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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated: 12th August, 2021

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

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of balance forest land of 84.707 ha in favour of M/s D. C. Jain for mining of Iron and manganese ore in Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Ore mines located in Baitrani RF II, District Keojhar (Odisha) – reg.

Sir,
    I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0101-2021-12349/FE&CC dated 19.07.2021 on the above subject forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 4.01.2016 and to say that examination of the said information in the Ministry revealed the following:

   i. The area of Block – A not considered as lapsed is 89.691 ha while the remaining area of other four blocks has been declared as lapsed. Corresponding change in the land use of the area proposed for diversion has not been informed by the State Government. Area change matrix indicating the purpose wise breakup of forest land required for diversion needs to be informed by the State Government along with soft copies of KML/shape files

  ii. Copy of approved Mining Plan, corresponding the area not declared as lapsed by the State has not been submitted. Updated Mining Plan with progressive Mine Closure Plan may be submitted by the State.

 iii. It is observed that an area of 11.48 ha (out of 101.171 ha) has been declared as lapsed. Status of its reclamation and handing over back to the State Forest Department may also be intimated by the State.

 iv. It is also observed that following conditions stipulated in the approval dated 14.11.2005 have not complied with by the State/User Agency:

  a. Equivalent non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation has not been notified as RF/PF under the Indian Forest Act, 1927

  b. Compensatory levies for raising afforestation over degraded forest land to the extent of 1.5 times the area of safety zone has not been realized from the user agency

  c. Non-realization of balance amount due towards Regional Wildlife Management Plan

  d. No concurrent reclamation has been carried out by the user agency.
Compliance of above conditions may be ensured by the State and updated status of the same may be informed to enable the Ministry to take further view in extant proposal.

  v. It may also be mentioned that initial enumeration of trees was conducted in the year 2014-15 and during the intervening period of almost 6 years, there is possibilities that number of project affected trees might have changed

(increased), it is therefore proposed number of project affected should be revalidated based on the afresh enumeration.

vi. Suitability of non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of proposal diversion under the extant proposal may be reconfirmed by the State and the same may be submitted along with updated details of relevant attributes such as CA scheme, KML/Shape files.

vii. Similarly, site specific Wildlife Management plan, specially with regards to financial provisions may be updated and submitted for further consideration of the Ministry.

viii. Extant proposal, for want of submission of additional information within the stipulated period of 90 days, has been de-listed from the PARIVESH portal. A request for re-listing of the proposal needs to be submitted online for its further consideration by the Ministry.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:
1. The PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o PCCF, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell