

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

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

**Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2023**

To

Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest),  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar

**Sub: Permission for grant of lease under Section - 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Kashvi Power & Steel Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 60.508 ha of Dholta Pahar Iron Ore Block through e-auction sale in sarkunda Reserved Forest in Bonai Forest Division under Sundargarh District, Odisha –reg. (Online No. FP/OR/Others/152380/2022)**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0029-2023-5748/FE&CC dated 28.03.2023 and additional information submitted by the State vide No. 14923/9F (MG) -22/2022 dated 24.07.2023 on above mentioned subject, seeking permission for grant of lease under Section-2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard it is informed that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 29.11.2023.

Further, it is also informed that after obtaining the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and in view of the fact that the proposed area is falling under the VDF category and inviolate under the decision Rule 1 and 2 of the DSS and the area proposed for mining is within a pristine and very dense forest and the proposal will have an impact on the biodiversity, the Central Government hereby **reject** the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-  
**(Charan Jeet Sing)**  
Scientist 'D

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandersekharpur, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division.