

File No.: 8-10/2024-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per e-Sign

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest & Climate Change,
Government of Chattisgarh,
Raipur.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 66.20 ha (57 ha mining lease and 9.02 ha approach road) of forest land for Chhotedongar Iron Ore Mine in favour of M/s Bajrang Power & Ispat in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh (Proposal No. FP/CG/MIN/11479/2015)– regarding.

Madam/Sir,

Please refer to Government of Chhattisgarh letter no. F 5-18/2020/10-2 dated 21.02.2025 on the above mentioned subject. In this context, the reply/information submitted by the State Government in response to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 04.07.2024 has been examined in the Ministry and following have been observed:-

1. With reference to reply submitted at S.No. (i) ,The State Govt. reported that the instant project is site specific in nature owing to mining of iron ore. However, it is stated that the mine is located over pristine forest and In High Conservation zone as per the DSS analysis carried out in the Ministry. Further, keeping in view the fact that the area is in the middle of a dense forest the proposal under section 2(iii) was rejected by the Ministry. The State has neither given any justification in view of the Para 7.8(i) of the consolidated guidelines, nor any new fact justifying the diversion at this stage has been brought out.
2. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(ii),the state has not clearly specified whether the Lol is valid as on date or not. Moreover, the state has submitted an old letter dated 30.05.2017 issued by the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of

Chattisgarh. In this regard, in view of the provisions of Section 10-A(2)(c), the state shall clearly specify whether a valid Lol exists as on date or not.

Further, the State Govt. has not clarified whether the NoC has been sought/obtained from the Ministry of Mines highlighting/ indicating that the validity of letter of intent (LOI) given to the user agency is still valid as the time limit prescribed for getting necessary clearance has exhausted as mentioned in section 10-A(2)(C) of the MMDR Act, 2015.

3. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(iv), the land use at end of the conceptual period has been given for an area of 17.118 ha instead of 66.02 ha forest land proposed for diversion. Further, the Cost Benefit analysis has not been submitted in the prescribed format. Moreover, old NPV rates have been taken into consideration. The CB ratio reported as 1: 263.76 which is exorbitantly high. The State Govt. shall submit Cost Benefit analysis as per the prescribed format and details of proposed reclamation/back-filled area at the end of mine life.

4. As per the component wise breakup/kml file an area of 39.882 ha has been mentioned as undisturbed area, which needs justification. Further, the state shall specify the proposed land use of the forest area in the entire life of mine, clearly indicating the total area required for mining and other activities.

5. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(v) and (vii), the State Govt. has not submitted the suitability certificate for the CA land in Village Tatijharia (12.621 ha) and Village Bata (18.503 ha along with CA scheme. The State Government shall submit the CA scheme alongwith suitability certificate.

6. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi) (a), DSS Cell has observed that the State Govt. has not carried out necessary correction in the KML file of proposed forest land because the KML area of the proposed forest land is found 65.778 ha instead of 66.02 ha. The State Govt. has not submitted a CD containing the KML file of proposed forest land. The State Government shall submit the corrected KML file of proposed forest land.

7. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi) (c), DSS Cell has observed that still the KML file of Mining lease boundary is found shifted from the KML file of proposed forest land. Hence, the correct KML file of the Mining lease has not been submitted in a CD and neither uploaded on PARIVESH portal. Accordingly, State Government shall submit the correct KML file.

8. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi) (d), DSS Cell has observed that still the KML file showing the component utilization of the proposed forest land has not submitted in a CD and also not uploaded on PARIVESH portal. Accordingly, State Government shall submit the KML file of component utilization of forest land.

9. With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi) (f), DSS Cell has observed that presence of settlements are clearly visible through satellite imagery in the village Dumarkholi (Patch-1) and Village Bata (Patch-5) which has been proposed for CA. The State Government shall submit comments in this regard.

In view of the above, it is requested to furnish the above information/documents for further processing the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.
3. The sub-office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Raipur.
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.