

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

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

Dated: 13th March, 2019

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

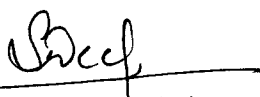
Sub: Diversion of 360.01 ha forest land [160.838 ha: Sabik Kisam forest land plus 199.1720 ha forest land(RF&KF)] located within total mining lease hold area over 403.3238 ha. of Katamati iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in Keonjhar district Odisha.

Sir,

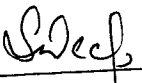
In supersession of this Ministry's Stage-I Clearance dated 20.08.2018, I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 10F(Cons)-18/2016.4252/F&E dated 25.02.2019 submitting the information as sought vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 06.02.2019 in connection with above subject proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district, Odisha within total Mining Lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposals have been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposals of the State Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, **Revised In-principle approval** is hereby granted for diversion of 360.01 ha 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 Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in Keonjhar district Odisha subject to the following conditions:

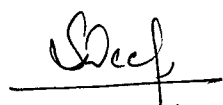
- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) **Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over equal identified non-forest land (NFL) land excluding the area of safety zone within three years from the date of Stage –II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. At least 1000 saplings per hectares shall be planted over admissible CA land. If this is not possible to plant these many seedlings in the identified NFL, the balance seedlings will be planted in degraded forest land as per the prescriptions of the Working Plan at the cost of the User agency. In such case CA cost will be revised and duly approved by competent authority and deposited online in the CAF managed by CAMPA.**
- (iii) 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards Soil and Moisture Conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF.
- (iv) State Government shall submit cost benefit analysis as per MoEF&CC guideline prior to stage II approval
- (v) Complete compliance of FRA certificate for entire forest land within mining lease as per MoEF&CC guideline shall be submitted. Thus, the State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest


13.3.19

- Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;
- (vi) Felling of large number of trees shall not be done at a single point of time. As far as possible the trees should be felled in phased manner only when it is unavoidable.
- (vii) User agency shall not clear the natural vegetation of about 50 meter width in the periphery in the southern boundary of mining lease area. The area shall be demarcated with the help of forest department prior to stage II approval. It shall be maintained and supplemented as green cover. The cost of maintaining it as green area shall be borne by user agency.
- (viii) User agency shall maintain Safety zone as per MoEF&CC guideline. The complete detail of safety zone around the mining lease shall be submitted prior to stage II approval.
- (ix) Following activities shall be undertaken by the user agency at the project cost and:
- (a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
- (c) Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
- (d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and
- (e) No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- (x) The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo-sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- (xi) The State Govt. may note for future reference that the proposals for diversion of 160.838 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land and diversion of 199.1720 ha of forest land for mining and allied activities in Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s. Tata Steel Ltd. located in Keonjhar district, Odisha within total Mining Lease hold area over 403.3238 ha of Katamati iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district Odisha as received from the State Govt. vide their letters no. 10F(Cons)-18/2016.26364/F&E dated 19.12.2017 and 10F (Cons)-136/2014/102/F&E dated 01.01.2015 respectively, shall be dealt for diversion of 360.01 ha of forest land in F. No. 8-01/2018-FC;
- (xii) The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage-II clearance. The non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under Section-4 or PF under Section-20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, within a period of six months. The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation) shall report compliance in this regard;
- (xiii) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- (xiv) The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;


13.3.19

- (xv) At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (xvi) Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [7.5 meters strip shall be kept within the mining lease boundary and area of the safety zone shall be part of the total area of mining lease as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 27.05.2015] shall be done within three year at the project cost from the issue of Stage-II Clearance. Besides this afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere measuring one & a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost; The degraded forest land (DFL) so selected will be informed to the MoEF & CC with shape files and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
- (xvii) Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
- (xviii) Any fund received from the user agency under the project and deposited in the State Forest Department account, except the funds realized for regeneration/ demarcation of safety zone, shall be transferred through online portal into Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
- (xix) User Agency should ensure that the Compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV, etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
- (xx) The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (xxi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xxii) The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- (xxiii) The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- (xxiv) The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xxv) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xxvi) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xxvii) No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- (xxviii) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xxix) The user agency will abide by the applicable recommendations of the State Government;
- (xxx) User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF &CC before Stage-II Clearance;
- (xxxii) The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal

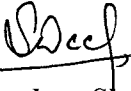

13.3.15

Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed.

- (xxxii) The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km. from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II approval;
- (xxxiii) The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- (xxxiv) Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xxxv) The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

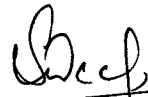

13.3.15

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC
6. Guard File


13.3.15

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)