



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

E-mail:- nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. /9F (MG)-70/2021

Dated, Bhubaneswar the March' 2026

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 22.697 ha of Forest land of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block within the total mining Lease area of 456.100 ha in Keonjhar District of M/s OMC Ltd of Keonjhar District

Ref: - F. No. 8-49/1998-FC (PTI) dt.10.08.2025 of MoEF & CC, GoI

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI, New Delhi has accorded Stage-I/in-principle approval vide Letter F. No. 8-49/1998-FC (PTI) dt.09.02.2024 for diversion of 22.697 ha of forest land of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block within total Mining Lease area of 446.100 ha of Odisha Mining Corporation Limited in Keonjhar District of Odisha under under Section-2(1)(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 subject to fulfilment of 32 nos. of conditions. The point wise compliance had been submitted to MoEF & CC, GoI from this office on 17.06.2025. After scrutiny of the compliance, some observations has been made by MoEF & CC, GoI. The compliance to same received from the RCCF, Rourkela is as follows: -

Observation (i):- In compliance to Condition No. 5 of Stage-I approval, State Government has not taken action against the officers responsible for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam, 1980, under 3(A)/3(B) or under relevant local Act of the State and /or Central Act for unauthorized use of Forest land. This need to be complied and a detail compliance report in this regard should be submitted by the State.

Compliance:- The User Agency, in their compliance dated 09.01.2026, has stated that, M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC) has initiated action by issuing show-cause notices to the officers who were posted at the site during the period of violation. Copies of the show-cause notices issued is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-I** Series for reference.

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Observation (ii):-*In compliance to condition no. 2 (vii) of Stage-I approval, copy of Notification of 46.082 ha area, as submitted by the State Government is not legible. Legible copy of the same needs to be furnished.*

Compliance:- A legible copy of the notification No.16143 dated 25.08.2012 for the area over 30.8047 ha and No.16137 dated 25.08.2012 for the area over 15.2771 ha declaring as Protected Forest are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-II**.

Observation (iii):- *In compliance of the condition no. 7 the State Govt. has not provided the GPS Ids of the upload KML files. The same shall be provided for verification.*

Compliance:- In compliance with Condition No. 7 of the Stage-I approval dated 09.02.2024 issued by MoEF&CC, Government of India, New Delhi, the KML files of the total diversion area, Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area, Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) area, and the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) area have been uploaded on the e-Green Watch portal. Copies of the relevant screenshots are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-III** for reference.

Observation (IV):- *In compliance to the conditions no 4 of the Stage-I approval, the total Penal NPV for violation has not been deposited. The 8-49/1998-FC (PT1) I/126964/2025 needful shall be done and a detailed report along with payment details shall be submitted in this regard.*

Compliance: -In compliance with the above condition, it is submitted by the DFO, Keonjhar Division that:

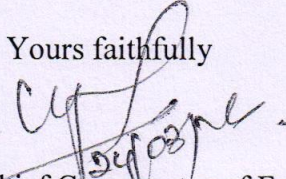
1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division, has raised a demand of ₹16,46,70,900/- towards Penal NPV for violation over 22.697 ha of Sabik Kissam forest land, apportioned between the ex-lessee i.e. M/s Essel Mining & Industries Limited (₹4,84,64,623/-) and the present lessee, M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC) (₹11,62,06,277/-) vide this office letter No. 4059 dated 16.05.2024.
2. M/s OMC has deposited its apportioned share of Penal NPV amounting to ₹11,62,06,277/- on 11.06.2024, which has been duly recommended by the State Forest Department, Government of Odisha vide letter dated 17.06.2025.
3. The Penal NPV amount pertaining to the ex-lessee for an area of 5.76 ha, amounting to ₹4,84,64,623/-, remains unpaid. The ex-lessee has challenged the said demand before the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa in W.P.(C) No. 21054 of 2025, and the matter is presently subjudice.
4. As per Clause 7.4.iv. (b) of the *Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Rules, 2023* (MoEF&CC letter dated 29.12.2023), penal action for violations committed during the period of the previous allottee is applicable only to the previous allottee.

Accordingly, the Penal NPV to the extent applicable to the present lessee (OMC) has already been deposited. The balance Penal NPV pertains exclusively to the ex-lessee and the matter is under adjudication before the Hon'ble High Court.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of Van (Suraksha Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 22.697 ha forest land involved in the total mining lease area over 456.100 ha of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore mines under Keonjhar Forest Division and Keonjhar District of Odisha.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 6536 Date. 25-03-2026 ✓

Copy forwarded to the Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha for information with reference to his office Memo No.26070/FE&CC dt.30.08.2025.



Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. Date.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information with reference to his office Memo No.650 dt.17.02.2026.



Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. Date.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Divisions for information & necessary action with reference to Memo No.651 dt.17.02.2026 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.



Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. Date.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Vigilance and Land Officer, Authorized Signatory, M/s OMC House, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary.



Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)