

F. No. 8-15/2016-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 20 September, 2016

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of balance 330.972 ha of Sabik Kisam forest land as on 25.10.1980 in addition to already diverted forest land of 73.697 ha for Chromite mining in their Sukinda Chromite mine in Jajpur District under Cuttack Forest Division by M/s TATA STEEL LIMITED during extended period of mining lease up to 31.03.2020 as per MMDR amendment Act, 2015.

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 10F (Cons) 73/2014-11975F/E, Bhubaneswar, dated 28.06.2016 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal of State Govt. was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on **24.08.2016**. The detailed minutes of the FAC meeting held on 24.08.2016 is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.forestclearance.nic.in. After thorough deliberation in the said FAC meeting, the FAC inter-alia recommended that:

1. State Government shall submit documentary evidence to confirm that the land sought for diversion under Forest (Conservation) Act is broken prior to 1980.
2. On examination of data generated by DSS, FAC observed the existence of an Air strip and several buildings on the land proposed to be diverted. APPCF, Regional office Bhubaneswar shall inspect the area again and submit its report highlighting the actual requirement of forest area for core mining activity.
3. State Government shall submit complete compliance of FRA certificate as per the guidelines issued by the ministry in this regards.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit information as indicated in above para at point (1) and (3) to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar: is requested to inspect the area again and submit its report highlighting the actual requirement of forest area for core mining activity.
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard File


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)