

File No: 8-49/1998-FC(PT1) (E- 182070)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated:21-05-2026**

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 Odisha Mining Corporation Limited for non-forestry use of 22.697 ha of forest land of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block within total Mining Lease area of 456.100 ha in Keonjhar District, Odisha- reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. 6535/9F (MG) -70/2021 dated 25.03.2026 on above subject and to say that the reply submitted by the State Govt. has been examined and the following has been observed:

- i. The State Government was asked to comply with Condition No. 5 of the Stage-I approval and furnish details of action taken against the officers responsible for violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 under the relevant provisions of the applicable State and/or Central Acts for unauthorized use of forest land. In response, the State Government informed that Odisha Mining Corporation Limited, vide compliance dated 09.01.2026, had issued show-cause notices to the officers posted at the site during the period of violation. However, details of action taken by the State Forest Department/State Government under the relevant provisions of the Adhiniyam/Act have not been furnished. The details with regard to the Action Taken under 3(A)/ 3(B) or under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act for unauthorized use of forest land without the permission shall be submitted by the State Govt.
- ii. The State Government was asked to comply with Condition No. 4 of the Stage-I approval and furnish details regarding deposit of the total Penal NPV for the violation. In response, the State Government submitted that the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division, had raised a demand towards Penal NPV for violation over 22.697 ha of Sabik Kissam forest land, apportioned between the ex-lessee, Essel Mining &

Industries Limited, and the present lessee, Odisha Mining Corporation Limited. It was further informed that OMC has deposited its apportioned share of Penal NPV, while the balance amount pertaining to the ex-lessee remains unpaid and is presently sub judice before the High Court of Orissa. The State Government also stated that, as per the applicable guidelines, penal action for violations committed during the period of the previous allottee is applicable only to the previous allottee. However, as per the para 7.4 (iv) (b) and 5.5 (1) (a) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules, 2023 the non-compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted to the erstwhile allottee, which were required to be complied with prior to handing over of the forest land, shall be transferred as liabilities to the new allottee. In view of the above provisions, the new allottee is required to fulfil all the conditions of the Stage-I approval and submit the complete compliance to the Ministry for considering the proposal for the grant of the Stage-II approval. Accordingly, the State Govt. shall furnish the complete compliance of the conditions of the Stage-I approval.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to comply with the conditions, as indicated above for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

*Sd/-*

**(Deepika Chaudhary)**

Deputy 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.