

F. No. 8-10/2024-FC (E-239871)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road  
New Delhi- 110003  
**Dated: 17-02-2026**

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Chhattisgarh  
Raipur.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 66.020 ha (57 ha mining lease and 9.02 ha approach road) of forest land for Chhotedongar Iron Ore Mine in favour of M/s Bajrang Power & Ispat in Narayanpur District in the State of Chhattisgarh (Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/11479/2015)– reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Chhattisgarh's letter dated 25.11.2025 on the above mentioned subject and to say that the reply submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh has been examined and further additional clarifications are required as per details below:

- i. The State Government was asked to clarify whether a valid Letter of Intent (LoI) exists as on date in terms of Section 10-A(2)(c) of the MMDR Act, 2015, and whether any confirmation has been obtained from the Ministry of Mines regarding its continued validity, particularly as the prescribed time limit for obtaining clearances had expired. In response, the State Government has submitted that the issue concerning validity under Section 10-A(2)(c) is presently sub judice before the Hon'ble High Court of New Delhi. It has been stated that the Court, in the applicant's case, directed that the cut-off date of 11.01.2017 shall not come in the way of granting relief, and therefore the LoI has not been invalidated. However, the copy of the Hon'ble Court order is not found uploaded along with the reply submitted by the State Govt. on the PARIVESH portal. Further, the State Government has forwarded the reply submitted by the User Agency without incorporating their comments. Accordingly, the State Govt. shall provide comments on the validity of the LoI and Mining Plan after examining the Hon'ble Court orders and approved mining plan.
- ii. As per guidelines 7.8(i), the State Government should also fully justify the necessity of opening new mine for along with the details of all other mining leases for iron ore in the state along with their capacity and average annual production and projected future requirements.
- iii. The State Government was asked to submit the CA scheme along with the site suitability certificates for CA land in Village Tatijharia (12.621 ha) and Village Bata (18.503 ha). In response, it has been stated that copies of the Site Suitability Certificates along with the CA scheme are enclosed. However, the said documents are not found uploaded or enclosed with the reply submitted by the State Government on the PARIVESH portal. Hence, the State Government shall upload the Site Suitability certificate (SN 13(v) of part II) alongwith CA scheme (SN 13(ii) of part II) for 12.621 ha and 18.503 ha.

- iv. As per the DSS Analysis of the KML file, the area of the Mine lease is 52.9 ha and the KML file area of an Approach Road is found 9 ha. Thus, total area of the proposed forest land is found 61.9 ha whereas the instant proposal is for seeking diversion of 66.02 ha forest land. Clarifications in this regard may be submitted.
  - v. As per DSS analysis of the KML files submitted, the Mine lease is found to be 52.9 ha instead of 57 ha. Necessary correction needs to be done.
  - vi. Component-wise break up in kml file needs to be uploaded in part I, as per approved mining plan along with uploading break-up of 57 ha forest land under SN B-2.4:Component-wise break up in part I of PARIVESH 1.0.
2. In view of the above, it is requested to furnish the above information/documents for further processing the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/  
(Raja Ram Singh)  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Nagpur.
3. APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.