

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR DIVISION**

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Memo No. 784 / Mining  
Dated, Keonjhar the 19 January, 2017  
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To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.

Sub: Forest Diversion over 160.838 ha of forest land as per Sabik records (as on 25.10.1980) of Katamati Iron Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd.

X-Sub: **Clarification as regards processing of diversion proposal bearing No. FP/OR/MIN/20081/2016, St. Sl. No. OR-054/2016.**

Ref: Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20081/2016, St. Sl. No. OR-054/2016.

With reference to the aforementioned forest diversion proposal, this is to bring to your kind notice that Katamati Iron Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd, granted over 403.3238 ha, involves 360.01 ha forest land (RF- 57.552 ha, Revenue Forest- 141.62 ha & Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980- 160.838 ha) and forest land over 199.172 ha has been accorded approval under section 2(iii) of FC Act, 1980, vide No. F. No. 8-5/2015-FC dated 29.09.2016 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India for the purpose of execution of mining lease. The balance forest land involved in the mining lease over 160.838 ha, has not been accorded approval under section 2(iii) of FC Act, 1980. In as much as, supplementary lease deed has been executed dated 27.11.2016 in pursuance of the aforesaid approval granted under section 2(iii) of FC Act, 1980 in respect of Katamati Iron Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd.

In this backdrop, it would be appropriate to mention that forest diversion proposal over 199.172 ha forest land, bearing State Sl. No. 222/07 dated 27.04.2007, has been processed and submitted to MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter No. 102 dated 01.01.2015 of Special Secretary to Govt. F&E Department, Odisha and the said proposal is yet to be considered for grant of in-principle approval under section 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980. Nonetheless, it is also mentioned that the present diversion proposal bearing Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20081/2016, St. Sl. No. OR-054/2016, submitted over 160.838 ha Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980, has not been accorded approval under section 2(iii) of FC Act, 1980 for inclusion in the mining lease and thus, the existence of this forest land in the executed lease is questionable and therefore, the necessity for diversion under section 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980 seemingly doesn't arise.

Nevertheless, it is also mentioned that mining operation in the said Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 is, at present, continuing in pursuance of the order of the Hon'ble High Court, Odisha in W.P(C) No. 12830 of 2016 in the matter of M/s Tata Steel Ltd & another Vrs Union of India & another.

In the stated scenario, it is requested to kindly clarify as regards the necessity for processing the submitted proposal over 160.838 ha and it is also requested to move the competent authority in the State Govt. for clarification as regards the extent of forest land involved in the executed lease and continuation of mining operation in the said land pending final disposal of W.P(C) No. 12830 of 2016, by the Hon'ble High Court, Odisha, filed in the matter of M/s Tata Steel Ltd & another Vrs Union of India & another.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Keonjhar Division.

**Memo No** 785 /**Dated** 30-1-17

Copy forwarded to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

  
**Divisional Forest Officer,**  
**Keonjhar Division.**

**Memo No** 786 /**Dated** 30-1-17

Copy forwarded to the Chief Joda, M/s TATA Steel Limited, AT/ P.O- Joda, Keonjhar for information and necessary action. He is requested to provide the lease grant order, executed in pursuance of the approval granted under section 2(iii) of FC Act, 1980, mentioning therein the total forest land involved in the executed lease.

  
**Divisional Forest Officer,**  
**Keonjhar Division.**