

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
**Dated:29-04-2025**

To

**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)**

Government of Odisha  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. for non-forestry use of 303.066 ha of forest land including 66.126 ha of non-forestland recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 involved in the mining lease area over 464.00 ha within Bamebari Iron & Manganese Mines in Keonjhar District, Odisha -reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FE-DIV-0091-2022-20413/FE&CC dated 18.11.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal was examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 16.04.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to **defer** the proposal and sought the following information:

- i. Non-forest land for CA equal in extent to the land being sought for diversion including the safety zone shall be provided with all relevant details, KML files, maps etc. as per the guidelines on the matter.
- ii. Agricultural encroachments, road and old plantations have been observed in the area proposed for CA. The state shall ensure that the proposed CA area is free from all encumbrances and the area is not used for compensatory afforestation in the past.
- iii. The Regional Office in the SIR recommended that Boneikala block 165.022 ha should not be handed over for mining activity since it is still not properly explored and there is no connectivity upto the mining site. The violation observed in DSS over this block has to be reported and action taken. The State shall give comments/justification and detailed report in this regard.
- iv. The state shall submit a detailed report on the action taken against the violations.
- v. The Regional office has reported that the Boneikala block could not be assessed during site visit. The Regional Office shall inspect the said area and give its recommendations accordingly.
- vi. The Regional office shall examine the reported violations and renewal of mining lease without approval of the central government and submit a detailed report with recommendations.

In this regard, the State Government is requested to submit the information as indicated in point no. (i) to (iv) above, for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar **with a request to inspect the area and submit Site Inspection Report as indicated in point no. (v) to (vi) above as per recommendation of Advisory Committee.**
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.