

File No: 8-31/2015FC (E- 91138)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 13-02-2026

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Sub.: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for 79.367 ha of forest land in favour of Shri Avin Jain (Heir of late Shri DC Jain) for mining of Iron and manganese ore in Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Ore mines located in Baitrani RF II, District Keonjhar, Odisha (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/9360/2015)- reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F (Cons.) 179/2015/16479/F & E Bhubaneswar dated 15.09.2015 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and additional information submitted vide letter FE-DIV-FLD-0101-2021-12349/FE&CC dated 19.07.2021, vide letter No. 6233/9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 15.03.2024, vide letter No.21005/9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 19.10.2024 letter no. 3582/9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 14.02.2025, vide letter no. 7842/9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 07.04.2025, vide letter no. 8094/9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 09.04.2025, vide letter no. /9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 11.09.2025, vide letter No. 20745/9F (MG) -18/2015 dated 10.10.2025 and vide letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0101-2021-34751/FE&CC dated 27.11.2025 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section - 3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam..

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords '*in-principle*' approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 79.367 ha of forest land in favour of Shri Avin Jain (Heir of late Shri DC Jain) for mining of Iron and manganese ore in Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Ore mines located in Baitrani RF II, District Keonjhar (Odisha) subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current

- wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;
- iii. Compensatory Afforestation over 81.545 Ha of non-forest land in village Gundula (66.745 Ha), Champajhar (9.80 Ha) under Banspal Tahasil and in village Binida & Delenga (5.00 Ha) under Ghatgaon Tahasil of Keonjhar District shall be raised at the project cost and afforestation work shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme by the State Forest Department;
 - iv. The non-forest land shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, OR shall be notified by the State Government as Protected forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
 - v. The additional compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 83.49 ha of degraded forest land and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and the work of compensatory afforestation shall start within two years of issue of order of diversion of the corresponding forest land;
 - vi. The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
 - vii. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (pt.) dated 29.12.2023 in this regard;
 - viii. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
 - ix. *The State Forest Department shall prepare and implement a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to mitigate the adverse impacts of mining on the forest and its flora and fauna in the surrounding area, at the cost of the User Agency.*
 - x. *The User Agency shall submit a time-bound plan for reclamation of the mined-out area and surrender of the land to the State Government, and shall strictly adhere to the approved timeline. The same shall be submitted along with compliance of Stage- I approval.*
 - xi. *A comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be prepared and implemented by the User Agency through the State Forest Department to minimize the adverse impact of the mining project on the surface hydrology of the area.*
 - xii. *The User Agency, in consultation with the State Government, shall explore*

the feasibility of translocation of affected trees wherever possible, subject to species suitability and other relevant considerations.

- xiii. *The User Agency shall maintain a contiguous safety zone along the entire project boundary.*
- xiv. *The State Government shall implement Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) measures in accordance with the applicable rules & Guidelines.*
- xv. The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xvi. The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xvii. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the DDGF (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed
- xviii. The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per such schedule to the MoEF&CC before grant of 'Final' approval under the Adhiniyam for diversion of the said forest land;
- xix. The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;
- xx. **Safety Zone Management:** Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and
 - d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;

- xxi. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
 - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of '*Final*' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved Plan/scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme;
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- xxii. The validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam shall be for a period co-terminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government;
- xxiii. The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval;
- xxiv. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;
- xxv. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xxvi. Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities;
- xxvii. The User Agency will undertake comprehensive soil and moisture conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted along with the 'in- principle' approval;
- xxviii. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled, if any, and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xxix. The cost of felling of trees, if any, shall be deposited by the User Agency with

- the State Forest Department;
- xxx. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
 - xxxi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal;
 - xxxii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
 - xxxiii. The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels, if required to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
 - xxxiv. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
 - xxxv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
 - xxxvi. The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
 - xxxvii. The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan, if applicable, as per R&R policy of State Government in consonance with National R & R policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R plan shall be monitored by the State Govt./Regional Office of MoEF&CC;
 - xxxviii. The KML files of proposed area for diversion as well as the land identified for the compensatory afforestation, area identified under the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handover of the land;
 - xxxix. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xl. No damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused;
 - xli. Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining forest areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost;
 - xlii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
 - xliii. 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 shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
 - xliv. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

- xlv. The State Government, before issuing the final diversion order, shall ensure that the user agency has complied with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s), including compliance of Forest Rights Act, 2006, pertaining to this project, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- xlvi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours
faithfully,

Sd/-
(Raja Ram Singh)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar of MoEF&CC.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. User Agency.

Digitally signed by
Raja Ram Singh
Date: 13-02-2026
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