

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 20th April, 2020

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh/Odisha

Sub: Validity of approval granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vis-à-vis extension of Mining Leases under Rule 3(2) of Mineral (Mining by Government Company) Rule, 2015 -reg.


Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Ministry of Steel, Government of India's OM No. 6 (4)/2019-RM-I dated 17.09.2019 on the above subject requesting the MoEF&CC to issue clarification to extend the validity of permission already sanctioned under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for existing mining leases to make it co-terminus with the mining lease period accorded under rule 3(2) of Mineral (Mining by Government Company) Rules, 2015 notified under the provisions of Section 8(8) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.

2. In this connection, it is to inform that matter was considered and examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meetings held on 17.10.2019 and 30.03.2020. Based on the recommendation of the FAC, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, that mining by the Government companies (in the following two cases) is deemed to have been granted for a period co-terminus with the valid lease period granted under the provisions of section 8(8) of MMDR-2015.

- i. Validity of approval granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vis-à-vis extension of Mining Leases under Rule 3(2) of Mineral (Mining by Government Company) Rule, 2015, in respect of five mines referred in the Ministry of Steel OM No. 6 (4)/2019-RM-I dated 17.09.2019
- ii. Diversion of balance forest land of 1177.2110 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 Gandhamardan (Block-B) mining lease in Keonjhar District in the State of Odisha in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.- Modification of Condition No. 9 of Stage-II Forest Clearance.

3. The above approval of under Forest (Conservation) Act, 198 by the Central

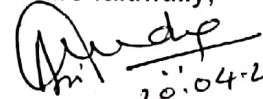

20.04.2020

Government is subject to following conditions:

- i. Within three months after completion of the ongoing lockdown period, the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, based on existing information/monitoring reports, decision support system, inputs from the State Government, etc. and necessary field visit/s, will provide information and recommendation on the following:
 - a. status of compliance of conditions of the previous forest clearance;
 - b. additional mitigation measures that have become necessary in view of new facts on the ground and considering that the extension of approval has been given for another 20 years i.e. till 2037; and
 - c. comprehensive status of reclamation of mined-over/ abandoned portions of the forest area as per approved mining plan.
- ii. After obtaining the above report/information from the concerned Regional Office, FAC shall review the status of compliance of conditions of the previous approval and the requirement for additional mitigation measures, if any.
- iii. User agency shall comply with additional stipulations, if any, imposed by FAC after the aforementioned review.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



20.04.2020

(Brijendra Swaroop)

Dy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Secretary (Mines), Government of India
2. Secretary (Steel), Government of India
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh/Odisha
4. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Nagpur/Bhubaneswar
5. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh/Odisha
6. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC) Gol, PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, Gol
7. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF and CC, New Delhi
8. Guard File