantation from Rajnagar OC Mine, which now falls within the Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project boundary after mine boundary adjustment. Also, in last year 05 years, 2,20,000 saplings have been planted in 88.0 Ha in other projects of SECL Hasdeo Area located around Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine project. At the end of mine life, afforestation shall be done covering an area of 23.98 ha of mine infrastructure after dismantling of the same.
(viii)	NOC from Central Ground Water Board/ Authority for abstraction of requisite quantity of groundwater for the project as may be applicable shall be obtained before starting work on the project.	During the site visit, the PP produced the valid NOC issued by the CGWA, valid up to 14.01.2025. The PP also informed that the process for renewal of the NOC has already been initiated and the application is under submission through the new portal BhuNeer App, as per the guidelines. Compliance in progress.	The application for renewal of the same has been recommended and approved by CGWA for groundwater abstraction of 8318 m ³ /day in its EAC meeting held on 02.09.2025. The formal NOC is awaited.

S.no.	EC Condition	Comments/ Observations of IRO	ATR/Present status
(x)	Sewage treatment plant should be installed in the existing colony. ETP should also be provided for workshop and CHP wastewater.	As observed during site visit, the construction of Sewage Treatment Plant with capacity of 1.5 MLD and networking is in progress at the integrated colony of Rajnagar RO. As reported by PP, the commissioning of the plant is expected by 30.06.2025. Compliance in progress.	The construction and installation of the STP have been completed. However, the associated sewage networking work could not be completed in the scheduled time due to heavy monsoon rains in the region. Presently, the project has achieved 90% of physical execution and 87% of financial expenditures. The STP is now expected to be commissioned by 31.12.2025; with remaining network works being expedited to ensure timely operationalization. Photographs enclosed.
(xiv)	The project proponent should effectively implement measures outlined in the conservation plan for conservation of schedule-1 fauna such as the sloth bear and python in consultation with Forest Department. The effectiveness of the conservation measures shall be monitored with inputs obtained from forest department and report furnished to this ministry and its regional offices.	It is reported that no endangered species have been identified in the study area. However, a Wildlife Conservation Plan is proposed as an aspect of the final mine closure plan. It is recommended to expedite the preparation and implementation of same with the work order to be issued by 30.06.2025. Compliance in progress.	Work has been awarded for an Integrated Wildlife Conservation Plan covering six mines of SECL, including Rajnagar UG Mine to the ICFRE, Dehradun on 15.09.2025 and the same has been accepted by ICFRE, Dehradun on 16.09.2025. Timeline: September, 2026
(ix)	Environmental laboratory should be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with State Pollution Control Board.	Construction of environmental laboratory has been completed. It is reported that laboratory will be operational within the next two months. Compliance in progress.	Environmental laboratory has been established in Hasdeo area and operational.

34.7.4: Environmental Site Settings:

The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo sheet No. 64 I/4 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from Latitudes 23^o 11' 00" N and 23^o 13' 30" N and Longitudes 82^o 06' 30" E and 82^o 08' 30" E.

Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA)/ Severely Polluted Area (SPA), as per CEPI Assessment 2018.

Mining Lease: PP submitted the following details of the Mine lease:

S. No.	Lease Details/ Notification No.	Area (in Ha)	Area involved in instant project (Ha)	Remarks
1	Principle lease: Executed between Rewa Durbar and M/s Dalchand Bahadur Singh on 06.06.1945	1236.758	841.420 Ha	It is submitted by PP that the reduction in area from 1848.112 Ha to 841.420 Ha can be attributed to various factors as below: - Surrender of Forest Land – Forestry
2	1st supplementary lease: Executed between Govt. of Vindhya Pradesh and	127.017		

S. No.	Lease Details/ Notification No.	Area (in Ha)	Area involved in instant project (Ha)	Remarks
	M/s Dalchand Bahadur Singh on 13.12.1948			clearance of 289.070 Ha of forest land was not applied for renewal and has been excluded from the mining plan. - Overlap and Adjustment with Rajnagar Opencast Mine – An area of 318.822 Ha has been reduced from Rajnagar UG Project to avoid overlapping with the adjacent Rajnagar Opencast Mine and to ensure proper vertical boundaries between them. - Non-workable Areas – An area of 398.800 Ha has been identified as non-workable due to faults, discontinuities, and thinning of coal seams, and has therefore been excluded from the mine plan.
3	2nd supplementary lease: Executed on 25.07.1953	484.337		
Total		1848.112 Ha	841.420 Ha	

The leasehold area measuring 1848.112 hectares, as detailed above, was vested in Coal India Limited under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 and is valid up to 26.11.2065.

Forest Area: The project involves a total of 421.070 Ha of forest land. The details of the approval already obtained is as follows:

- Stage-I Forest Clearance has been granted for Rajnagar UG Project vide F.No. 8-145/2006-FC dated 10.01.2008 for an area of 502 Ha. Out of 502 Ha, 421.07 Ha lies in Rajnagar UG Project and the remaining is for adjacent Rajnagar Opencast Mine.
- Setting up of infrastructural facilities and UG coal mining in the part of the 421.07 Ha forest land is being carried out by the project proponent based on the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, requisite Stage II FC is yet to be obtained and no land break up details in this regard has been made available by the proponent.
- Surface rights have been obtained for a total of 123.56 Ha vide F.No. 8-145/2006-FC dated 10.01.2008 out of which 42.637 Ha lies inside mine boundary of Rajnagar UG Project.
- Stage-II FC for an area of 9.158 Ha has also been obtained vide No.8C/6/201/94FC/3961 dated 04.11.2011 (Surface rights for part of infrastructural area).

Protected Area: The project is not located within 10 km of any ESZ/ ESA/ national park/ wildlife sanctuary/ biosphere reserve/ tiger reserve/ elephant reserve/tiger corridor/elephant corridor etc.

