

7117/2022

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 19th January, 2022

To,

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

Sub: Proposals granted approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 146.047 ha and 279.351 ha of forest land on 8.06.2001 and 25.06.2016, respectively in favour of M/s OMC for chromite ore mining in South-Kaliapani mine located in village Kaliapani, Gurujanpal, Sukurangi, Saruabil in Jajpur District (Odisha); Extension of validity of approval granted under the FC Act to make it coterminous with the validity granted under the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 - reg

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F(Con)127/2013 1805/F&E, Bhubaneswar dated 29.01.2014 on the above subject and this Ministry letter of even number dated 20.04.2020 conveying the approval of Central Government for extension of validity of approval granted under the FC Act to make it coterminous with the validity granted under the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry's letter no. 8(21)02/2000-FCE dated 10.09.2021 and 10.10.2021 forwarding a monitoring report on the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted on 8.06.2001 and approval dated 25.02.2016 for non-forestry use of 146.047 ha and 279.351 ha respectively, and to say that proposal, along with inspection report containing the recommendations of the Integrated Regional Office, has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section - 3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, recommendations made by the IRO in their inspection report and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby stipulates the following additional conditions in the approvals granted on 8.06.2001 and 25.06.2016 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 146.047 ha and 279.351 ha of forest land, respectively in favour of M/s OMC for chromite ore mining in South-Kaliapani mine located in village Kaliapani, Gurujanpal, Sukurangi, Saruabil in Jajpur District (Odisha):

- i. Compliance of additional measures as suggested by the IRO in its inspection report, may be ensured by the State Government and a status report on the same should be submitted to the IRO of the Ministry at the interval of every six months.
- ii. It is observed by the IRO during the inspection that at many places on the OB

7117/2022

dumps, gully formation has occurred due to flow of water. The User Agency should look into this aspect and take scientific/ suitable measures to check soil erosion and to prevent any gully formation/landslide in the area during and after rainy season for protection of area. The breach of conservation structures and gullies should be attended to on high priority for stabilization of OB dumps. Biological reclamation/afforestation should be taken up of area in a time bound manner.

- iii. The OB dumps had an angle of repose more than 28 degrees at few places. This aspect needs to be looked into by the project authorities for ensuring the safety and stability of the OB dumps. The compliance in this regard shall be reported to the IRO after the rainy season.
- iv. The User Agency shall take up works for cleaning of the garland drains, stabilizing the retaining wall and take necessary steps for proper terracing the OB dumps and checking the gully formation resulting in soil erosion. The compliance of same shall be reported to IRO within six months.
- v. The IRO has reported that at some places plantations have been adversely affected due to grazing or cutting by the people. Re-plantation with new saplings may be carried out by the User Agency after consultation with the forest department. Alternate sites for grazing to be developed by the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department till the area is stabilized;
- vi. Restocking of the top of the 55.0 ha of the OB dump with plantations by suitable species/ tall sapling, shall be carried out by User Agency in consultation with the Forest Department.
- vii. The active dump site of 89.484 ha (49.47 ha of 1st dump + 35.10 ha of 2nd dump + Fresh area of 4.914 ha) reportedly will continue for approximately 2-3 years after which it needs to be reclaimed with intensive planting and use of geotextiles. Locally suitable tree species such as fruit bearing and medicinal value should be planted for biodiversity enrichment and use of local communities;
- viii. Vetiver grass and bamboo spp should be planted in the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil cover to prevent erosion and give better stability to the dump. This needs to be replicated in the other part of the Dump.
- ix. Other observations, as mentioned in the Inspection report of IRO shall be carried out in a time bound manner. The compliance of all these observations/ stipulations shall be submitted to the IRO.
- x. The State Government shall ensure that all other conditions stipulated in the approvals dated 8.06.2001 and approval dated 25.02.2016 shall be complied with by the user agency;
- xi. The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal before conveying the extant approval to the user agency and a report on the same shall be provided to the IRO concerned of the Ministry;

7117/2022

- xii. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xiii. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- xiv. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xv. 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.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Guard File