

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: April, 2024

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
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,

This is in continuation of Ministry letter of even no. dated 24.04.2024 on the above subject wherein the State Government was requested to furnish information on the following:

- i. *The PCCF, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden vide their letter no. 17 dated 25.01.2022 has approved the Site Specific Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Plan with a total financial outlay of Rs. 5996.244 Lakhs. However, user agency has deposited an amount of Rs. 1453.842 Lakhs only. This needs clarification and appropriate action.*
 - ii. *As per recommendation of Advisory Committee, the State Government has not provided copy of Integrated Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden.*
 - iii. *As per recommendation of AC, compliance report of previous approvals granted in the mining lease shall be examined by Regional Office. Therefore, compliance report of previous approvals shall be forwarded to RO, Ranchi for their examination.*
2. Further the RO, Ranchi vide their email received in the Ministry on dated 26.04.2024 has enclosed their letter dated 18.03.2024 in reference to Point (vi) of Ministry letter of even no. dated 28.06.2023 and Point (iii) of Ministry letter of even no. dated 24.04.2024.
3. In this regard, it is to inform that the matter has been re-examined in the Ministry and after examination the following has been observed:
- i. The State has provided the sanction order for the Site Specific Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Plan issued by the PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief

Wildlife Warden vide their letter no. 17 dated 25.01.2022. It has been observed that as per this order, many of the activities/work components like wildlife Habitat Development, Forest Landscape Restoration, Improvement of Water Regime and its Maintenance, Mitigation Structures for Tree Dwelling and Herpetofauna species, Measures for Anti-depredation & Wildlife Protection, Fire prevention and Protection of Habitat, Capacity Building of Forest Department and monitoring and supervision of the Plan, Biodiversity Assessment, Animal Census and Research Activities etc. have been proposed to be implemented by the user agency at its own cost. However implementation of such activities requires technical know-how and expertise. Therefore the State Govt. shall reexamine the matter and submit the duly approved revised Site Specific Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Plan giving due regard to technical nature of forestry/wildlife related works and accordingly propose the activities/work components to be implemented by the User Agency and State Forest Department. The balance funds shall be accordingly deposited by the user agency in the CAMPA amount.

- ii. As per recommendation of Advisory Committee, the State Government has not provided copy of Integrated Wildlife Management Plan duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- iii. The Regional Office, Ranchi has submitted the report, however the same does not specify whether the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the earlier approvals is satisfactory or otherwise. The Regional Office shall do the needful in this regard.

In view of above, the State Government/Regional Office Ranchi is requested to furnish information as mentioned in Para 3 (i) to (iii), as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 26-04-2024 15:49:09

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, 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.