

F. No. 8-01/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 6th February, 2019

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Diversion of 360.01 ha of forest land (160.838 ha Sabik Kisam forest land plus 199.1720 ha forest land (RF & KF) located within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati Iron Ore Mine of Tata Steel Limited under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in Keonjhar District of Odisha.

Sir,

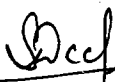
I am directed to inform that the user agency ~~was~~ given a representation vide their letter dated 24.10.2018 requesting for modification of condition No. (ii) and condition no.(iv) of Stage –I approval dated 20.08.2018 related to change in requirement of CA land and violation due to execution of supplementary lease deed without obtaining forest clearance for Sabik land respectively. The said representation was considered by the FAC in its meeting held on 15.11.2018 and *inter-alia* decided that: -

- i. The action of user agency and state government shall not be considered as violation and the condition no (iv) shall be revoked.
 - ii. User agency is working in the area since 1930's and 31.1791 ha forest area is reported to be broken prior to 1980. User agency has been using the broken forest land even after 1980. From the available record, it was found that the user agency had not given any land for compensatory afforestation during the renewal of lease. The condition referred at S.No (ii) specified in the *In-principle* approval is recommended to be modified to the extent the CA shall not be applicable for the area to be maintained as safety zone. For rest of forest area CA shall be applicable.
2. Further, the Nodal Officer, State Government of Odisha vide his letter no. 23973/9F (MG)-77/2017 dated 30.11.2018, referring the proceeding of the FAC, clarified that while recommending the proposal by the State Government, it was specifically mentioned that, execution of supplementary mining lease for the extended ML period over 403.3238 ha without obtaining approval for forest land 160.838 ha under Section 2 (iii) of FC Act, 1980 was treated as violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
3. A meeting on the said issue was held on 19.12.2018 in the office of DGF&SS with representatives of State Government wherein Shri Debidutta Biswal, Special Secretary to Government of Odisha has clarified that the contents quoted in the name of Nodal officer and the user agency in the minutes are factually correct and the State Government recommends that the condition regarding imposing penalty on the user agency should be waived off as requested

by the user agency. However, it was decided that the State Government may make a specific reply and clarification in this matter.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to send their response on the issue for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

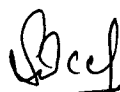
Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 7.2.19

Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FC)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Add. PCCF (Central) Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
4. Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard file.


(Sandeep Sharma) 7.2.19.

Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FC)