



F.No.IRO-RPR/ENV/Comp.PG/01/2026/169

By E-mail
Dated 28th April, 2026

To

1. The Scientist-F,
Compliance and Monitoring Division (CMD),
IA Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003;
(Email: moefcc-monitoring@gov.in).
2. The Scientist - F & Member Secretary,
Thermal Power Sector, IA Division,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110 003.
(E-mail: r.sundar@nic.in).

Subject: Public Grievance Petition received in the Ministry vide PG No. MOEAF/EI2026/0000817 dated 16/02/2026 of Shri. Shashank Dubey regarding various allegations against proposed expansion of Pathadi Coal Fired Thermal Power Station at Pathadi Village, Tehsil Tilkeja, District Korba, Chhattisgarh of M/s Korba Power Ltd. (Formerly M/s Lanco Amarkantak Power Pvt. Ltd.) – factual status report regarding.

- Ref:** (i). E-mail communication dated 20/02/2026 of IA Division along with letter No.IA-Z-12011/26/2026-IA-I (E-Comp. No.282577) dated 20/02/2026 of Compliance and Monitoring Division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
- (ii). Public Grievance Petition received in the Ministry vide PG No. MOEAF/EI2026/0000817 dated 16/02/2026 of Shri. Shashank Dubey, Korba.

Madam/Sir,

Reference is invited to the letter No.IA-Z-12011/26/2026-IA-I (E-Comp. No.282577) dated 20/02/2026 of Compliance and Monitoring Division of MoEF&CC addressed to this Office, wherein requested to furnish the factual status report on the Public Grievance Petition No. MOEAF/EI2026/0000817 dated 16/02/2026 of Shri. Shashank Dubey and submission of condition wise compliance status of all the ECs associated with the Pathadi Coal Fired Thermal Power Station at Pathadi Village, Tehsil Tilkeja, District Korba, Chhattisgarh of M/s Korba Power Ltd. (Formerly M/s Lanco Amarkantak Power Pvt. Ltd.).

2. On receipt of the above said communications, this Office has examined the issues referred therein the said Public Grievance. In this regard, a meeting was organized on 18/03/2026 at the project premises of the M/s Korba Power Ltd. As part of natural justice an opportunity was given to the Applicant as well as to the Project Authority in the said meeting. Based on the deliberations held and documents made available, pointwise factual status on the alleged issues referred

therein the said Public Grievance, views of this Office and the action required by the Authorities concerned are furnished below.



Sl. No.	Alleged issues referred therein the Public Grievance Petition dated 16/02/2026 of Shri. Shashank Dubey, Korba	Observation of this Office based on the deliberations held on 18/03/2026 and action required by the Authorities concerned
(1).	<p>Violation of Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation Obligations.</p> <p>The company has failed to provide employment to at least 30 persons whose lands were acquired in the year 2007 for Phase-I of the project. The company has also failed to provide employment to other land displaced persons whose lands were acquired during 2012-2013 for Phase-II expansion.</p> <p>This is a clear violation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and Resettlement provisions applicable at the time of acquisition. • Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy 2004-2009 and 2009-2014, which mandated employment to land displaced families. <p>The company cannot be permitted further expansion without first complying with mandatory rehabilitation and employment obligations.</p>	<p>On perusal of the records made available during the visit, it has been observed that the issues raised in the Public Grievance is true and valid. During the deliberation, the Applicant informed that despite of the directions issued by the District Collector, Korba to the above Project, employment has not been provided till date to the displaced persons whose lands were acquired during 2012-2013 for Phase-II expansion. Few affected persons were also present and made their submissions during the deliberations. The relevant supporting documents made available by the Applicant during the visit is enclosed herewith as Annexure-1 for ready reference of the authorities concerned.</p> <p>Further, the Applicant claims that without complying the existing mandatory</p>

rehabilitation and employment obligations, the Company can not be permitted for further expansion, which is also valid claim as per the extant guidelines of the Ministry.

In this regard, Project Authority has informed that the communication sent by the District Collector was to the previous management and NCLT not to the present management. Further Project Authority claims that as the Unit was taken over from the NCLT, the present management is not having any obligations to fulfil the rehabilitation and employment obligations of the past. It was also informed that if any directions are received from the District Collector, further course of action will be taken in this regard.

