

F. No. 8-29/2017-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

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

Dated: 6th September, 2017

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for according permission for use of 9.819 ha of forest land within total Mining lease area of 583.021 ha in Birasal Chromite Mining lease located in Kankadahad Tahasil and Kamakshyanagar (East) Forest Range of Dhenkanal Forest Division in Dhenkanal district for undertaking exploratory drilling of 133 no. of boreholes of 4" dia (133 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totalling 2.660 ha and 7.159 ha for construction of road) by M/S Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for prospecting of minerals.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 10F (Cons) 22/2016/13070/F&E dated 19.07.2016 submitting the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government for undertaking exploratory drilling of 133 no. of boreholes of 4" dia (133 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totalling 2.660 ha and 7.159 ha for construction of road) by M/S Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for prospecting of minerals under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, *In-principle* approval is hereby granted for use of 9.819 ha of forest land within total Mining lease area of 583.021 ha in Birasal Chromite Mining lease located in Kankadahad Tahasil and Kamakshyanagar (East) Forest Range of Dhenkanal Forest Division in Dhenkanal district for undertaking exploratory drilling of 133 no. of boreholes of 4" dia (133 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totalling 2.660 ha and 7.159 ha for construction of road) by M/S Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for prospecting of minerals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The User Agency shall be allowed exploratory drilling of a maximum of 133 bore holes of 4" diameter over 583.021 ha of forest land.
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation over the non-forest land of 7.159 ha. as identified in village Maligaoll of Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district, against 7.159 ha. of forest land required to be used for construction of temporary road purpose, shall be raised within three years from this approval and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- (iii) The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo-sheet of 1:50,000 scale.
- (iv) The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department. The non-forest land to be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified as reserved Forest under Section-4 or Protected Forest under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act. The Nodal officer must report compliance within a period of 6 month from the date of grant of final approval and send a copy of the notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the local Forest Act as the case may be, to this Ministry for information and record.

- (v) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- (vi) The activities to be undertaken by the user agency within the forest land for prospecting shall not result in felling of any tree;
- (vii) The samples collected during the prospecting shall be used purely for investigation purposes and shall in no case be used for trade or commerce purpose;
- (viii) To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, user agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, State Forest Department, Government of Odisha;
- (ix) The State Forest Department shall deploy adequate staff to supervise the activities to be undertaken by the user agency to prevent any damage to the flora (especially the fresh regeneration), fauna and also to prevent felling of trees during drilling of holes and movement of equipment;
- (x) After completion of the prospecting all bore holes shall be completely filled up and the ground restored back to its original position;
- (xi) During transportation of Bore drilling Machine / rigs, no new road / permanent path in the forest area will be constructed.
- (xii) The State Government of Odisha and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xiii) The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the Guidelines dated 4th July, 2014 issued by the Ministry regarding drilling in the forest land.
- (xiv) The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
- (xv) This permission shall, in no way, confer any rights to the project proponents or any other agency for grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for any other non-forestry use of the said forest land.

After receipt of the report on the compliance to the conditions stipulated in the paragraph-2 above from the State Government of Odisha, final/stage-II approval for undertaking exploratory drilling of 133 no. of boreholes of 4" dia (133 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totalling 2.660 ha and 7.159 ha for construction of road) by M/S Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for prospecting of minerals diversion of the said forest under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be considered by this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 6.9.17

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC
6. Guard File


(Sandeep Sharma) 6.9.17

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)