

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110003.  
**Dated: 27-10-2024**

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section – 2 (1) (ii) of the Vam (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 42.608 ha forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar & Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Bhusan Steel Ltd)- regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. 18578/ 9F (MG)-66/2021 dated 12.09.2024 on the above subject forwarding a report of compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage-I approval dated 22.12.2023 and to inform that after examination of the compliance report the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. As per condition no 5 of the Stage-1 approval a holistic transportation plan is required to be prepared by the State Government aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The said plan has not been submitted. Further, the State shall also ensure that the said plan and the transportation of ore shall be as per the recommendation in the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI; Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyor belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc. Transportation of ore through road should be minimized in a time bound manner;
- ii. With regard to conditions no. 7 of Stage-I approval the Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site / species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions. However, the State has neither submitted the copy of the plan, nor it has been clarified whether the site / species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions have been included in the plan or not. The state shall do the needful and submit the plan accordingly along with the detail of funds deposited.

- iii. With regard to conditions no. 8 of Stage-I approval, State Government has not submitted the copy of approved Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for the entire landscape. The same needs to be submitted along with the detail of funds deposited.
- iv. With regard to conditions no. 21 of Stage-I approval State Government has not submitted the copy of approved Site-Specific WL Conservation plan. The same needs to be submitted.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to submit information as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-**  
**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.