

F. No. 6-MPR004/2022-BHO (E- 175974)

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 29-09-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Madhya Pradesh
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 28.02 ha of Protected Forest land in Survey No. PF-807 & 809 for extraction of manganese ore mining through open cast method in favour of M/s Arpan Ferro Alloys in Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh (Online proposal No FP/MP/MIN/19894/2016) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter dated 18.06.2025 regarding the proposal mentioned in above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this regard, after examination of the proposal in the Ministry, the following shortcomings has been observed in the proposal:

- i. It has been submitted by the State Government that the Mining plan of the instant proposal has been revoked by the IBM on 09.06.2021 and the matter for validity of the Mining Plan is under consideration with the Honorable High Court which implies that the matter is sub judice with regard to the validity of the mining plan. It is pertinent to mention here that as per Para 7.2 of Chapter-7 given under the Consolidated Handbook of Rules & Guidelines issued by the Ministry on dated 29.12.2023, the User Agency should have valid Mining Plan. Therefore, there is no justification for considering a mining proposal which does not have a valid and approved Mining plan as on date.
- ii. It has been submitted by the State Govt. that UA agreed to comply with all the conditions/provisions of section 10 A 2 (c) of MMDR Amendment Act, 2015. However, the Comments/ recommendation by the Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh whether the lease/Lol is valid as on date in light of provisions of section 10 A (2)(c) of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 has not been submitted. The same needs submission
- iii. As per DSS examination, the area for safety zone is 1.72 Ha. whereas, as per the component wise breakup submitted in part-1 of the application form, the area for plantation is 1 ha. This needs clarification.
- iv. As per the DSS examination, it is observed that the user agency has

uploaded incorrect KML file of the approach access Road (width varying from 0.65 m to 1.99 m) because the proposed Road is not found connected with any existing Road. The State Govt. is requested to submit the correct KML file as per the component wise breakup of the proposal.

- v. As per DSS Analysis, two earthen dam/ tanks are located at a distance of 378 meters and 336 meters respectively from the proposed forest land for mining. Thus, it cannot be stated whether the proposed forest land is part of the catchment area of these earthen dams/ tanks or otherwise. This needs to be clarified by the State Government.
 - vi. The State Govt. reported that 17.0565 ha Non-Forest area for CA has been proposed in village Dhipur whereas the KML file has been uploaded for an area of 15.83 ha. Similarly, KML file area of CA land in Village Khapakheda has been found to be 12.38 ha instead of 10.9635 ha actually proposed as per the proposal. The correct KML files of the Non-forest land proposed for CA needs to be uploaded online on PARIVESH portal.
2. In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to the Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF—cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.
- 6.