In Rajnagar UG Project, there is presence of Schedule – I species, such as Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) LC, Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*) VU, Indian gray mongoose (*Urva edwardsii*) LC,

Striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*) NT, Spectacled Cobra (*Naja Naja*) LC, Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) LC, Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*) and Daboia Russlii (LC) are recorded as per the WPA (Amendment), 2022. These species are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 2022. It is submitted by the PP that work has been awarded on 15.09.2025 for an Integrated Wildlife Conservation Plan covering six mines of SECL, including Rajnagar UG Project to ICFRE, Dehradun. The work has been accepted by ICFRE, Dehradun vide its letter dated 16.09.2025 and is expected to be completed by September 2026.

Other Sensitive Receptors:

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km and direction		
	Particulars	Distance	Direction
i. Habitation	Bangawan Nagar Parishad	Within ML Area	
	Dola Nagar Parishad	1.9 KM	North
	Nandgaon Village	3.7 KM	North
	Bijuri Nagar Palika	5.8 KM	North
	Manendragarh Nagar Palika	5.9 KM	Nort East
	Khongapani NP	2.15 KM	East
	Pauradhar, Dumarkachhar NP	2.9 KM	South
	Semra Village	4.8 KM	West
ii. School	Particulars	Distance (in KM)	Direction
	Nav Jyoti Mission School, Rajnagar	516 Meters	North
	Privt. HSS Adarsh, Rajnagar	778 Meters	North
	Privt. HS Shashi Shiksha Mandir, New Rajnagar	1.02 Km	North
	Privt. Little Angels Convent, Rajnagar	1.31 Km	North
	PS Siding Dafai, Bangawan	1.45 Km	North
	Gyanodaya MS, Kamalnagar	1.47 Km	North
	S. Jyoti Pub. School, New Dola	2.57 Km	North
	UEGS, Surgujia Dafai	2.55 Km	North East
	Privt. HS Vivekanand Convent School, Rajnagar	790 Meters	East
	Govt. HSS Girls, Rajnagar	1.11 Km	East
	Govt. HSS Boys, Rajnagar Colliery	1.03 Km	East
	Pvt. Aided PS, Rajnagar	1.05 Km	South
	UEGS Pokhari Dafai	2.03 Km	West
	PS, Padritola	2.25 Km	West
	UEGS, Premnagar	2.38 Km	West
	Privt. HS Adarsh Saraswati, Rajnagar	1.09 Km	West
	Govt. MS, Bangawan	1.55 Km	North West
	Govt. PS, Pejhatola	1.82 Km	North West
	Govt. PS, Dola	2.57 Km	South
	Govt. HS, Dola	2.60 Km	North
	UEGS, Kol Dafai	2.72 Km	South
	Govt. HS, Reunda	2.73 Km	North
Govt. PS, Molaiya Tola	2.95 Km	North	
Mother Land Public School, Reunda	3.00 Km	North	
iii. River/ Waterbody	Particulars	Distance (in KM)	Direction
	Kulharia Nallah	Flows within ML Area in Western side	
	Bukbuk Nallah	Flows along ML Boundary in Eastern side	

Project site proximity to sensitive area	Distance in km and direction		
	Hasdeo River (HFL: 420.86 m)	6.1 KM	East
	Kewai River (HFL: 500.09 m)	6.8 KM	West
iv. Forest	Particulars	Distance	Direction
	Malga RF	Project Area falls within Malga RF	
	Haldibari RF	1.2 KM	North East
	Paradol RF	5.2 KM	South East
v. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected site	Nil		
vi. Any other	Particulars	Distance (in KM)	Direction
	SECL Dispensary	Within ML area	
	Reunda PHC	3.99 KM	North
	SECL Dispensary, Khongapani	2.75 KM	East
	Pipraha SHC	4.33 KM	North West
	Semra SHC	4.38 KM	West

No diversions are proposed for the said project, neither any diversion is done previously.

34.7.5: Method of Mining and Mining Plan: PP submitted that the Mining Plan including Mine Closure Plan for the project was approved by SECL Bilaspur on 20.06.2025 for (Capacity: 0.85 MTPA, Area: 841.420 Ha). Life of mine as per existing EC dated 24.05.2005 was 10 years. As per approved Mine closure plan, the balance life of mine was 10 years from 01.04.2013. Further as per application submitted for revalidation of EC dated 30.08.2018 the life extension was sought till 2030.

- i. Method of Mining to be adopted shall be underground mining with Bord and Pillar method.
- ii. Total geological reserve reported is 35.73 MT with 20.076 MT mineable reserve. Out of total extractable reserve, 2.512 MT are available for extraction as on 01.04.2025. Percent of extraction is 56.19% (w.r.t geological reserve).
- iii. 3 seams (Seams 4A, 7A1 & 8A2) with thickness ranging from 0.8 m – 2.4 m are workable.
- iv. Grade of coal is G-6 while gradient is 1 in 13.4 (for 4A), 1 in 14 (for 7A1) & 1 in 15 (for 8A2).
- v. Life of mine is 9 years as on 01.04.2025.
- vi. Details of land use

a. Pre-mining land use pattern:

S. No.	Land Use	Within ML Area (Ha)	Outside ML Area (Ha)	Total (Ha)
1.	Agricultural Land	119.962	-	119.962
2.	Forest land	421.070	-	421.070
3.	Waste land	-	-	-
4.	Grazing land	-	-	-
5.	Surface Water Bodies	-	-	-
6.	Settlements	-	-	-
7.	Other (Govt. Land)	300.388	-	300.388
	Total	841.420	-	841.420

b. Post mining land use:

S. No.	Type	Total Area (in Ha)	Reclaimed Area (in Ha)	Un reclaimed Area (in Ha)
1.	UG Working Area	548.908	0	548.908 [§]
2.	Mine infrastructure [#]	23.98	23.98	0
3.	Green cover/ Plantation	114.92	114.92*	0
4.	Others (Colony, road , other infrastructure)	153.612	0	153.612
	Total	841.420	138.9	702.52

