

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: November, 2023

To

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. for non-forestry use of 303.066 ha of forest land including 66.126 ha of non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 involved in the mining lease area over 464.00 ha within Bamebari Iron & Manganese Mines in Keonjhar District, Odisha (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20095/2016) –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter no. FE-DIV-0091-2022-20413/FE&CC dated 18.11.2022 and additional information submitted vide letter No. 19452/9F (MG)-77/2021 dated 30.09.2023 in respect of the Ministry's letter dated 27.12.2022 on the above mentioned subject proposal, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After the examination of the additional information submitted by the state, following information is required to be submitted for further necessary action in the matter:

- i. PDF attached in Part-I under Additional information column on PARIVESH portal at S. No. 49 to 58 are not accessible.
- ii. Component wise KML file of the proposed mining is not given.
- iii. Exact KML file of the 240.0 ha CA area is not given. More over KML file of the CA area and Addl. CA area for balance seedling has not been uploaded online.
- iv. The given KML file of the safety zone has been checked on DSS and it has been observed that the software calculated area of the safety zone (including green belt) KML file and the area given in the proposal has a difference of 11.171 ha. Complete KML file of the total forest land involved in the safety zone shall be uploaded on the portal.
- v. Details of the notifications of RF and revenue/relevant records of the recorded forest (Revenue Forest/DLC Forest/Sabik Forest) involved in the proposal are not legible.
- vi. Copy of the notification of the land submitted on 30.06.2004 for declaring the 145.329 ha non-forest land as PF/RF is not given.
- vii. The DFO Keonjhar wrote to the District Magistrate to take legal action against Tata Steel Ltd for use of DLC and Khesra Forest land without approval under FC Act, 1980 involved in the mining lease on 17.11.2021. However, only a letter dated 14.02.2023 has been written to Tahsildar. The report on the violation of the FC Act, is not tenable. In this regard a detailed action taken report shall be submitted by the State against violation.

2. In view of the above, you are requested to submit the above mentioned information at an earliest for further consideration of this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj

Asst. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Principle Secretary (Forests), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.