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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, Aligani, New Delhi – 110003 Dated: May, 2023

To.

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.

Subject: Redrawing of Safety Zone considering Noamundi Iron Mine and Katamati Iron Mine of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. as cluster - reg.

Madam/Sir.

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter No. 3/Van Bhumi-17/2011-1096/V.P. dated 22.03.2023 on the above subject forwarding a letter regarding redrawing of Safety Zone of Noamundi Iron Mine in West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand and Katamati Iron Mine in Odisha of M/s Tata Steel Ltd and to say that after examination of the said letter revealed the following:

- i. State Government has not submitted the detailed proposal and the letter dated 06.02.2023 of PCCF Jharkhand as referred in the State Government's forwarding letter is an internal communication wherein the PCCF Jharkhand has replied to the queries of the State Government...
- ii. The Ministry has received two proposals by the name of Nowamundi Iron Ore Mining. The first proposal pertains to 370.92 ha of (already broken up) forest land in favour of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. for Iron Ore Mining in Nowamundi Iron Ore Mining lease in West Singhbhum District of Jharkhand, which was accorded Stage-II approval vide Ministry's letter no. 8-279/1985-FC (Pt.) dated 04.09.2014. The second one pertains to nonforestry use of 383.37 ha of balance virgin forest land in favour of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. within total mining lease area of 1160.06 of Nowamundi Iron Ore Mine falling under the jurisdiction of the Chaibasa Forest Division, West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand, which has been accorded Stage-I approval vide Ministry's letter no. 8-65/2018-FC dated 08.12.2022. However, it is not clear that the redrawing of the boundaries of which proposal has been referred by the State Government.

In view of above, it is requested to submit a detailed proposal for further necessary action.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj) **Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

Copy to:

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- 1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
- 2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
- 3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
- 4. User Agency;
- 5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.