

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(FC Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

To,

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

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 75.635 ha of forest land within the limits of Paradip Port Trust at Paradip coming 'under jurisdiction of Rajnagar Mangrove Division/ Jagatsinghpur District, Odisha for development of Outer Harbour including Wester Dock & mechanization of existing operational berth by M/s Paradip Port Trust.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha's letter No. 11829 9F/ IND (371)/2018 dated 19.06.2020, dated 04.11.2022 and 28.07.2023 and the request of the State Govt that the use of forest land for non-forestry purpose and the Aahar Kendra may not be construed as an act of violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980.

The above stated matter was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting dated 21.08.2023 wherein Advisory Committee noted the facts submitted by the State and documentary evidence of the Aahar Kendra being established in 1965 and keeping in view the fact that the area was under non-forestry use prior to 1980, the committee therefore recommended that no further penal action against the concerned officials is required. However, the penal compensatory levies, if already paid, shall not be refunded.

Keeping in view the recommendations of the Advisory Committee it has been decided to modify the condition no (iv) of the Stage-1 approval issued vide letter F. No. 8-68/2018-FC dated 31.12.2018 as under:

(iv) **“No further penal action against the concerned officials is required. However, the penal compensatory levies, if already paid, shall not be refunded.**

This issues with the approval of the competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-**  
**(Dr. Surabhi Rai)**  
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (FC)

**Copy to:**

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. Dy. Director General (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF &CC, New Delhi.
5. User agency.
6. Guard File.