

File No.: 8-75/1998-FC(Vol.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 03-09-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 210.526 ha of additional forest land of Jhillingburu - I mining lease for iron ore in favour of M/s. Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (SAIL) in Saranda Forest Division in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Jharkhand letter No. Van Bhumi-65/2010-2921 dated 13.08.2025 received in the Ministry on 26.8.2025 on the above mentioned subject. The proposal has been examined in the Ministry. The observations of the Ministry on the proposal are as follows:-

(i) The condition at Sr no (iii) of the Stage-1 approval states that *the condition referred in the Management Plan for the Sustainable Mining (MPSM) in Saranda and Chaibasa Region as approved by the Ministry and the Integrated Wildlife Management Plan (IWMP) as prepared by the State Government and examined and recommended by the Expert Committee headed by Dr. Bisht constituted by the MoEF&CC shall be strictly implemented by the State Government and User Agency wherever applicable. The user agency shall contribute proportionately towards execution of the Integrated Wildlife Management Plan (IWMP).* Keeping this condition in view, there is no justification for not depositing the total proportionate cost for the implementation of IWMP. The State shall do the needful in this regard.

(ii) The amount of Rs. 10,39,08,000/- regarding cost of Integrated Wildlife Management Plan is not reflected as paid in CAMPA funds on PARIVESH portal. The online portal shows only Rs. 20,00,000/- as paid against cost of Integrated Wildlife Management Plan. The State Govt. shall clarify the same and provide the details of payment done on the prescribed format for confirmation from NA CAMPA.

(iii) The amount of Rs. 9.2 Crore regarding Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan is not reflected as paid in CAMPA funds on PARIVESH portal. The State Govt. shall clarify the same and provide the details of payment done on the prescribed

format for confirmation from NA CAMPA.

(iv) With respect to the Condition No (xiii) of the Stage-1 approval dated 25.09.2017, the state has informed that the NBWL/ SBWL clearance is not required as the area falls within an Elephant Reserve. In this regard, it is pertinent to mention here that the Advisory Committee in the meeting dated 11.08.2017 observed that *"IGF (Wild Life), who was present in the meeting as special invitee, informed that Elephant Reserves are not declared as protected areas under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and therefore, permission of National Board of Wildlife is not mandatorily required. **However considering the extraordinary circumstances in this case the Integrated Wildlife Management Plan (IWMP) may be placed before the Standing Committee of NBWL**".* The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended the proposal with the following specific condition :

"Since the proposal involve presence of wildlife and falls in the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve notified by executive order of the government, the clearance from the State Board for Wildlife and National Board for wildlife shall be taken by the State Government before issue of final (stage -II) clearance. The state Government shall take adequate measures to protect the elephant corridor."

The State is therefore requested to do the needful and submit the compliance as stipulated above.

(v) The SMC Plan and afforestation plan within an area of 100 meter perimeter along the outer boundary of lease has not been submitted by the State Government. Further, the cost of its implementation has not been found deposited into the account of CAMPA. Accordingly, State Government shall submit a copy of SMC Plan and afforestation plan and cost of plan shall be deposited in CAMPA account.

(vi) The State has informed that the revised rates of NPV are not applicable in the instant case. In this regard, it is again informed that a period of more than 5 years has elapsed since the issuance of Stage-1 approval, therefore the NPV is required to be deposited at the revised rates. Accordingly, the NPV shall be deposited at the revised rate.

After receipt of the above information, the proposal will be further examined in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

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

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.