

**F. No. 8-87/1996-FC (Vol. I)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi-110003  
**pDated: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019**

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

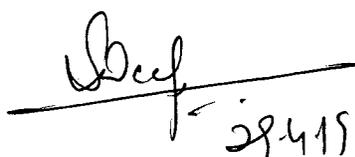
**Sub: Diversion of 124.313 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land as on 25th October 1980 (treated as non-forest land in hal record) out of total forest land of 723.312 ha (including sabik kisam forest land of 238.093 ha) located within the ML hold area over 1586.36 ha of Bolani Ore Mines (6.9 sq. miles) of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in villages of Bolani, Balagoda, Limtur etc. and Karo Reserved Forests under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha during 2nd RML period.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F (Cons) 255/2016/15317/F&E dated 19.08.2016 on the above-mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of 124.313 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land as on 25th October 1980 (treated as non-forest land in hal record) out of total forest land of 723.312 ha (including sabik kisam forest land of 238.093 ha) located within the ML hold area over 1586.36 ha of Bolani Ore Mines (6.9 sq. miles) of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in villages of Bolani, Balagoda, Limtur etc. and Karo Reserved Forests under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha during 2nd RML period was sought. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, in-principle approval for the said diversion was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 12.09.2017 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

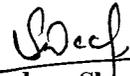
In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Govt. of Odisha vide their letters No. 63/9F(MG)-83/2016 dated 04.01.2019, **Stage-II/Final approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 124.313 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land as on 25th October 1980 (treated as non-forest land in hal record) out of total forest land of 723.312 ha (including sabik kisam forest land of 238.093 ha) located within the ML hold area over 1586.36 ha of Bolani Ore Mines (6.9 sq. miles) of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in villages of Bolani, Balagoda, Limtur etc. and Karo Reserved Forests under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha during 2nd RML period subject to following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over to the user agency.
- iii. **Compensatory afforestation:** Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 248.626 ha degraded forest land (twice in extent of 124.313 ha of forest land re-identified in Chhatam RF (Hathdharsa Block) in Rajgangpur Range of Rourkela Forest Division at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
- iv. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- v. User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- vi. User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- vii. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency either itself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake fencing, protection and afforestation of the safety zone area (7.5 meter strip shall be kept within the mining lease or mining cluster, as applicable and such other areas as

  
28/4/19

- specified in the approved mining plan) at the project cost. Area of safety zone of a mining lease shall be a part of the total area of the mining lease.
- viii. The State Govt. ensure that the user agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall carry out gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- ix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall carry out de-silting of the village tanks and other water bodies located within five km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies at their cost in consultation with State Forest Department;
- x. The period of diversion of the said forest land shall be co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957 or Rules framed thereunder.
- xi. The user agency shall undertake mining and reclamation of the mined out area as per the approved mining plan and the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- xiii. The User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on forest areas.
- xiv. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease area and safety zone shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- xvi. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Central Government.
- xvii. The change in the layout plan of the mining lease, if required, shall be done as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.
- xviii. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- xix. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- xx. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.
- xxi. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

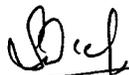
Yours faithfully,

  
(Sandeep Sharma) 28.4.18

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, 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.

  
(Sandeep Sharma) 28.4.18

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)