

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

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

**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 and to say that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 21.08.2023, after discussion and thorough deliberation the Committee deferred the proposal and and sought the following information for further action in the matter:

- i. 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 analyse the issue at the landscape level in order to conserve the forests and biodiversity. In this regard, detailed consultations with the State Govt. authorities and other stakeholders including mining lessees shall be carried out by the DDGF (C) Bhubaneswar by involving ministry officials and WII and report shall be submitted in 45 days.
- ii. Further, considering the present situation of mining in the area and rise in human elephant conflict the compensation mechanism for the victims by the user agencies needs to be developed.
- iii. The CSIR- NEERI has given its recommendation on carrying capacity vis-à-

vis pollution in these area and the Suggested Ore Transportation Mode (SOTM) in 2014. After lapse of about 9 years, many changes in the landscape and fresh mining in the region, the State Govt. shall examine and report with justification, whether there is a need to re-validate the said study or a need to carry a fresh study in this regard.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.