

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi-110003  
**Dated: 13th March, 2023**

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Odisha  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub: Proposal is for grant of change in the land use pattern over an area of 371.192 ha of forest land already diverted on 22.04.2004 in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited-reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0120-124961/ FE&CC dated 15.07.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government for change in land use pattern over an area of 371.192 ha. forest land allowed to be diverted for non-forestry use under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter dated 22.04.2004 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords its approval for change of land use pattern in the said 371.192 ha forest land subject to the conditions as stipulated in the approval accorded under section 2(ii) of FCA,1980 vide letter dated 22.04.2004 and the following conditions:

- i. *The nomenclature of the proposed land use in case of 4.77 ha forest land to be finally used for mining shall be changed from Township/Colony to Temporary structure. The temporary structures shall be immediately removed after the completion of the construction work of beneficiation plants, CPU and other ancillary infrastructure.*
- ii. *The user agency shall undertake the maintenance of garland drains, plantations on safety zone, setting up of tank and catchment drain, maintenance of OB dumps with correct angle of repose (28 degree) and back filling of mined out area.*
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure the compliance of all the conditions stipulated in Final/ Stage II approval dated 22.04.2004 vide which approval for diversion of an area of 371.192 ha was accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s KJS Ahluwalia.
- iv. The user agency shall pay the NPV as per the approval granted under FC Act if not paid earlier.
- v. The User Agency shall abide by all the conditions on which the forest land was allowed to be diverted in favour of the original User Agency.

- vi. The User Agency shall get the approval granted under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 re-validated on each revision of mining plan/scheme.
- vii. The User Agency shall abide by any other condition that may be stipulated by Central Govt. / Regional Offices/ State Govt. in future in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
- viii. Any other condition that the concern Regional Office of this Ministry, may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
- ix. The State Govt. and User Agency shall comply with the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and National Green Tribunal (NGT) Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.
- xii. The User Agency shall submit the Annual Self Compliance Report in respect of above conditions and also to the conditions stipulated in Stage-II clearance order dated 22.04.2004 to the State Govt., concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-**

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:-**

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneshwar.
2. DDGF (Central), Integrate Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneshwar.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneshwar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.