

RECOMMENDATION OF NODAL OFFICER

The forest area proposed for lease comprises of 192.5 ha Reserve Forests of Kodalibad RF (compartment No. K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, K-5). The area has not clearly been shown on toposheet by the user agency.

The proposed area consists of virgin and dense Sal Forests of density 0.8. The terrain is largely hilly with moderate to steep slopes and prone to erosion. The proposed areas are very rich in flora and fauna and ecologically very sensitive. The forest type is Tropical Moist deciduous Peninsular Sal Forests and largely classified as Eco Class - I

The proposed forest is part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve and support a wide variety of other wild animal species population.

Although Stage-I clearance for diversion has been granted with 29 conditions by GOI vide letter no. F.No. 8-35/2008-FC(pt) dated 13/02/2012, but letter no. 8-35/2008-FC(pt) dated 21/01/2015 of GOI states, "... in view of the remarks of Hon'ble Justice M.B. Shah Commission and action taken thereupon by this Ministry, EC and FC (both Stage-I and Stage-II) to new mines for which mining lease has not been executed and consequently the mining activities have not started so far, will not be accorded till completion of the carrying capacity study. Now, therefore, the compliance report submitted by the State Government in the instant proposal shall be kept in abeyance till carrying capacity study is concluded and appropriate action thereupon is taken by the Ministry."

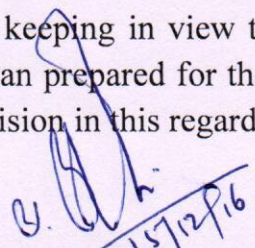
Apart from the above comments of GOI, D.O. no. 11-28/2002-FC dated 16/06/2003 and letter F.No.-11-28/2003-FC dated 22/05/2003 (scanned copy of these letters have been uploaded under Additional Information) related to Reserve Forests are also relevant to this context.

A Committee of Specialists was constituted by the State Govt. vide notification no. वन्यप्राणी-09/2010-3296/बपप0 dated 27/08/2011 to prepare Integrated Wildlife Management Plan for West Singhbhum District and the prescriptions made in that Management Plan are very much relevant for these (proposed) forests too.

The comments of the then Nodal officer (Conservation Act) given in letter no. - 647 dated 17/08/2007 of this office are also relevant. (A scanned copy of this letter has been uploaded under Additional Information).

Thus based on the status of forests, as mentioned above, recommendations of this office submitted vide letter no. 647 dated 17/08/2007 and keeping in view the Carrying Capacity report and the Integrated Wildlife Management Plan prepared for the area under Consideration, the MoEFCC, GOI may take appropriate decision in this regard.

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