* Current plantation in Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project is 114.92 Ha, comprising 40.54 Ha of plantation within Rajnagar RO UG and 74.38 Ha of plantation from Rajnagar OC Mine, which now falls within the Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project boundary after mine boundary adjustment
[#]The areas under mine infrastructure and other facilities such as colony and roads (shown at S. No. 2 and 4) together cover 177.591 ha. These facilities are located at the surface. Since the mine is an underground operation, this area 177.591 ha of surface infrastructure is also part of the overall UG mine area of 841.420 Ha.
[§] Undisturbed Area

vii. **Details of transportation of coal:** The coal is proposed to be transported within and outside the mining lease in the following manner:

- a) In pit: From underground mine face to surface through belt conveyors via Incline no. 7.
- b) Surface to siding: Through belt conveyors to the surge bunker at the Siding.
- c) Siding to loading: Through Rajnagar RO Railway Siding, equipped with closed conveyor belts.
- d) Siding to consumer: By rail

viii. **Details of reclamation:** Plantation activities have been done in 114.92 Ha inside the mine lease, comprising 40.54 Ha of plantation within Rajnagar RO UG and 74.38 Ha of plantation from Rajnagar OC Mine, which now falls within the Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project boundary after mine boundary adjustment. Mine Project boundary after mine boundary adjustment. Also, in last year 05 years, 2,20,000 saplings have been planted in 88.0 Ha around Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine project. At the end of mine life, afforestation shall be done covering an area of 23.98 ha of mine infrastructure after dismantling of the same.

34.7.6: Baseline data: As per the 38th EAC (Coal mining projects) meeting held on 27th September 2018, EIA EMP was prescribed and baseline environmental data were collected during the period from 01.12.2022 to 28.02.2023.

Period	Baseline data collected between 01.12.2022 to 28.02.2023:
AAQ parameters at 09 locations (min and max)	<p>Core Zone PM₁₀ = 129 to 158 µg/m³, PM_{2.5} = 24 to 49 µg/m³, SO₂ = 15 to 23 µg/m³, NO_x = 23 to 31 µg/m³</p> <p>Buffer Zone PM₁₀ = 50 to 78 µg/m³, PM_{2.5} = 20 to 37 µg/m³, SO₂ = 8 to 20 µg/m³, NO_x = 13 to 28 µg/m³</p>
Surface water quality at 4 locations	<p>Core Zone pH: 7.45 to 8.21, DO: 5.9 to 6.8 mg/l, TDS: 142 to 239 mg/l, BOD: 6.8 to 7.6 mg/l,</p>

Period	Baseline data collected between 01.12.2022 to 28.02.2023:
	<p>Fluoride: 0.41 to 0.57 mg/l. Heavy metals (As): BDL(0.01)</p> <p>Buffer Zone pH: 7.58 to 8.12, DO: 5.3 to 6.7 mg/l, TDS: 146 to 196 mg/l, BOD: 6.7 – 11.8 mg/l, Flouride: 0.29 to 0.68 mg/l. Heavy metals (As): BDL(0.01)</p>
Ground Water quality at 4 locations	<p>Core Zone: pH: 7.93 to 7.95, TDS: 266 to 296 mg/l, Fluoride: 0.32 to 0.33 mg/l, Chlorides: 126 to 138 mg/l, Total Hardness: 104 to 126 mg/l, Heavy metals (As): BDL(0.01)</p> <p>Buffer Zone: pH: 6.9 to 7.59, TDS: 192 to 451 mg/l, Fluoride: 0.11 to 0.56 mg/l, Chlorides: 70 to 200 mg/l, Total Hardness: 88 to 236 mg/l, Heavy metals (As): BDL(0.01)</p>
Noise levels (Day and Night)	<p>Core Zone 69.4 to 71.3 dB(A) for the day time and 57.2 to 59.6 dB(A) for the Night time.</p> <p>Buffer Zone 47.4 to 52.4 dB(A) for the day time and 36.7 to 39.5 dB(A) for the Night time.</p>
Traffic assessment study findings	PP submitted that traffic assessment study was not conducted as there is no transportation of coal by road. Coal is transported using railway siding of Rajnagar UG Project.
Flora and Fauna	<p>PP submitted that in the study area of the project, various Schedule-I species have been reported as per Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022; including Golden Jackal (Canis aureus)- LC, Sloth Bear (Melursus ursinus)- VU, Indian gray mongoose (Urva edwardsii)- LC, Striped hyaena (Hyaena hyaena)- NT, Spectacled Cobra (Naja Naja)- LC, Indian Fox (Vulpes bengalensis)- LC, Rat Snake (Ptyas mucosa)- LC and Russell’s Viper (Daboia Russlii)- LC.</p> <p>It is submitted by the PP that work has been awarded on 15.09.2025 for an Integrated Wildlife Conservation Plan covering six mines of SECL, including Rajnagar UG Project to ICFRE, Dehradun. The work has been accepted by ICFRE, Dehradun vide its letter dated 16.09.2025 and is expected to be completed by September 2026.</p>
Water Requirement	<p>Source of Water: Mine water Ground Water Intersection: Yes Water Requirement: 1891 KLD NOC (For surface water): NA NOC (Ground Water): PP submitted that the application for renewal of NOC obtained for the project has been recommended and approved by CGWA for groundwater abstraction of 8318 m³/day in its EAC meeting held on 02.09.2025. The formal NOC is awaited.</p>

34.7.7: Water Requirement: PP submitted that the water requirement for the said project is 1891 KLD (Industrial use: 144 KLD and Domestic use: 1747 KLD). NOC for groundwater abstraction was obtained vide NOC No. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2023/ 19568, which was valid up to 14.01.2025.

The application for renewal of the same has been recommended and approved by CGWA for groundwater abstraction of 8318 m³/day in its EAC meeting held on 02.09.2025. The formal NOC is awaited. Further, PP submitted that no water body is proposed for diversion in the said project.

