

F. No. 8-81/2005-FC (Vol)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 12th November, 2015


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

Sub: Diversion of balance forest land of 1177.211 ha including 25.1070 ha for safety zone in addition to 232.438 ha of forest land already diverted within total Mining Lease area of 1590.8673 ha for Iron Ore mining in Gandhamarden (Block-B) Mining lease in Keonjhar District in the State of Odisha in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. letter No. 10F (Cons)-83/2013/1960/F&E, Bhubaneswar dated 31.01.2015 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that proposal was examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 30.09.2015 and the FAC, after **detailed deliberation, recommended that the State Government of Orissa may be requested to take following actions:-**

- (i) Re calculate the area of safety zone in accordance with the prevailing guidelines and accordingly re-calculate the required CA area and, thereafter revise the CA scheme after identifying the non-forest area for CA and for the purpose of calculating the area in lieu of which compensatory afforestation is to be carried out.
- (ii) Also in place of non-forest land identified for CA which is having very dense forest vegetation, new non forest land need to be identified
- (iii) Re-visit the requirement of the forest land for infrastructure/township
- (iv) The state Government shall re-view the compliance to stage II approval dated 17th August 2007 and submit the clarification for delay in compliance.
- (v) The State Government may also furnish the following information
 - a. Current status of offences registered by DFO, Keonjhar Division for various violations
 - b. Status of compliance of mining closure plan of the working mine.
 - c. Status of removal of over-burden from non-diverted forest area.
 - d. Compliance of allocation of funds for biodiversity conservation plan zone to the project authority.



In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

The FAC also recommended that a Sub-committee consisting of Dr. Anil Kumar, Addl. DG(FC), Shri Ramesh K. Dave, Non-official Member and Dr. Mohammad Firoz Ahmed, Non-official Member shall be constituted which shall inspect the site alongwith the officials of the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar preferably within one month and submit its report to the Ministry. The itinerary of the Sub-Committee will be intimated separately to the State Government.

Yours faithfully,

(Rajagopal Prashant)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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

(Rajagopal Prashant)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests