

File No.:8-09/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: As per e-sign.

To

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

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.565 ha of forest land including safety zone of (1.020 ha) within the mining lease area of 18.00 ha in respect of Bhanjapali Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District by Sri JN Patnaik (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/27247/2017) -reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0022-2025-29563/FE&CC dated 20.09.2025 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal has been examined in the Ministry. The observation of the Ministry are as follows:-

- i. The State Government has reported violation in the proposal. In this regard, the State Government shall submit the chronological details of violation, including the area broken up during different time periods, action taken by the State against the violation. The State Govt. shall also submit the details of Court Case if any filed with regard to violation or otherwise and present status of Court Case.
- ii. The State Govt. has reported that at the time of execution of lease in 21.04.1997, the entire area of 18 hecets involved in the Mining lease were non forest land, but from 06.06.1998, the leased out plots No 1(p) & 54(p) over 12.565 hecets were declared as DLC forest land by the Forest Dept. based on the report of District level committee. The total forest area of 12.565 hecets land involved within the lease has been reported to be broken-up prior to declaration of the DLC forest and intimation to the Apex court. The State

Govt. shall clarify why the proposal for approval for diversion of forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), 1980 has not been submitted since 1998.

- iii. The State Government, through Demand Notice dated 02.09.2017, has raised a demand of ₹123,87,49,199/- for production of minerals in excess of the Environmental Clearance–approved production limits during the period 2000–01 to 2010–11. The State Government shall furnish detailed information regarding this matter. The State Government shall also indicate whether the User Agency has made any payment against the above demand notice. Additionally, details of any related court proceedings, if applicable, shall be submitted by the State Government.
- iv. It has been reported that the Elephant movement is observed occasionally in the nearby applied area. Therefore, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Odisha on the likely impact of the project on movement of elephant needs to be furnished by the State.
- v. In online Part-II, it has been reported that the proposed forest land is highly vulnerable to erosion. Therefore, State Govt. shall submit the comments alongwith mitigation measures in this regard.
- vi. The site suitability certificate has been submitted only for 1.00 ha land identified for compensatory afforestation. Further, the two patches proposed for Compensatory Afforestation are less than 5 ha in area. The state shall ensure that compensatory afforestation patches are of appropriate size as per applicable guidelines. The complete details of CA areas including the suitability certificates shall be submitted accordingly.
- vii. State Government has not uploaded Cost Benefit analysis as per the Ministry' guidelines and on prescribed format on Parivesh portal. The same needs to be submitted and uploaded on Parivesh portal.
- viii. The DSS analysis of the area proposed for diversion and area proposed for CA revealed the following: (a) The component wise details of the proposed project area (both forest and non-forest) is not available, the same needs submission. (b) After the analysis of the KML file of the proposed CA land it has been observed that there is an overlap between Khariabahal Patch-1 and Patch-2. In this regard the state shall provide the correct KML files.
- ix. The State Govt. shall submit the MoM of PSC with part-IV as per the provisions of the Guidelines issued dated 25.01.2024.
- x. The State Government shall provide details on how the requirements of electricity, water and mineral evacuation will be met for the proposed project, as well as information regarding any additional forest land required for this purpose. Further, the State Government shall also submit the mineral

transportation plan and the mineral utilisation plan for the proposal.

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

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- ii. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
- iii. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- iv. User Agency
- v. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.