

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: September, 2023

To,
Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha
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 Thriveni Earthmovers private Limited for non-forestry use of 94.351 ha of forest land including 4.261 ha of Safety Zone (3.858 ha along the ML boundary and 0.403 ha along the PWD road) within the granted Lol for ML over 131.800 ha for Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block in Keonjhar district of Odisha - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0002-2023-381/FE&CC dated 07.01.2023 and additional information submitting on 29.05.2023 on the above mentioned subject proposal, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Further, it is informed that the instant proposal was discussed in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 11.09.2023, The AC decided that recommendation made under agenda item no. 11 discussed in the AC meeting held on 17.07.2023 will apply *mutatis-mutandis* to the extant proposal. The committee therefore decided to defer the proposal with following observations:

- i. Regarding violation, it has been noticed by Regional Office that there are 48 existing small illegal mining pits covering 2.5 Ha land at least more than 10 years old. During site visit, mining pits were covered with vegetation. DDGF(C) should get details from the division about the agency to which this illegal mining activity is attributed.
- ii. The Karo River is crossing between two blocks of the Mining lease. The mining project will affect the catchment of this Karo river. So there is a need

for soil and moisture conservation measures in the rest catchment of this river and the forest lands in and around the proposed site.

- iii. Protection and monitoring of wildlife, wildlife habitat management, support to local forest dependent communities through proper eco-development measures etc. are some of the areas which need specific attention. Since the area is characterized by the movement of elephants, measures proposed for their protection and mitigation of HEC issues are required to be examined.
- iv. The Committee also observed that there is a need to examine the evacuation plan for minerals and how to meet the requirement of Water, transport and electricity.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Surabhi Rai)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. DDGF (C), MoEF&CC's IRO Bhubneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.