

File No. 8-09/2025-FC (E- 281869)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 26-05-2026

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Subject: Proposal for seeking *ex-post facto* approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.565 ha of forest land including safety zone (1.020 ha) within the mining lease area of 18.00 ha in respect of Bhanjapali Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District by Sri JN Patnaik (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/27247/2017) – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Odisha's proposal on the subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 08.05.2026. The detailed minutes of the said meeting is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. After examination, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal for want of the following information:

- i. The User Agency has broken up the 0.214 ha outside the lease area. Accordingly, the same shall be treated as encroachment and the State government shall take relevant action in the matter.
 - ii. At the time of execution of the mining lease on 21.04.1997, the entire leased area measuring 18.00 ha was recorded as non-forest land. Subsequently, on 06.06.1998, Plot Nos. 1(P) and 54(P), admeasuring 12.565 ha, were declared as DLC forest land by the Forest Department based on the recommendations of the District Level Committee. Thereafter, mining operations continued in the area. However, the State Government has reported violation over 0.595 ha of Protected Reserve Forest (PRF) land and 0.078 ha within the safety zone falling under the DLC forest area. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish detailed chronological information regarding the execution of the mining lease, permissions/orders issued from time to time for continuation of mining operations in the area, along with supporting documentary evidence and details of the extent of violation.
2. In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish the information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/
(Deepika Chaudhary)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhubaneswar.
3. The APCCF–cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading the letter on PARIVESH portal.