34.7.8: Power Requirement and details of diversion of Hi-Tension/ Transmission Line: Total Power Requirement is 2000 KVA, which will be sourced from Madhya Pradesh State Power Distribution Company Limited. There is no diversion of Hi – tension/ transmission line proposed for the said project.

34.7.9: Details of Solid and Hazardous Waste: The details of solid and hazardous waste generation along with its mode of treatment/disposal is furnished as below:

No.	Type of Waste	Source	Quantity	Mode of Treatment	Disposal
	Hazardous Waste- Used Oil (schedule I - 5.1)	Machine operations in UG Mine	6 KL (In FY 2024-25)		Refer to CPCB Authorized recycler in centralized manner through MSTC Limited

Note: Authorization for generation, collection, reception, storage, transport, reuse, recovery, pre-processing, utilization, treatment, disposal or any other use of hazardous or other waste on the premises of Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project has been obtained from MPPCB vide AWH-62286 issued on 02.06.2025 which is valid up to 30.09.2030.

34.7.10: Details of Public Consultation:

Particulars	Public Hearing	Public Notice for revalidation of EC
Details of advertisement given	Advertisements published on 27.07.2003 in Dainik Bharati, Shahdol and Shahdol Bhaskar.	A Public Notice was issued by Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board on 19.04.2024 in one national daily newspaper, The Times of India, New Delhi and on 18.04.2024 in two local daily newspapers Dainik Bharti, Shahdol and Raj Express, Jabalpur informing the stakeholders about the present coal mining operations and inviting their comments.
Date of PH/ public consultation	28.08.2003	17/18.05.2024
Venue	Nagar Panchayat Bhawan, Bijuri	NA, Public consultation was done through newspaper publication.
Presiding Officer	Sub- Divisional Officer, Anuppur	NA, Public consultation was done through newspaper publication.
Number of Person Attended Hearing	14	NA, Public consultation was done through newspaper publication.
Number of representation received in writing from the district and outside of district	NIL	No representation received (as communicated by MPPCB vide letter dated 28.11.2024)
Major issues raised	Pollution control measures, community development, reclamation of goaf areas, Air, water & noise monitoring and plantation	Nil

Action plan as per MoEF&CC O.M. dated 30/09/2020:

This is a running mine and PH was conducted on 28.08.2003. All the issues raised during the public hearing have been implemented and continuous in nature.

S. No.	Physical activity and action plan	Year of implementation (Budget in Lakh)- 2025-26 onwards									Total Expenditure (in Rs Lakhs)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Infrastructure creation for drinking water Supply	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
2	Sanitation	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
3	Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
4	Skill Development	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
5	Basic Health Infrastructure	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
6	Road Infrastructure	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Total 108											

34.7.11: EMP Budget: Existing capital cost for environmental protection measures was Rs. 130.16 Lakhs. The capital cost for environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs 997.92 Lakhs. The annual recurring cost towards the environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs. 340 Lakhs. The employment generation from the proposed project / expansion is Regular employee - 529 nos & Contractual – 71 nos (Total 600 employees).

The details of cost for environmental measures are as follows:

S. No.	Description of Item	Capital Cost (In Lakhs)			Recurring cost (in Lakhs)	
		Existing	Additional (Proposed)	Total	Existing	Proposed
(i)	Air Pollution Control/ Noise Management	14.36	15	29.36	5.5	15
(ii)	Water Pollution Control	5	590.42	595.42	5	10
(iii)	Environmental Monitoring and Management	50	12.5	62.5	80	110
(iv)	Green Belt & Plantation Development	60.8	150	210.8	0	5
(v)	Statutory charges to be paid to CGWA, MPPCB etc and others	0	230	230	125	200
	Total	130.16	997.92	1128.08	215.5	340

34.7.12: Plantation: Plantation activities have been done in 114.92 Ha inside the mine lease, comprising 40.54 Ha of plantation within Rajnagar RO UG and 74.38 Ha of plantation from Rajnagar OC Mine, which now falls within the Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project boundary after mine boundary adjustment. Also, in last year 05 years, 2,20,000 saplings have been planted in 88.0 Ha in other projects of SECL Hasdeo Area located around Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine project Also, distributions of saplings are also done every year to local villagers and employees on occasions like World Environment Day, Swacchhta hi Sewa, Ek Ped Maa ke Naam etc. At the end of mine life, afforestation shall be done covering an area of 23.98 ha of mine infrastructure after dismantling of the same.

34.7.13: Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) details: There is no R&R issue in respect of Rajnagar UG Project.

34.7.14: Project Cost: Total capital cost of project is Rs. 27.8758 Crores. And the additional capital cost for environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs. 997.92 Lakhs. The annual recurring cost towards the environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs. 340 Lakhs.

34.7.15: Details of pending litigation: There is no legal issues/ violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air (P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project pertaining to the environment.

34.7.16 Undertaking and Affidavit: PP has submitted following vide an undertaking:

- That there is no litigation on the project at NGT or any other court of law under EP Act, 1986, Air Act 1981 or Water Act, 1974.
- That the mining rights have been acquired as detailed below:

S. No.	Lease Details/ Notification No.	Area involved (in Ha)	Remarks
1	Principal lease: Executed between Rewa Durbar and M/s Dalchand Bahadur Singh on 06.06.1945	1236.758	la, Pejhatola, Bangawan, Dumarkachhar, Reunda, Padritola
2	supplementary lease: Executed between Govt. of Vindhya Pradesh and M/s Dalchand Bahadur Singh on 13.12.1948	127.017	ngawan, Dumarkachhar
3	supplementary lease: Executed on 25.07.1953	484.337	la, Bangawan, Dumarkachhar
Total		1848.112 Ha	

The leasehold area measuring 1848.112 hectares, as detailed above, was vested in Coal India Limited under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973. And is valid up to 26.11.2065.

