

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: May, 2024**

To

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

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitari Mining lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar District, Odisha ) - reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F (Cons) 210/2015, 16637/F/E dated 19.09.2015 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and letter no. 6068/9F (MG)-24/2011 dated 14.03.2024 forwarding information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter dated 10.05.2023 and to say that the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 30.04.2024. The detailed minutes of the Advisory Committee may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Advisory Committee, after detailed deliberations, observed that area is located in a pristine landscape with high conservation value which deserves to be conserved for ensuring uninterrupted wildlife corridors and maintaining the landscape integrity. However, to facilitate further decision on the proposals, the Committee desired that the following information may be furnished by the State:

- i. The revised KML of project area along with attributes of forest and non-forest area & ownership/managing agency;
- ii. Updated report on the number and species of trees affected after reassessment of the reduced area (forest as well as non-forest area) recommended by the ICFRE for taking up mining activities.
- iii. A considered opinion on impact of mining operations on 28 rare, endangered and threatened species found in the area and mitigation measures proposed for their conservation and protection.
- iv. Comments and recommendations of the Water Resource Department on the impact of the mining on the local hydrological regime in the and around the lease area on the proposed mining may be submitted by the State.
- v. A summary of the total mining leases approved under the Adhiniyam vis-à-vis

their approved peak capacity and production level actually achieved in general and in r/o OMC leases in particular. The State Government shall also submit its comments on opening of such a huge area having sensitive conservation issues vis-a-vis the target of production and estimated shortfall in coming years;

- vi. The revised mining plan for reduced area recommended by the ICFRE in its report, may be provided by the State Government.
- vii. The revised cost benefit analysis after accounting the EG&S being lost and net economic gains from project to be submitted by the State.
- viii. The ICFRE has recommended mining over reduced area which was further suggested to be reduced by the Sub-Committee of AC. The State Government and user agency may comment on the economic feasibility of mining operations over reduced area.

In view of above, State Government is requested to submit information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

**(Amit Anand)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.