The present management, while owning the EC accorded to the previous management, the mandated liabilities of the previous management should also be complied with. It appears that rehabilitation and employment obligations pertaining to the Phase-II also still under process.

In view of the above, this Office is of the view that the present Project Authority should take immediate corrective action in coordination with District Administration to ensure the compliance of all pending rehabilitation and employment obligations pertaining to this project. Thermal Power Sector of IA Division, MoEF&CC shall ensure the compliance, while appraising the expansion proposal of the above project.

(2).	Misleading and Incomplete Disclosure regarding Employment Generation.	<p>As per the EIA report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing and under construction employment (Operation Phase): Permanent: 630 persons Contractual: 3186 persons • Proposed Phase-III employment: Permanent: 270 persons Contractual: 1200 Persons This clearly shows that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment generation in Phase-III is only about 1/3rd of existing workforce proportion, despite adding massive capacity of 1600 MW. • This contradicts claims of public benefit and employment generation. • The project is highly capital intensive but socially non-beneficial. 	The Applicant refers the contents of the draft EIA report for the proposed expansion and thus no comments are offered by this Office. Ministry may examine the same while appraising the expansion proposal.
(3).	No Clear Technology Details for SO ₂ , NO _x and Mercury Emission Control.	<p>The Draft EIA report does not clearly mention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology to control SO₂ emissions No mention of installation of Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) system. • Technology to control NO_x emissions. Only general reference to "SOFA", but no detailed emission control specifications. • Technology to control Mercury emissions Mercury is a highly toxic pollutant from coal-based plants. No emission control strategy has been disclosed. <p>This is a serious violation of emission norms prescribed by:</p>	The Applicant refers the contents of the draft EIA report for the proposed expansion and thus no comments are offered by this Office. Ministry may examine the same while appraising the expansion proposal.

		Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change emission notification dated 07.12.2015.	
(4).	Land Requirement for Phase-III Expansion Not Clearly Disclosed.	<p>The EIA report misleadingly states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total land requirement 505.58 Ha (same as existing land) <p>However, it does not disclose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional land required for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ash dyke expansion Coal storage Cooling infrastructure Environmental protection systems <p>This raises serious concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future land acquisition Environmental and social Impact Displacement of nearby villagers. 	<p>The Applicant expressed the concern that within the existing area of 505.58 Ha, the expansion proposal of Phase -III can not be implemented without acquiring additional land. The observation of the Applicant is logical.</p> <p>In this regard, Project Authority claims that the entire existing layout has been re-engineered and thus adequate space is available for their expansion.</p> <p>There is a scope to incorporate any changes in the Final EIA report and thus no comments are offered by this Office based on the draft EIA report. Ministry may examine the same while appraising the expansion proposal.</p>
(5).	Excessive Coal Consumption and Environmental Burden.	<p>Coal requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: 8.54 Million MTPA Proposed addition: 6.5 Million MTPA Total: 15.04 Million MTPA <p>This will significantly increase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Fly ash generation Mercury emissions Health hazards to residents of Korba <p>Korba is already one of India's most critically polluted areas.</p>	<p>The applicant expressed his concern regarding the additional requirement and usage of coal for the expansion proposal in the same area and its associated emission impacts. Ministry may examine the same while appraising the expansion proposal. No comments are offered by this Office, since there is no any substantial evidence regarding the emission and its impact.</p>
(6).	Massive Water Extraction from Hasdeo River.	<p>Water requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total requirement: 86 MCM per year Source: Hasdeo River <p>This will adversely affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water supply Agriculture Groundwater recharge 	<p>Project Authority presently drawing the water after obtaining requisite NOC from the State Water Resources Department. Similarly for expansion project also, water will be used after obtaining NOC from the authority concerned. The applicant has not produced any substantial evidence on his</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological Balance <p>The water allocation approval is still under process and not finalized.</p>	<p>claim regarding the anticipated impact on drinking water supply, agriculture and ecological balance.</p> <p>During the deliberation, it was advised the Applicant that if the claim is factual, he can appeal before the State Water Resources Department with supporting documents. Accordingly, this issue is devoid of merit.</p>
(7).	False Claims of Environmental Protection.	<p>The report provides only general statements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESP efficiency 99.9% Stack height 275 meters <p>But does not provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual emission levels Compliance with new emission norms Mercury emission limits Continuous emission monitoring plan. 	<p>The claim of the applicant is devoid of merit. The applicant refers the draft EIA report and before implementation he can not report as false claim of environmental protection. Further the Applicant has not produced any supporting document regarding exceedance of emission levels in the existing Unit.</p>
(8).	Violation of Public Trust and Environmental Justice.	<p>The company has already violated rehabilitation commitments from previous phases.</p> <p>Granting further expansion will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reward non-compliance Harm displaced families Increase pollution burden on Korba residents. 	<p>The factual status and observations mentioned in the Sl. No.1 above may be referred.</p>
	Violation of Statutory Rehabilitation Obligations and Non-Compliance of Binding Order dated 11.11.2022 issued by District Collector, Korba	<p>Korba Power Limited (formerly owned by Lanco Infratech Limited and presently controlled by Adani Group pursuant to insolvency resolution approved by the National Company Law Tribunal) has failed to comply with mandatory rehabilitation and employment obligations arising from land acquisition carried out during 2007 and 2012-2013. The District Collector, Korba, vide official order dated 11.11.2022, issued under statutory authority, specifically directed the company to provide employment to identified land displaced persons whose lands were acquired for establishment of the thermal power project. The said</p>	<p>In the above Public Grievance Petition, the Applicant claims that the proposal for Environmental Clearance for the expansion of Korba Power Limited is liable to be rejected in the absence of compliance of rehabilitation and employment obligations and Collector's binding order dated 11/11/2022. The claim of the applicant is valid on account of the factual status and observation mentioned above at Sl. No.1.</p>

