

File No. 8-09/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 17-03-2026

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Subject: Proposal for seeking *ex-post facto* approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.565 ha of forest land including safety zone of (1.020 ha) within the mining lease area of 18.00 ha in respect of Bhanjapali Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District by Sri JN Patnaik (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/27247/2017) – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0022-2025-29563/FE&CC dated 20.09.2025 and further information submitted vide letter dated 26.11.2025 on the subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.02.2026. The detailed minutes of the said meeting is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. After examination of the proposal, the Committee **deferred** the proposal for want of the following information:

- i. The State Government submitted that the User Agency has carried out works over 0.5951 ha within the PRF area without prior approval of the Government of India, MoEF&CC. Additionally, 0.078 ha of DLC forest land within the safety zone and 0.214 ha of forest land outside the mining lease area, contiguous to the said safety zone in the DLC area, have been broken up. However, as per satellite imagery, the entire area proposed for diversion has already been broken up by the User Agency. Accordingly, the State Government shall ascertain the exact/correct details of the violation/broken up area involved in the subject proposal along with the detailed Action Taken Report.
- ii. Numerous important wildlife species have been reported in the surrounding forest area including Tiger, Elephant, Sloth Bear, etc. The User Agency has applied to the PCCF (WL), Odisha, seeking views on the likely impact of the project on the occasional movement of elephants in the nearby lease area. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish the comments of the PCCF (WL)/CWLW in this regard.

2. In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish the information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

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

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhubaneswar.
3. The APCCF—cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading the letter on PARIVESH portal.