

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

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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 Anil Kumar Sharma Power of Attorney of Late Chandni Prasad Sharma for non-forestry use of 67.352 ha forest land for Iron & Manganese Ore Mining in village Raikela, Bahamba & Tensa under Bonai Sub-Division in Sundargarh District of Odisha (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/39199/2019).**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0068-2022-15274 dated 30.08.2022 and additional information submitting on 15.07.2023 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, wherein the proposal has been deferred for seeking the following information / justification from the State Government:

- i. It has been informed that the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division had raised a demand for payment of NPV for ₹4,94,32,680/- vide Letter No.2886/6F dt.05.06.2010 and the lessee had paid the above amount of NPV vide demand draft No.094765 dated 25.06.2010 in favour of Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF)-Odisha A/C No.CA 1585, Corporation Bank, Lodhi Road, New Delhi and after payment of NPV, the lessee was allowed to resume mining operation over the already broken up area of 6.884 ha upto one year vide order No.20258/Mines Dated 13.08.2010 of the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division. The provision under which the permission for mining was accorded vide order No.20258/Mines Dated 13.08.2010 is required to be clarified by the State.
- ii. The present status of the forest offence case booked against the lessee for violation over 0.050 ha of PRF area broken up during the previous mining activities under the provision of Orissa Forest Act, 1972 vide OR No.170 (BS) of 2021-22 on 25.02.2022 shall be submitted.
- iii. The State Government shall examine and intimate whether any action under

Section 3A and 3B against the officials responsible for violation of FCA, 1980 has been taken or not. A detailed report shall be submitted in this regard.

- iv. Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of the forest area involved in the safety zone is to be raised over the equivalent non-forest land instead of proposed 1.5 times degraded forest land. All details of the non-forest land so identified and the CA Scheme, Land Suitability certificate, KML file etc. shall be submitted.
- v. As per DSS analysis, part of the non-forest land identified for raising CA overlaps with the Reserve Forest land. The state shall re-examine the matter and ensure that the area proposed for CA is not forest land and initiate the action for correction of the forest boundaries on DSS platform, if applicable.
- vi. The State Govt. shall submit a justification as to why the mining should not be restricted to already broken up area only which was earlier permitted by the court.

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.