		order is legally binding and enforceable upon Korba Power Limited and its successor management. The change in ownership through insolvency resolution does not extinguish statutory obligations, rehabilitation commitments, or binding directions issued by competent government authorities, as the project land and assets continue to be utilized by the same legal entity. The continued failure of Korba Power Limited to comply with the Collector's binding order dated 11.11.2022 constitutes violation of rehabilitation policy, statutory obligations, and principles of natural justice. This material non-compliance has also been suppressed in the Draft EIA Report and during the public hearing conducted on 27.02.2026, thereby vitiating the public hearing process under the EIA Notification, 2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Therefore, the public hearing proceedings are legally unsustainable, and the proposal for Environmental Clearance for expansion of Korba Power Limited is liable to be rejected until full compliance of rehabilitation and employment obligations and Collector's binding order dated 11.11.2022 is ensured. (Annexure – 1)	
(9).	Additional observation submitted by the Applicant during the meeting held on 18/03/2026.	During the meeting the Applicant informed that in the draft EIA report, area demarcated for 33% greenbelt has been mentioned lesser than the mandated area.	During the deliberation, it was informed that the observation of the Applicant will be examined in the Ministry at the time of project appraisal. Ministry may look in to the issue to ensure demarcation of 33% area of total project area for greenbelt development.

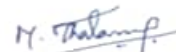
3. In the above said Public Grievance, the Applicant has primarily prayed for the rejection of environmental clearance for Phase-III expansion, providing employment to all land displaced persons of 2007 and 2012-2013 and conducting an independent investigation regarding violation of Land acquisition rehabilitation norms, Industrial Policy provisions & Environmental compliance. A copy of the participant list in the meeting held on 18/03/2026 is enclosed herewith as **Annexure – 2**.

Page 7 of 8

4. As desired by the Ministry, alleged Project referred therein the Public Grievance Petition has also been monitored by the undersigned on 18/03/2026 and a copy of the monitoring report comprising condition wise compliance status of all the ECs associated with the Pathadi Coal Fired Thermal Power Station at Pathadi Village, Tehsil Tilkeja, District Korba, Chhattisgarh of M/s Korba Power Ltd. (Formerly M/s Lanco Amarkantak Power Pvt. Ltd.) is enclosed herewith as **Annexure – 3**. Ministry may take further actions as appropriate in this matter.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. M. Thalamadai Karuppiah)
Scientist – E

Encls: As above

Copy to:

1. Shri. Shashank Dubey, District President, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Ward No.42, Shivanagar Roomgara Balco, Korba, Chhattisgarh-459 684; (Mob.8770079834, E-mail: intuccgkrb@gmail.com) – **with reference to your Public Grievance Petition No. MOFAE/ET2026/0000817 dated 16/02/2026**

