

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 6th November, 2023

To

DDGF (Central),
MoEF&CC's Regional Office
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 on the above mentioned subject proposal, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to request that the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar of this Ministry may kindly inspect the area proposed for diversion, area identified for raising compensatory afforestation and submit a compliance report/monitoring report of the area diverted earlier for this project. A copy of the latest EDS letter dated 06.11.2023 issued by the Ministry is also enclosed for reference which may be kept in view.

2. The SIR should contain clear observations about the connectivity of the proposed mining area, the density on ground, the crop composition, the impact of mining on the watershed of the surrounding area, impact of the mining on the elephant dispersal/habitat etc. with clear recommendations. It has also been directed to convey that in the event of the SIR being submitted by the DIGF (C), the SIR should also have the remarks and clear recommendation of the DDG(C)

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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