

F. No. 8-~~81~~/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: 13th September, 2017

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Sub.: Proposal for prior approval under section 2 (iii) of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for 153.09 ha forest land for Iron Ore mining at village Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad, Tahsil Etapali, Dist. Gadchiroli in favour of Gopani Iron & Power (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No.FLD-36A16/C.R.402/F-10 dated 15.12.2016 submitting the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 26.12.2016, 25.04.2017 and 20.07.2017. The detailed minutes of the FAC meetings held on 26.12.2016, 25.04.2017 and 20.07.2017 are placed on the website of this Ministry: www.forestclearance.nic.in.

2. After going through the judgement in the matter in FAC meeting held on 20.07.2017, the FAC observed that the State Government had reported that the matter related to validity of letter of intent is sub-judice. The Forest (Conservation) Act guidelines 2.1 (vi) was perused. It clearly says that "*State Government are advised not to consider/process cases, which are pending in various courts or sub-judice to avoid all sort of administrative and legal complications*". Therefore, the FAC recommended not to grant permission on the proposal for prior approval under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for concerning 153.09 ha forest land for Iron Ore mining at village Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad, Tahsil Etapali, Dist. Gadchiroli in favour of Gopani Iron & Power (India) Pvt. Ltd.

In view of above, I am directed to convey the approval of competent authority for not to grant prior approval for concerning 153.09 ha forest land for Iron Ore mining at village Surjagad Wooria Hill Bhamragad, Tahsil Etapali, Dist. Gadchiroli in favour of Gopani Iron & Power (India) Pvt. Ltd. under Section 2(iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, till the final order of the Hon'ble High Court.

Yours faithfully,



(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

19.9.17

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Divisions, MoEF&CC.
5. Guard File.



(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

19.9.17