

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 1st September, 2023

To

DDGF (Central),
MoEF&CC's Integrated Regional Office,
At Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha of forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited (Formerly known as Bhusan Steel Ltd) (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/49169/2020).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022-10644 dated 17.06.2022, letter no. 22410/ 9F (MG) –66/2021 dated 03.11.2022, letter No. 4255/9F (MG)–51/2021 dated 03.03.2023 and letter No. no. 15271/ 9F (MG) – 66/2021 dated 28.07.2023 on above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 21.08.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. The AC decided that since many proposals of iron ore mining in this landscape are in the process at the Central Government level or being proposed for diversion. Therefore, there is a need to analyze the issue at the landscape level in order to conserve the forests and biodiversity.

In this regard, it has been decided that detailed consultations with the State Govt authorities and other stakeholders including mining lessees shall be carried out by the DDGF (C) Bhubaneswar involving Ministry Officials and WII. The report shall be submitted in 45 days of issue of this letter.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Principle Secretary (Forest), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

I/52281/2023

4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division.
6. Guard file.