There is no R&R issue in respect of Rajnagar Underground Project. The mining area (as per approved mining plan dated 20.06.2025) comprising 841.420 hectares is located entirely within the lease area.

- That there is no difference in the documents submitted i.e., Form 1, Mining Plan, and presentation being made to the EAC.
- That the project is being submitted for grant of revalidation of EC under the provisions of MoEF&CC S.O. 1530(E) dated 06.04.2018.

34.7.17: ADS information in chronology: The proposal was initially considered in 38th EAC meeting held on 27th September 2018 wherein the committee deferred the proposal for additional information. PP submitted the reply vide letter no. 112 dated 11.09.2025 and uploaded the same on the PARIVESH portal. Later the ministry further sought ADS which again submitted vide letter no. 118 dated 29.09.2025. Details of the same are as follows:

The proponent submitted the ADS reply vide letter dated 11.09.2025, uploaded on PARIVESH on 11.09.2025. Point-wise reply of ADS is as below –

S. No.	Details sought as per MoM of 38 th EAC dtd 27.09.2018	Compliance status
1.	The Committee, after deliberations, desired for the EIA/ EMP report based on one season baseline data.	The EIA/EMP report for Rajnagar UG Coal Mine Project has been prepared and submitted.
2.	Public Consultation, including public hearing, shall be conducted through concerned SPCB as per the provisions/procedure contained in the EIA Notification, 2006 for information of the stakeholders about the present coal mining operations inviting comments and their redressal.	Public Hearing has been exempted for the project as per the Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F.No. 22-4/2020-IA.III dated 16.02.2021, subject to specific conditions. The conditions prescribed therein have been duly complied with, and an undertaking to this effect is submitted. Accordingly, a Public Notice was issued by Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board on 19.04.2024 in one national daily newspaper, The Times of India, New Delhi and on 18.04.2024 in two local daily newspapers Dainik Bharti, Shahdol and Raj Express, Jabalpur informing the stakeholders about the present coal mining operations and inviting their comments. <i>(Publication copies submitted)</i> . Subsequently, Regional Officer MPPCB, Shahdol vide his letter dated 28.11.2024 has informed that no grievances or comments were received from the public against the publications. <i>(Letter copy submitted.)</i>
3.	Valid Mining Plan and the Progressive Mine Closure Plan duly approved by the competent authority,	Mining Plan including Mine Closure for Rajnagar Underground Coal Mine Project, covering an area of 841.420 hectares with capacity of 0.85 MTPA has been approved by CoFD SECL on 03.06.2025. The land area has been revised restricting the mining within 841.420 Ha in place of previously approved area of 1848.112 Ha. <i>(The approved mining plan is submitted)</i>
4.	Compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the environmental from the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry.	Compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance from MoEF&CC RO, Bhopal is submitted. An action taken report (ATR)/ present status of the Certified Compliance Report is submitted.
5.	Consent to operate from the State Pollution Control Board for the present mining operations.	Consent to Operate (CTO) has been obtained from MPPCB which is valid till 31.05.2026. <i>(CTO submitted)</i>
6.	Redressal of issues raised during the last public hearing conducted by the SPCB.	A detailed report of redressal of issues which were raised during the public hearing conducted by MPPCB on 28.07.2003 is enclosed as <i>submitted</i> .
7.	Coal production realized from the mine from 1993-94 vis-à-vis capacity stipulated in the environment clearance.	Coal production data vis-à-vis capacity stipulated in the environment clearance is submitted.
8.	Need assessment survey for the activities proposed under the CSR and the comprehensive plan to be prepared accordingly for implementation by the project proponent. Also, impact of the CSR activities undertaken at an interval of 5 years to be evaluated and a report to be submitted.	A Need Assessment Survey was conducted in November 2023 by a team comprising representatives from SECL Hasdeo Area HQ and mine officials in six villages namely Bangawan, Dumarkachhar, Dola, Padritola, Pejhatola and Reunda falling in the core zone of the project. An in-depth report detailing the survey techniques along with an implementation strategy of the identified CSR works, is submitted.

S. No.	Details sought as per MoM of 38 th EAC dtd 27.09.2018	Compliance status
		A report on impact of CSR activities undertaken at an interval of 5 years is also submitted.
9.	Details of court cases and the compliance status.	There are no court cases against pending against Rajnagar UG Coal Mine Project of SECL under any act or rule related to Environment under any court of law or Hon'ble NGT. <i>(Copy of the undertaking is submitted)</i>

Subsequently, ADS raised on 15.09.2025 and ADS reply vide letter dated 29.09.2025, uploaded on PARIVESH on 29.09.2025. Point wise reply of ADS is given as below:

S. No.	ADS dated 15.09.2025 for Rajnagar Underground Project	Reply
1.	PP is requested to submit the reasons for reducing the lease area from 1848.112 Ha (as per the EC dated 24.05.2005) to 841.420 Ha. Also submit the nature of land being reduced and statutory permissions if any obtained on the same.	As per the EC dated 24.05.2005, the mine lease area for Rajnagar Underground Project was 1848.112 Ha. It is submitted that the mining plan has been approved for an area of 841.420 Ha by SECL on 20.06.2025. This reduction in area from 1848.112 Ha to 841.420 Ha can be attributed to various factors as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surrender of Forest Land – Forestry clearance of 289.070 Ha of forest land was not applied for renewal and has been excluded from the mining plan. - Overlap and Adjustment with Rajnagar Opencast Mine – An area of 318.822 Ha has been reduced from Rajnagar UG Project to avoid overlapping with the adjacent Rajnagar Opencast Mine and to ensure proper vertical boundaries between them. - Non-workable Areas – An area of 398.800 Ha has been identified as non-workable due to faults, discontinuities, and thinning of coal seams, and has therefore been excluded from the mine plan. Accordingly, the mine boundary as per the approved mining plan is restricted to 841.420 Ha.
2.	It is observed that the life of mine as per EC dated 24.05.2005 was 10 years. Which was valid till 23.05.2015. The EC was not valid at the time of submission of application for revalidation of EC. PP may clarify.	It is acknowledged that as per the Environmental Clearance of Rajnagar Underground Project, the life of mine was 10 years i.e. up to 23.05.2015. Meanwhile, a Mine Closure Plan for Rajnagar Underground Project was approved in the 217th Meeting of Board of Directors of SECL held on 28.10.2013 with a balance life of 10 years from 01.04.2013. The details of same were furnished in Basic Information submitted along with Form-I for revalidation of EC of instant project in compliance with the Ministry's notification issued vide S.O. 1530E dated 06.04.2018. <p>Further, due to unfavourable geo-mining conditions, the coal production from the mine was adversely affected and the rated capacity could not be achieved. And accordingly, reassessing the</p>

