

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

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

Dated: June, 2023

To,

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

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 247.50 ha of forest land out of total lease area of 1936.06 ha in favour of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for iron ore mining in Kiriburu- Meghahatuburu group of Iron Ore mines located in District West Singhbhum (Jharkhand) – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-29/2008-1757/V.P. dated 11.05.2023 on above mentioned subject, forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter dated 22.02.2023 and to say that the above proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 12.06.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting held on 12.06.2023 is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The Advisory Committee, after going through the facts of the proposal decided to **defer** the proposal and sought the following information:

- i. The proposed area is very important from Wildlife point of view and falls in Singhbhum Elephant Reserve. The State Govt. shall submit Site Specific Management Plan and Integrated Wildlife Management Plan duly recommended by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- ii. As per IRO, Ranchi's report, more than 1800 ha area within the lease is undisturbed and under possession of user agency. Representative of user agency emphasized that if the matching area needs to be surrendered before issuance of Stage-II, it can be taken from this undisturbed area. The State Govt. shall submit the comments of PCCF (HoFF) along with an undertaking from user agency regarding handing over of undisturbed area against the proposed diversion. The State Govt. shall submit the details of future plans for the said 1800 ha undisturbed area.
- iii. The user agency has communicated to the concerned DFO that they have 78.3 ha (51.4 ha+26.9 ha) of land readily available with them to be handed over to State Forest Department. The State Govt. shall submit the action taken on the request of user agency and provide the updated legal status of the said land.
- iv. The State Govt. shall also submit the detailed land use plan for the entire lease area along with land reclamation plan with timelines for handing over/surrender to forest department.
- v. The State Govt. shall submit the status of encroachment in the lease area

and the proposed CA land along with a detailed plan of action regarding prevention and eviction of the encroachment.

- vi. The State Govt. shall submit the compliance report of previous approvals granted in the mining lease by the Ministry and same shall be examined by IRO, Ranchi.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information/documents/comments, as indicated above, as per recommendation of Advisory Committee, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 28-06-2023 14:52:19

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, 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.