

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST
FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**
**ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE,
NAGPUR,**

First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

Sub:- Proposal for general approval under section 2 (iii) of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for 153.09 ha. forest land for Iron Ore mining at village Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad, Tahsil Etapalli, Dist. Gadchiroli.

No. : Desk-17/NC/I/I.D- 1644 /16-17
Nagpur - 440 001, Dated : 2/12/2016

✓ To,

The Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya,
Mumbai - 400032.

M/s Gopani Iron & Power (India) Pvt. Ltd has submitted the proposal online on MoEF website for general approval under section 2 (iii) of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for 153.09 ha. forest land for Iron Ore mining at village Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad, Tahsil Etapalli, Dist. Gadchiroli. The area statement is as shown as below:-

Item of work	Village	District	Sr.No	Area (Ha)	Legal Status
General approval under section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Iron Ore mining	Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad	Gadchiroli	197 & 198	153.09	Reserve Forest

The proposal is for obtaining general approval under Section 2 (iii) of FCA, 1980 in accordance with the instructions of Government of India communicated vide their letters dt.18/11/2016 and 16/11/2016 for 153.09 ha forest land for Iron Ore mining in Dist. Gadchiroli.

The Government of India vide letter dt.18/11/2016 conveyed that the Minsitry has decided that the user agency seeking permission under section 2(iii) of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 shall apply online on the prescribe form which is available on <http://>

forestclearnec.nic.in/ website. The detail guidelines/procedure for submission of application is available on website. In this regard only online application will be considered by Minsitry.

Following documents according to Government of India's instructions issued vide their letter No.F-No.8-31/2016-FC, dt. 17/11/2016, letter No.F-No. 8-31/2016-FC, dt. 16/11/2016 are enclosed.

- 1) Area Statement.
- 2) KML file, Geo-reference Map
- 3) Site Inspection Report
- 4) Mining Plan
- 5) Approval under Section 2 (ii) or 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the forest land included in the total mining lease area has not previously been obtained.
- 6) As per the Site Inspection Report of the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bhamragarh Division, Allapalli the area belongs to Eco-value class-III having density more than 0.4 to 0.7 and category Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest.
- 7) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhamragarh Division, Allapalli has certified that the proposed project is beyond 10 km from the boundary of Protected Area.
- 8) The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc as certified the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhamragarh Division, Allapalli.
- 9) The User Agency has submitted the undertaking for payment of NPV of the forest land allowed to be utilized for the mining lease, against the forest land proposed for diversion.
- 10) There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, as per the report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhamragarh Division, Allapalli.
- 11) The process for settlement of the rights under the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 on the proposed forest land for lease has not been completed by the User Agency (application made to Collector, Gadchiroli on 9/9/2016 and hence is in progress).
- 12) The User Agency has submitted the Geo digital map in 1:11,000 scale with geo-reference boundary in shape file prepared by using total stations or differential GPS and also indicated forest land, non-forest land & adjoining land for general approval under Section 2 (iii) of FC Act, in different colors.


In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section -2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act- 1980 subject to the following conditions: –

- i) The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged.
- ii) The Applicant will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 153.09 ha. of forest land as per the latest Guidelines of Government of India.

- iii) The User Agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of Forest land as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- iv) After obtaining general approval under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from Government of India, the User Agency shall obtain approval under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for carrying out mining operations in forest area. The State Government shall be free to prescribe additional conditions while processing the case under section 2 (ii).
- v) The User Agency shall submit the proposal for diversion of 153.09 ha forest land under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prior approval of Government of India in hard copy as well as on MoEF portal.
- vi) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.

It is therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for general approval of 153.09 ha. forest land under section 2 (iii) of forest conservation Act for 153.09 ha. forest land for Iron Ore mining at village Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad, Tahsil Etapalli, Dist. Gadchiroli under section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 sets


Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer,
Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

Copy submitted to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur for information.

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Gadchiroli for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhamragarh Division, Allapalli for information.

Copy to M/s Gopani Iron & Power (India) Pvt. Ltd , Distt. Chandrapur for information.