

Government of Odisha
Forest & Environment Department

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No.10F(Cons) 50/2018 17632 /F&E, Bhubaneswar, dated the 16/8/18

From

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS
Special Secretary to Government

To

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 401.7824ha.including 7.2807ha. of safety zone out of total forest land of 519.7472ha within total Mining Lease area of 618.576ha. for Iron Ore mining in Gandhamardan(Block-A) Mining lease in Keonjhar District, Odisha of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. during validity of Mining lease period as per Amended provision of MMDR Act, 2015

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to letter No. 8-27/2016-FC dt. 6.12.2017 of the MoEF&CC, GoI on the above mentioned subject and to say that on the request of the State Government, the decision on the above mentioned forest diversion proposal was deferred by MoEF&CC, GoI till submission of approved Biodiversity Conservation Plan of Gandhamardan Region is made by the State Government.

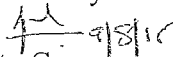
The Department of Biotechnology & Medical Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, who was entrusted by the State Government with the responsibility of undertaking study of biodiversity and its conservation Plan of the Gandhamardan Region at project cost in compliance to the additional condition stipulated by the Eastern Regional Office vide their letter No. 5-ORA014/2005-BHU dt. 18.10.2007 for diversion of forest land in Gandhamardan-B Mining lease, have also submitted their report on *Scientific study on Biodiversity and its conservation for forest land around Gandhamardan Region in Keonjhar district*. The mitigative measures suggested in the Conservation Plan includes measures on revegetation/regeneration, faunal diversity, SMC etc in the region. In order to implement the suggested measures, the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division had furnished the financial outlay which has also been technically approved by PCCF, Odisha for an estimated outlay of Rs. 9,54,17,000/-. The Biodiversity Conservation as well as the approved financial outlay for implementing the suggested measures have been accepted. A copy of 'Scientific study on Biodiversity and its conservation for forest land around Gandhamardan Region in Keonjhar district' prepared by NIT, Rourkela and copy of approved financial outlay thereof is attached

herewith for reference. The user agency, OMC Ltd, vide their letter dt. 3.8.2018 has also intimated to have deposited the approved cost of implementing the mitigative measures to the tune of Rs. 9,54,17,000/- through e-portal of MoEF&CC vide UTR No. ANDBH 18214486246 dt. 2.8.2018. Copy of the RTGS receipt is enclosed herewith for kind reference.

In view of above, it is requested that the MoEF&CC may take into consideration of the Biodiversity Conservation Plan in respect of Gandhamardan Region and take further steps to place the matter before the Forest Advisory Committee for considering the forest diversion of balance forest land of 401.7824ha.including 7.2807ha. of safety zone out of total forest land of 519.7472ha within total Mining Lease area of 618.576ha. for Iron Ore mining in Gandhamardan(Block-A) Mining lease in Keonjhar District, Odisha of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. during validity of Mining lease period as per Amended provision of MMDR Act, 2015 and convey their stage-I approval order for this proposal for further action at this end.

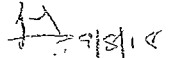
Encl: as above

Yours faithfully


Special Secretary to Government

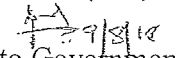
Memo No. 17633 /Dt. 10/8/18

Copy with copy of enclosures forwarded to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action..


Special Secretary to Government

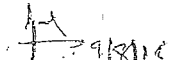
Memo No. 17634 /F&E., Dated- 10/8/18

Copy forwarded to the Pr.C.C.F.,Odisha /Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(WL) & CWLW, Odisha for information & necessary action.


Special Secretary to Government

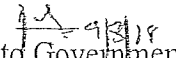
Memo No. 17635 /Dated. 10/8/18

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle/ RCCF, Bhawanipatna/Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division/ Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi(South) division for information and necessary action.


Special Secretary to Government

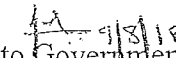
Memo No. 17636 /Dated. 10/8/18

Copy forwarded to the Steel & Mines Department/Collector, Keonjhar for information and necessary action.


Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 17637 /Dated. 10/8/18

Copy forwarded to the Managing Director, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd, OMC House, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to their representation dt. 3.8.2018 to F&E Department.


Special Secretary to Government