

जयराम रमेश
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110003
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110 003

D.O.No.8-38/2009-FC

2nd August 2010

My dear Dr. Raman Singhji -

Kindly refer to your D.O.letter No.199/C5/2010 dated 4th June 20-10 regarding diversion of 2301.260 ha of forest land for opencast coal mining at Tara Coal Block of Hasdeo-Arand coal field in Chhattisgarh.

As you are aware, the project proposal submitted by the State Government was put up to the Forest Advisory Committee(FAC), a statutory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980. While examining the proposal, the Committee noted that the area proposed for diversion is part of large and compact forest block very rich in species diversity, large number of trees (367 per ha), a part of un-fragmented landscape and important wildlife habitat. This is one of the few patches left of its kind in the country. The Committee, therefore, decided that the whole forest block should be kept intact to derive environmental benefits and to use it as a pristine area rather than open it up for mining.

We have jointly conducted an exercise in collaboration with the CMPDI, Ministry of Coal to prepare a composite map by super-imposing the boundaries the boundaries of various coalfields over the forest cover map of the area. This exercise has revealed that a large number of coal blocks still lie in the forest areas which are not so rich and therefore could be considered for coal mining.

The MoE&F is, therefore, of the considered opinion that such important un-fragmented areas as Hasdeo-Arand area need to be protected and further enriched for posterity. I may mention that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member(Energy),Planning Commission is working to establish a mechanism for allotting alternative coal blocks to the entrepreneurs who are allotted coal blocks in the Hasdeo-Arand coalfield.

I have personally spent considerable time on this issue and I would request you to appreciate my position.

With regards,

Very personal

Yours sincerely,

Jairam Ramesh
(Jairam Ramesh)

Dr. Raman Singh
Chief Minister