

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Alignaj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 2nd June, 2021

To
The Regional Officer

Integrated Regional Office,

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 306.047 ha of forest land for Chromite ore mining in village Kaliapani, Gurujanpal, Sukurangi, Saruabil and Forest Block No. 27 of South-Kaliapani Chromite Mines in favour of OMC.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar's letter no. 8(21)02/2000-FCE dated 31.12.2020 on the above subject forwarding an inspection report as desired by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 14.10.2020 and to say that examination of said inspection report in the Ministry revealed the following:

1. Inspection report suggests for better management of OB dumps with intensive plantations while simultaneously it is also indicated in the report that dump is active and cannot be planted. Therefore, for want unambiguous recommendation, it may not appropriate for the Ministry to incorporate additional conditions in the FC approval, as it may impede with the mining operations being carried out as per statutory approvals.
2. Compliance of approvals granted under the FC Act, 1980 has been submitted based on secondary information available with the IRO while the same was desired based on the actual ground situation. Observations of the Ministry have not been addressed completely by the IRO as the compliance of approvals granted under the FC Act 1980 were not assessed by the inspecting officers during the inspection.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the IRO to submit a comprehensive inspection report on the points contained in the letter dated 14.10.2020 and to make unambiguous recommendations on the mitigative measures, if any, to enable the Ministry to take a well informed view in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

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

2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. PCCF & Nodal officer, O/o the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division
5. User Agency
6. Guard File