S. No.	ADS dated 15.09.2025 for Rajnagar Underground Project	Reply															
		<p>mining conditions, the life of mine was assessed to be 09 years on 01.04.2018 as indicated in the Form-I submitted for EC revalidation.</p> <p>It is also submitted for consideration that the instant case pertains to revalidation of EC accorded under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 1994. In view of the above submissions, it is kindly requested that the clarification may be considered favourably.</p>															
3.	<p>The project is being submitted for the revalidation of EC with reduction in the ML area from 1848.112 Ha to 841.420 Ha. However the Mining plan and the mine closure plan has been approved for the area of 1848.112 Ha only. Kindly clarify and make the necessary changes.</p>	<p>It is submitted that the Mine Plan along with the Mine Closure Plan has been approved by SECL on 20.06.2025 for a capacity of 0.85 MTPA in an area of 841.420 Ha, and not for 1848.112 Ha. The land use details pertaining to 841.420 Ha are provided on pages 26–28, and the Mine Closure Plan for the same area are provided on pages 30–35 of the already submitted Mine Plan.</p> <p>A copy of the relevant pages of Mine Plan is submitted.</p>															
4.	<p>As per the EC dated 24.05.2005, it is observed that the project involved the forestland of 791.07 Ha. However as per the application for revalidation submitted and the Minutes of the 38th EAC meeting held on 27.09.2018 the forestland involved is 502 Ha. PP is requested to clarify the forestland involved in the instant project. PP shall also clarify as to why the said forestland is being reduced. Details of approval of the entire 791.07 Ha shall be submitted along with the forest clearance letter. PP shall also clarify whether the area being reduced is broken up or not. A letter from DFO shall be submitted in this regard.</p>	<p>It is submitted that the mining lease for 1848.112 Ha was executed by Private Collieries M/s Dalchand Bahadur Singh with various agencies with details as below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Lease</th> <th>Date of Execution</th> <th>Area (in Acres)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Principal Lease with Rewa Durbar</td> <td>06.06.1945</td> <td>3056.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st Supplementary Lease with Govt of Vindhya Pradesh</td> <td>13.12.1948</td> <td>313.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd Supplementary Lease</td> <td>25.07.1953</td> <td>1196.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Total- 4566.69 Acres (1848.112 Ha)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above leasehold area measuring 1848.112 Ha; including 791.07 Ha Forest land was vested in Coal India Limited & its subsidiaries under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973, enacted on 01.05.1973. Also, the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (December 2023) provides that “In respect of the mining operations being carried out on forest lands leases before the commencement of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 during the continuance of the lease period, the approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the said Act is not required.” As such, the lease period for forest land was valid up to 30.04.2003.</p> <p>Out of the total 791.07 Ha, 502 Ha Forest land was applied for renewal as 289.07 Ha of forest land had already been worked out. Subsequently, Stage-I Forestry Clearance was granted by MoEF&CC vide FP/MP/MIN/1384/2006 dated 10.01.2008 for 502 Ha.</p> <p>A copy of the letter from the Office of the Conservator of Forests, Shahdol Circle dated 03.11.2006 to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhopal, recommending the proposal for renewal of 502 Ha out of 791.07 Ha for mining activities and 123.56 Ha towards surface rights, is submitted. In the above letter, it has also been mentioned that the approval for mining activities over the forest land of 791.07 Ha was obtained prior to 1980.</p>	Type of Lease	Date of Execution	Area (in Acres)	Principal Lease with Rewa Durbar	06.06.1945	3056.03	1 st Supplementary Lease with Govt of Vindhya Pradesh	13.12.1948	313.86	2 nd Supplementary Lease	25.07.1953	1196.80	Total- 4566.69 Acres (1848.112 Ha)		
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S. No.	ADS dated 15.09.2025 for Rajnagar Underground Project	Reply																				
		Hence, it is submitted that the reduced area of 289.07 Ha was already broken up when the application for Stage-I was made in 2003 which was also brought to the notice of the State Forest Department.																				
5.	Kindly submit the details of sensitive receptors on the coal transportation road, along with the mitigation measures being followed and further proposed to be followed.	It is submitted that there is no transportation of coal by road. The coal is evacuated through a series of conveyor belts via incline no. 7, which is located at the railway siding itself. The coal produced is directly dispatched from the mine to the railway siding and subsequently transported to various customers/ consumers through rail mode. As part of dust mitigation measures within the mine premises and railway siding, truck-mounted fogging machine, mechanical road sweeper, fixed water sprinklers and wind breaking wall at loading point are provided. Additionally, CAAQMS has been installed at the project and is connected to the MPPCB server for continuous air quality monitoring.																				
6.	Kindly submit the drone video and the geo-tagged photographs of the coal transportation route.	It is submitted that there is no transportation of coal by road. The coal is evacuated through a series of conveyor belts via incline no. 7, which is located at the railway siding itself. The coal produced is directly dispatched from the mine to the railway siding and subsequently transported to various customers/ consumers through rail mode. Geo-tagged photographs of the railway siding showing all environment control measures are submitted. However, due to size constrains, the drone video showing all environment control measures will be presented at the time of EAC meeting.																				
7.	Kindly submit the status of Schedule – I species observed in the study area and Wildlife Conservation Plan for the said project.	In the study area of the project, various Schedule-I species have been reported as per Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022; including Golden Jackal (<i>Canis aureus</i>)- LC, Sloth Bear (<i>Melursus ursinus</i>)- VU, Indian gray mongoose (<i>Urva edwardsii</i>)- LC, Striped hyaena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>)- NT, Spectacled Cobra (<i>Naja Naja</i>)- LC, Indian Fox (<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>)- LC, Rat Snake (<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>)- LC and Russell’s Viper (<i>Daboia Russlii</i>)- LC. Work has been awarded to ICFRE, Dehradun on 15.09.2025 for preparation of a comprehensive and integrated Wildlife Conservation Plan for 06 projects of SECL Hasdeo Area including Rajnagar Underground Project and the same has been accepted by ICFRE, Dehradun vide their letter dated 16.09.2025. It is expected to be completed by September 2026. (Copy of acceptance is submitted)																				
8.	Kindly submit the details of water requirement for the said project and the latest status of CGWA application renewal.	<p>Water Requirement: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Purpose</th> <th>Projected Demand (m³/day)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">A. Industrial Water Demand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Green Belt</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Dust suppression in Industrial premises</td> <td style="text-align: center;">80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Other industrial use (CHP, fire services etc.)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Process and other losses for Industrial Use</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total (A)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">144</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">B. Domestic/Portable Water Demand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Housing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1747</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total (B)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1747</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Purpose	Projected Demand (m ³ /day)	A. Industrial Water Demand		1. Green Belt	5	2. Dust suppression in Industrial premises	80	3. Other industrial use (CHP, fire services etc.)	46	4. Process and other losses for Industrial Use	13	Total (A)	144	B. Domestic/Portable Water Demand		1. Housing	1747	Total (B)	1747
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S. No.	ADS dated 15.09.2025 for Rajnagar Underground Project	Reply	
		Grand Total (A+B)	1891 m ³ /day
		Excess mine water is being discharged for irrigation and public use. Present Status of CGWA NOC Application: The application for renewal of NOC obtained for the project has been recommended and approved by CGWA for groundwater abstraction of 8318 m ³ /day in its EAC meeting held on 02.09.2025 (Copy of EAC deliberation is submitted). The formal NOC is awaited.	
9.	Kindly make sure that the factual data mentioned in Form, Mine plan, presentation and EIA/ EMP Report are in the same order and do not mismatch. All the documents provided by your good self must be legible. Also, along with the corrections mentioned above, please ensure the completeness of the Form and all the documents.	All factual data provided in the Form, Mine Plan, EIA/ EMP Report, and Presentation have been thoroughly verified to ensure consistency, legibility, and completeness. All documents are complete in all respects.	

