

I/6738/2021

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 16th December, 2021

To,
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 63.30 ha Sabik Kisam forest land in addition to 371.192 ha of forest land already diverted forest land located within the Mining Lease hold area of 767.284 ha in favour of M/s JSW Steel Ltd for Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines in Barbil Tahasil of District Keonjhar (Odisha) - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0120-2020-16552/FE&CC dated 16.09.2021 on above mentioned subject furnishing point wise compliance on observation conveyed vide Ministry's letter dated 20.12.2016 and to say that the above proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 26.11.2021. The detailed minutes of the FAC meeting held on 26.11.2021 is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The FAC, after detailed deliberations and discussion with the Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and DDG, IRO Bhubaneswar **recommended to defer the proposal** and sought the following information from the State Government and IRO, Bhubaneswar:

- i. Action taken by the State Government on the violation of FC Act committed by the erstwhile lessee specifically about compensation of loss incurred to the surrounding forest due to illegal mining and restoration measures, if any, undertaken by the State.
- ii. Status and details of penalty recovered from the erstwhile user agency in accordance with directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 2.09.2017.
- iii. Status of DFL identified for undertaking afforestation of surplus seedlings along with supporting details such as number of trees proposed to be planted, suitability of area, site-specific CA scheme, KML/shape files, etc.
- iv. Status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted in 2004, including present status of reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information/documents, as indicated above, as per the recommendation of FAC for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

I/6738/2021

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Bhubaneswar **with a request to furnish information to the ministry, as indicated above, as per the recommendation of FAC.**
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC
6. Guard File