

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: 18th August, 2015

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 the Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F(Cons) 108/2015/11021/F&E dated 27.06.2015 on the above-mentioned subject, and to say that the State Government of Odisha has not submitted specific comments as was requested vide Ministry's letter of even no. dated 4.12.2014 that "it may be appropriate that the State Government is asked to reconsider, after considering all the relevant information including the nature of the virgin forest land and the earlier instances of violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the lessee, its decision for seeking approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the above said 367.832 ha of virgin forest for expansion of the mining operations by SMPL". Therefore state Government is requested to furnish specific comments on observation of CEC

They are also requested to furnish following information to this ministry-

- (i) Status of utilization of 7.00 ha of disputed forest land which is situated on the boundary of the Thakurani Iron Ore Mine and Sarda Mines (P) Limited.
- (ii) Considered opinion of the Department of Steel and Mines, Government of Odisha on the extant proposal for used of unbroken/virgin forest land to enhance ore production.
- (iii) Present status of all litigations related to the project, reported by the State Government in their said letter dated 27.06.2015 and their implications on the mining operations.

Yours faithfully,


 (Nisheet Saxena)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

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, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.


 (Nisheet Saxena)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests