

F.No.8-32/1993-FC *VOL III*
Government of India
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 04th June, 2015

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment & Forests,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Diversion of balance forest land 41.819 ha (32.425 ha of DLC forest land for mining and allied activities, safety zone area of 8.568 ha and greenery of 0.826 ha) in addition to already diverted 567.087 ha of forest land in Joda East Iron & Manganese Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar Forest Division of Odisha during 3rd RML period.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha letter No.8-154/FCE dated 27th March 2015 dated on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The matter was discussed in the FAC meeting held on 30th April 2015. after examination of the said proposal the FAC recommended that following information may be obtained from the State Government:

- i) Compensatory afforestation scheme along with DGPS maps of the degraded forest area to the extent of one and a half times the area of safety zone of 8.568 ha identified for the compensatory afforestation and site suitability certificate.
- ii) Legal status of forest land in respect of the balance forest land(9.394ha) being considered for diversion.
- iii) The compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in accordance with MoEF guidelines and Ministry of Tribal Affairs advisory giving documentary proof in the form of Gram Sabha Resolutions of anybody equivalent to Gram Sabha viz. Ward Committee.
- iv) DGPS map/shape files of the forest area being diverted and the non- forest land identified for CA.
- v) Status of the O.R. Case No.63CH of 2011-12. in JMFC Court, Barbil..
- vi) There is contradiction in reporting of the violation of FC Act 1980 by the State Government. DFO in Part-II of Form-A reported no violation of the FC Act while the PCCF and the State Government have reported violation of the FC Act, 1980. The violations are also reported by the Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report. This may be clarified by the State Government.

The committee further recommended that user agency be asked to submit the status of the reclamation of the mined out forest land in all its mining leases in Odisha.

The committee further recommended that to clarify the status of violations, Nodal Officer FCA of the State Government and APCCF (central) of Regional Office Bhubaneswar may be called to attend the FAC meeting once the above mentioned information is submitted by the State Government and FAC considers the proposal again.

Therefore, the State Government and User Agency are requested to furnish the above stated information at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

(T. C. Nautiyal)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. The Add. PCCF (Central) Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may kindly inspect area and submit thereafter.
4. (User Agency) M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar Forest Division of Odisha.
5. Guard file.
6. Monitoring Cell.


(T. C. Nautiyal)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)