

F. No. 8-55/2000-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: **July, 2019**

22nd Aug

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

Sub: Diversion of 865.276 hectares of forest land out of 947.046 ha. of ML area for mining of iron ore in favour of M/s Sarda Mines Pvt. Ltd. in village Sayabali, Balita and Thakurani RF in Keonjhar district of Orissa- Application for permission to carry out mining operations by the user agency over 617.108 hectares of forest land out of 865.276 hectares of already diverted forest land- Approval of changed land use pattern –regarding.

Sir,


I am directed to refer to State Govt. of Odisha's letter No. 10F(Cons) 108/2015/6411/F&E dated 29.03.2019 providing certain information as sought vide this Ministry's letter dated 14.05.2018. The proposal along-with additional information was discussed in Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on 27th June 2019. The minutes of the meeting may kindly be seen at parivesh.nic.in. The FAC inter-alia recommended that :

- (i) State Government shall submit clear recommendation after analysing the status and direction of various court cases, CEC and Shah commission observations related to the project.
- (ii) The detail of NPV paid by user agency till date may be submitted. It is further requested that the state government shall clearly convey its opinion about payment of NPV for the forest area sought for change in land use.
- (iii) State Government shall submit KML/Shape file of the area. The DGPS maps showing the different land use shall be furnished.
- (iv) As per proposed land use plan, user agency has proposed 42.8750 ha under infrastructure. State government shall further explore possibility to minimise diversion of forest land in this category. State government shall submit detail land use plan.
- (v) State Government's stand on duration of validity of lease period in the light of MMDR (Amendment) Act 2015 shall be conveyed.

(vi) State Government shall submit status of compliance of stipulations imposed in approval granted to user agency on 21.06.2001.

In view of above, State Government is requested to provide the above information/document to this Ministry for further consideration.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 22.06.13

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.