

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

To

The 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 Kashvi Power & Steel Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 60.508 ha of forest land including 2.331 ha of safety zone in Dholta Pahar Iron Ore Block for iron ore mining in Bonai Forest Division under Sundargarh District, Odisha –reg. (Online No. FP/OR/MIN/150522/2021)**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-00-0030-2023-5799/FE&CC dated 28.03.2023 and additional information submitted by the State vide letter dated 24.07.2023 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard it is informed that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 29.11.2023.

Further, it is also informed that after obtaining the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and in view of the fact that the proposed area is falling under the VDF category and inviolate under the decision Rule 1 and 2 of the DSS and the area proposed for mining is within a pristine and very dense forest and the proposal will have an impact on the biodiversity, the Central Government hereby **reject** the proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-  
**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF(C) Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division.