Observation and deliberation of the EAC:

34.7.18: The Committee noted the following:

1. The instant proposal is for revalidation of EC accorded by M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd for Rajnagar UG Project vide letter no. J-11015/135/2005-IA.II(M) on 24.05.2005 for production capacity of 0.85 MTPA under EIA Notification, 1994. The revalidation of EC granted is under EIA Notification 2006 (as amended) as per the provision of S.O 1530(E) dated 06.04.2018 read with OM dated 16.02.2021.
2. PP applied for revalidation of EC in PARIVESH Portal on 30.08.2018, i.e., well within the window period of 6 months (i.e. before 5.10.2018) and submitted Form-1 as required under S.O. 1530(E) dated 06.04.2018 for the re-validation of EC under EIA Notification 2006 (as amended).
3. Committee observed that the said project was earlier apprised in 38th meeting of EAC (Coal Mining Sector) held on 27.09.2018 and the same was deferred for want of additional information. PP submitted the same vide its response dated 11.09.2025, following which, subsequent ADS was raised on 15.09.2025 and the information was submitted by the PP vide its response dated 29.09.2025.
4. During the deliberation, the Committee observed the following short-comings in the instant project:
 - i. Committee observed that the coal production in within the EC capacity, since the EC has been granted. However, there was excess production between the year from 1993-2005. PP provided no information w.r.t any action taken (if any), by the concerned SPCB for the over production of coal done beyond the CTO capacity. No credible document has been submitted by the proponent whether violation aspect was taken in to consideration in the EC accorded on 24/05/2005.
 - ii. Committee deliberated on the certified compliance report obtained from the

Ministry's RO vide letter dated 11.07.2025, and observed the following:

- a) As per the comments of the RO, the greenbelt/ plantation has not been developed by the PP in the said project due to non-availability of the surface rights in the said project. However, in its action taken report submitted by the RO, PP has informed that plantation activities have been undertaken in 114.92 Ha of the ML area. There is contradiction in the statement of the RO and the PP. Clarity in this regard is requested to be submitted along with the comments of RO on the ATR submitted by the PP.
 - b) Committee observed that the STP and ETP, which were supposed to be installed as per the EC dated 24.05.2005. The same is yet to be commissioned. PP in its ATR submitted that the same is expected to be commissioned by December 2025. Committee took a serious view on it as it's been more than 20 years, since the EC has been granted and the basic and important EC conditions are yet to be complied with. Compliance in this regard is required to be submitted.
 - c) As per the EC dated 24.05.2005, conservation plan for Schedule – I species was supposed to be implemented in consultation with the forest department. However, the work has been awarded for an integrated wildlife conservation plan on 15.09.2025. In several other cases of M/s SECL, had justified the delay for implementation of WLCP stating that no EC condition was stipulated w.r.t implementation of WLCP. However, in the instant project, condition for the same was stipulated vide EC dated 24.05.2005 and also the application for revalidation of EC was made in the year 2018. Still the work order has been awarded just before submitting the ADS reply for the said project. Committee sought clarity in this regard and an updated status of the WLCP under preparation.
- iii. Committee observed that the project involves total 421.070 Ha of forestland. Stage – I forest clearance has been obtained for the entire 421.070 Ha of forestland vide letter dated 10.01.2008. However, the Stage – II forest clearance is yet to be obtained for the entire 421.070 Ha of forestland involved. The mining activities are being carried out in the said forestland and infrastructural facilities have been set up based on the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. On being asked PP submitted the following:

