

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.pccfhoff@odisha.gov.in / nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. /9F (MG) -66/2021
Dated, Bhubaneswar the November' 2023

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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(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) – GoI observations regarding.

Ref: -Letter No. 8-13/2022-FC dated 01.09.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, the compliance to the observations of Govt. of India vide letter under reference is furnished below:-

Observation (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.

Compliance: In this regard, detailed consultation with the State Govt. Authorities, Ministry Officials, WII and other stakeholders including mining lessees was carried out under the Chairmanship of DDGF (C) Bhubaneswar and PCCF (Nodal), Odisha on 17.10.2023. The copy of the minutes of the said meeting is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

Observation (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.

Compliance:The State Govt. of Odisha has revised the amount of compensation payment for different types of depredation vide Notification No.9128/FE&CC dated 03.05.2023 which is enclosed at **Annexure-II**. Further, to facilitate quick & hasslefree payment, one online app i.e. "Anukampa" is in operation and direct payment to victims has been made. Further, the State Govt. vide Notification No.21763 dated 16.10.2023, the legal heir of deceased person was replaced by "Next of Kin" to facilitate easy, quick and instant payment in Wildlife depredationcases State Govt. has sufficient funds for this also. The notification of the State Government is enclosed as **Annexure-III**. Hence, at this stage further, mechanism for compensation for victims by UA may not be required.


Observation (iii):-The CSIR-NEERI has given its recommendation on carrying capacity vis-à-vis pollution in these areas 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 revalidate the said study or a need to carry a fresh study in this regard.

Compliance:As per recommendation of CSIR, NEERI on suggested sustainable Annual production in Odisha State on 2020-21 is 201 MT. Total Environmental Clearance capacity of 40 Mines (Joda-Koira Sector) is 155.519 MT whereas actual production was 48.087 MT (30.9%) which is much below than permitted dispatch. The Environmental Clearance capacity of 22 Iron Mines in (Joda-Barbil Sector) is 106.631 MT whereas production is 34.420 MT (32.3%) which is also much below than permitted dispatch. Thus, when suggested production will be achieved as per the report of NEERI on transportation ore as per recommendation, there might be a need to carry on fresh study.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations of the Government of India, MoEF& CC, New Delhi dated 01.09.2023 is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

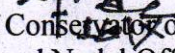
Encl: As above

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

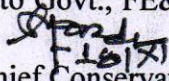
Memo No. / Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to letter No. 8-13/2022-FC dated 01.09.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.


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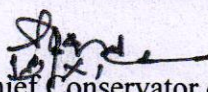
Memo No. 22614 /Dt. 20.11.2023

Copy forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to letter No. 8-13/2022-FC dated 01.09.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi and Memo No. 19961/FE&CC dated 21.09.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha.


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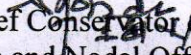
Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Prakruti Bhawan, Plot No.1459, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007 for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 19962/FE&CC dated 21.09.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha.


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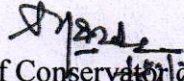
Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.19964/FE&CC dated 21.09.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha.


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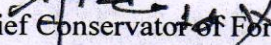
Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Bonai Forest Division / DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 19964/FE&CC dated 21.09.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha.


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Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Authorised Signatory, M/s TATA Steel BSL Limited, 273, Bhouma Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to letter No. 8-13/2022-FC dated 01.09.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi and Memo No.19965/FE&CC dated 21.09.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha.


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