

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: August 2023

To

The DDGF (Central),
MoEF&CC's Regional Office
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Bhusan Power & Steel Limited for non-forestry use of 112.621 ha of Forest land (including 1.808 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) in village Baldihi under Koira Tahasil and Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within the block area of 139.223 ha in respect of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block in Odisha State (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/26965/2017)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter FE-DIV-FLD-0088-2022-19934/FE&CC dated 09.11.2022 and additional information submitted vide No. 2680/9F (MG)-27/2022 dated 10.02.2023 and vide letter no 10285/9F (MG) -27/2022 dated 29.05.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 17.07.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The AC decided that since many proposals of iron ore mining in this land scape are in the process at the Central Government level or being proposed for diversion. Therefore, there is a need to analyze the issue at the landscape level in order to conserve the forests and biodiversity.

In this regard, detailed consultations with the State Govt authorities and other stakeholders including mining lessees shall be carried out by the DDGF (C) Bhubaneswar involving Ministry Officials and WII. The report shall be submitted in 45 days of issue of this letter.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Surabhi Rai)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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1. Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.