The instant mine is covered under the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995. In the said matter, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) filed affidavits before the Hon'ble Court in I.A. No. 1441 seeking exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) for underground mining operations, on the premise that such operations do not result in disturbance of ground or loss of forest land, and in I.A. No. 1634 seeking exemption from payment of Penal Compensatory Afforestation (PCA) charges.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, after hearing the matter, passed interim orders on 28.12.2005 and 08.09.2006, directing SECL to deposit amounts of ₹50 crores

and ₹300 crores, respectively, towards NPV and PCA, while inter alia permitting SECL to continue its mining operations in view of larger public interest.

In compliance with the aforesaid orders, SECL deposited a cumulative amount of ₹350 crores with the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), New Delhi, as under:

- ₹50 crores on 28.12.2005
- ₹100 crores on 12.09.2006
- ₹200 crores on 02.11.2006

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its final order dated 12.10.2007 permitted continuation of mining operations upon confirmation of deposit of the NPV amount in compliance with the Court's earlier directions.

A copy of the Office Memorandum issued by MoEF&CC, New Delhi, dated 30.07.2020, confirming the said deposit.

The ₹350 crores deposited was subsequently adjusted against the compensatory levies for 14 projects of SECL, including Rajnagar UG Project, as confirmed in the Compliance report of Stage-I FC submitted by APCCF(LM), Bhopal.

However, nowhere in the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the name of the Rajnagar UG project is mentioned. Committee opined that, before granting the revalidation of EC, Ministry may seek comments of the Forest Division in this regard and shall get the clarity whether the PP is allowed to carry out the mining operations and setting up of infrastructural facilities in the forest land without Stage – II forestry clearance in the said mine as the Supreme Court Order quoted by the PP could not explain the same in detail.

- iv. Committee took a serious view on the non-compliances of the EC conditions and opined that the revalidation of EC shall be granted only after the compliance of the aforementioned important EC conditions. Committee opined that, despite the fact that the EC has been granted more than 20 years, PP failed to comply with the EC conditions such as setting of ETP/STP and green belt development.
- v. As per the available records, the ML area is being reduced from 1848.112 Ha to 841.420 Ha by reducing an area of 1006.692 Ha. This includes the overlapped area of 318.822 Ha, which is part of Rajnagar OC mining project. However, PP under the land use breakup for underground coal mining has submitted that, 74.38 Ha of plantation is again overlapping with Rajnagar OC Mine. This statement is quite confusing and the PP has to submit the factual information along with the supporting documents. PP needs to exclude this overlapping area and a revised land use pattern and land use map shall be submitted to bring out more clarity in this regard.

Recommendations of the Committee:

34.8.19: In view of the foregoing and after detailed deliberations, the EAC *deferred* the above-mentioned proposal and asked the proponent to comply with the above non-conformities and thereafter submits the proposal for reconsideration by the EAC. Also, the Ministry shall seek comments of the Forest Conservation Division with respect to the mining being carried out in

the forestland and setting up of infrastructural facilities in the forest land by the proponent based on the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as the requisite Stage – II forestry clearance for the same is yet to be obtained.

Annexure – I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF EAC (COAL) IN 34TH MEETING HELD ON 29-30TH OCTOBER 2025, THROUGH VIRTUAL MODE

S. No.	Name & Address	Role	29.10.2025	30.10.2025
1.	Shri Inder Pal Singh Matharu, IFS (Retd.)	Chairman	Present	Present
2.	Shri Lalit Kapur	Member	Present	Present
3.	Dr. Umesh Jagannathrao Kahalekar	Member	Present	Present
4.	Dr. Santosh Kumar Hampannavar	Member	Present	Present
5.	Shri Savalge Chandrasekhar	Member	Present	Present
6.	Shri K. B. Biswas	Member	Present	Present
7.	Prof. Shyam Shanker Singh	Member	Present	Present
8.	Dr. Vinod Agrawal	Member	Present	Present
9.	Shri Prasoon Gargava, Scientist - F	Representative of Central Pollution Control Board	Absent	Absent
10.	Shri Mahi Pal Singh, Chief Engineer	Representative of Central Electricity Authority (CEA)	Present	Present
11.	Shri Harmeet Sahaney	Representative of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)	Absent	Absent
12.	Prof. R M Bhattacharjee	Representative of IIT/ISM Dhanbad	Present	Present
13.	Shri Sundar Ramanathan	Scientist 'F' & Member Secretary	Present	Present
MoEF&CC				
1.	Dr. Rajesh Prasad Rastogi	Scientist 'D'	Present	Present

Approval of the Chairman

Re: FINAL MOM OF 34 EAC COAL HELD ON 29-30 OCT 2025

92 emails

Inderpal Singh Matharu <matharu0204@gmail.com >

Mon, 10 Nov 2025 11:31:29 AM +0530

To "Sundar Ramanathan" <r.sundar@nic.in>

Dear Sundar ji

Dear Sundar ji,

Thanks for sharing the final MoM of 34th EAC COAL held on 29-30 th October 2025. I have gone through it. I agree with it as all the points discussed in the meeting and amendments done in the draft of said MoM have been incorporated. I approve the final MoM of 34th EAC COAL held on 29-30th October2025

Sincerely Yours

Inder Pal singh Matharu

Chairman

EAC, Coal mining and Thermal Power

MoEF&CC