



No.5-ORC544/2023-BHU

31st January, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & CC Deptt.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar – 751 001.

Sub: Diversion of 25.981 ha of Reserve Forest land (including 2.460 ha earmarked as Safety Zone) in Toda RF for mining of Iron Ore in ML No.139 (A&B) under Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh District, Odisha by M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL).

Ref: State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0103-2022-98/FE&CC dated 03.01.2023.

Madam,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the State Govt. vide letter under reference has submitted the above mentioned proposal to this office seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. On scrutiny of the proposal following has been observed.

- 1) There are two proposed mining patches have a strip of virgin forest between them. There is no connecting link between these two patches as per the present proposal. Is it not required to have connection link in future?
- 2) There is a road inside the identified CA land. Agricultural and settlements (encroachment) are also observed in some parts of CA patch. As per DSS, area suitable for plantation under CA is 47 ha and area covered under road is 2.39 ha, thus excluding the area of the road, actual area suitable for plantation becomes to 44.61 ha. Additional degraded forest land may be identified as per the guidelines.

It is therefore requested to furnish the above information to this office for further processing of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawany, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751 023 for kind information and necessary action.
2. The Chief General Manager, Kalta Iron Ore Mines, Rourkela Steel Plant, SAIL, At/PO: Kalta, Dist: Sundargarh-770052, Odisha for information and necessary action.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)