

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated: 6th May, 2021

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

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 68.00 ha forest land in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. for mining of Iron ore in Unchabali (Mahaparbat) Mine located at village Unchabali and Balda under Barbil Tehsil in District Keonjhar (Odisha)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No16500/9F (MG)-11/2017 dated 18.09.2020 on the above-mentioned subject forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 22.07.2020 and to inform that proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 24.03.2021 and the FA observed that the lease was signed in 2008 when the area was neither modified nor recorded as forests. FAC, accordingly, recommended to drop condition no. (iii) of Stage-I approval dated 16.11.2020. With regard to deposit of part payment accruing out of approved plans into CAMPA account, FAC recommended that the State government shall ensure that if the payments are part of approval under the provisions of FCA 1980, then the entire amount against such approved plans shall be deposited into CAMPA account. FAC also made it clear that in future the State Government shall deposit the monies in the Compensatory Afforestation fund as the provisions in the CAF Act, 2016 are amply clear. A clarification in this regard has also been issued by the Ministry vide letter No. 11/43/2021/FC dated 22.03.2021.

Based in the recommendation of the FAC and approval of the same by the competent authority of the Ministry, approval of the Central Government is hereby conveyed to drop condition no. (iii) of Stage-I approval dated 16.11.2020 granted under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 68.00 ha forest land in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. for mining of Iron ore in Unchabali (Mahaparbat) Mine located at village Unchabali and Balda under Barbil Tehsil in District Keonjhar (Odisha).

In view of the above, I am directed to requested the State Government to submit the complete compliance of condition no. (ii) of Stage-I approval i.e. direct the user agency to deposit entire compensatory for implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan into the account of CAMPA for further needful action in the matter.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Guard File