

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

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

Dated: 5th March, 2021

To,

The Addl. Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for according permission for use of 5.782 ha. of forest land within total PL area of 153.571 ha. in PL Block No. II (Chromite) Ore located in village Kaliapani and Forest Block No. 27 under Sukinda Tahasil of Jajpur District (Within jurisdiction of Cuttack Forest Division), Odisha for undertaking exploratory drilling of 95 nos. of boreholes (95 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totalling 1.90 ha and 3.882 ha. for construction of road) by M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F(Cons)-131/2018-13603/F&E dated 20.06.2018 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government 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. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under section-3 of the said Act, '**in-principle**' approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated **14.09.2018** subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Odisha vide their letter No. 18572/9F (MG)-372/2017 dated 22.10.2020 and 2035/9F(MG)-372/2017 dated 01.02.2021, **Stage-II/Final** approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for according permission for use of 5.782 ha. of forest land within total PL area of 153.571 ha. in PL Block No. II (Chromite) Ore located in village Kaliapani and Forest Block No. 27 under Sukinda Tahasil of Jajpur District (Within jurisdiction of Cuttack Forest Division), Odisha for undertaking exploratory drilling of 95 nos. of boreholes (95 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totalling 1.90 ha and 3.882 ha. for construction of road) by M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd subject to following conditions:

- i. The State Government ensure that the user agency shall complete the exploration work within 2 years.
- ii. Permission granted for prospecting under the provisions of FCA 1980, shall not confer any right of user agency to get permission for extraction of mineral and diversion of Forest land under section 2(ii) of FCA 1980.
- iii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that existing path and roads only will be used by the user agency for the purpose of prospecting

- activities. In addition to existing paths and forest road, user agency is allowed to use 3.882 ha of forest land for construction of temporary path. The temporary path construction shall not involve any tree cutting and same shall be restored to original land use after the work of exploration is accomplished.
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 3.88 ha of non-forest land within three years from the date of issue of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency;
 - v. The State Government ensure that the user agency shall seek permission of DFO, Cuttack Forest Division before entering into the forest area.
 - vi. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that each bore-hole shall be dug with prior permission of the DFO, Cuttack Forest Division.
 - vii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that proper plugging of boreholes shall be made after exploration activities are complete.
 - viii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no tree felling shall be undertaken for exploration activities. Project activities shall be restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches if any for the purpose of site preparation.
 - ix. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that drilling of boreholes will be limited to 95 no. with diameter of 4" within forest land.
 - x. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
 - xi. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no work shall be allowed after sunset.
 - xii. The State Government shall ensure that no other construction activities shall be done by the user agency on forest land.
 - xiii. The State Government shall ensure that user agency shall report the progress of drilling work to the DFO, Cuttack and also furnish detailed report thereof on completion of the project.
 - xiv. The State Government shall ensure that adequate measures shall be taken by the user agency to ensure that prospecting activities do not harm the wildlife in the area. Any damage done in this context, shall be compensated by the user agency as per assessment by the DFO, Cuttack.
 - xv. The State Government ensure that the user agency shall be responsible for any loss to the flora and fauna in the surrounding. Any damage done in this regard shall be compensated by the user agency from the project cost as per assessment of the DFO, Cuttack.
 - xvi. Instant permission of Govt. of India for prospecting in forest area, would not confer any rights on the user agency to obtain diversion of forest land for mining of chromite from this area in future.
 - xvii. In case, rights over forest land proposed to be used for prospecting purpose, has already been settled in favour of eligible claimants as per provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the claimants shall either be compensated appropriately or location of boreholes be suitably re-located.
 - xviii. DFO, Cuttack Forest Division may impose any other condition for protection and conservation of the flora and fauna in the forest area.
 - xix. Prospecting activities within the PL area shall be subject to having valid lease.
 - xx. In case of violations of conditions by the user agency, the permission for prospecting of minerals shall be suspended by the DFO and enquired by the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government and report be submitted to the Integrated Regional Office for appropriate action.

- xxi.The State Government shall ensure that 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.
- xxii.The State Government and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxiii.The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT order & Hon'ble Court Order(S) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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