

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

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

Dated: 22 February, 2023

To,
The Regional Officer,
Integrated Regional Office,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for non-forestry use of 247.50 ha of forest land out of total lease area of 1936.06 ha in favour of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for iron ore mining in Kiriburu- Meghahatuburu group of Iron Ore mines located in District West Singhbhum (Jharkhand) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter no. Van Bhumi-29/2008-991/V.P. dated 29.03.2022 on the above subject forwarding therewith additional information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 02.09.2021 and to say that the above proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 27.01.2023. The minutes of the aforesaid meeting may be accessed at <https://parivesh.nic.in/>.

After examination of the proposal, the FAC decided to **defer** the proposal and sought the following information:

- i. It has been observed that an area of 1.70 ha has been used for Township/Housing Colony, whereas the project proponent has reported that there is no construction of any permanent structure in the mining in violation of FCA, 1980. The IRO shall examine the matter and submit a report/justification in this regard.
- ii. The IRO, Ranchi shall ensure that the entire CA area proposed in Khunti Forest Division consisting of 8 different patches is suitable for Compensatory Afforestation.
- iii. It has been informed that the CA area proposed in Gumla Forest Division is already planted. Since the area has been already planted therefore there is no justification for considering the same as suitable for Compensatory Afforestation. The IRO in consultation with State Govt shall ensure that suitable DFL which is free from encumbrances is provided for Compensatory Afforestation.
- iv. The IRO in consultation with State Government shall explore the possibility of handing over of equivalent reclaimed area by the user agency from their other mines in the State and submit the details for further consideration by the Committee.
- v. The IRO shall submit a report on above points within a period of four weeks.

In view of above, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi is requested to submit detailed report, as indicated above, as per recommendation of FAC, for further consideration of the proposal.

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Yours sincerely,

Date: 22-02-2023 22:43:25

Reason: Approved

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.