



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODI SHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF
PLOT NO.GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR,
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Letter No.

23799

/9F (MG)-29/2025

Dated, Bhubaneswar, the

26th

November, 2025

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 Central Government under Section-2(1)(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Eevam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.565 ha of forest land including safety zone of (1.020 ha) within the mining lease area of 18.00 ha in respect of Bhanjapali Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District by Sri J. N. Patnaik (Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/27247/2017)-reg.

Ref: Letter dated 10.11.2025 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC, (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi have raised EDS dated 10.11.2025 for necessary compliance in respect of diversion of 12.565 ha of forest land including safety zone of (1.020 ha) within the mining lease area of 18.00 ha in respect of Bhanjapali Iron Ore Mines under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District by Sri J. N. Patnaik. The point wise compliance submitted by the Project Proponent is as follows:-

EDS No.(I):- The State Government has reported violation in the proposal. In this regard, the State Government shall submit the chronological details of violation, including the area broken up during different time periods, action taken by the State against the violation. The State Govt. shall also submit the details of Court Case if any filed with regard to violation or otherwise and present status of Court Case.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the chronological details of violation done by the Project Proponent has been provided in **Annexure-1A to 1G**.

Further, the details of court cases are furnished herewith as **Annexure-2A to 2D**.

- That the Project Proponent Sri Jitendra Patnaik has filed misc case No.I.A4/07 against the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division in the Court of Civil Judge (Junior Division) Bonai. The learned Civil Judge issued order that the Misc. Case is disposed of on context against the O.P. That the O.P. is hereby temporary injunctioned from prohibiting the petitioner to continue in his Mining Work i.e. extraction of ore for the mining area. The copy of the order sheet is enclosed as **Annexure-2A**.

- The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has filed appeal in the Hon'ble Court of the District Judge, Sundargarh against the order dated 19.01.2008 passed by the Civil Judge (Junior Division), Bonai in C.M.A No.4 of 2007. Accordingly, the interim stay is granted till appearance of the respondent. The copy of the Court order is enclosed as **Annexure-2B.**

- The Project Proponent filed a case in the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha, Cuttack vide W.P. (C) No.5058 of 2008 challenging the legality of the order dated 14.02.2008 of F.A.O. No.3 of 2008, passed by the learned District Judge, Sundargarh. The writ application has been allowed and order dated 26.03.2008 has been quashed and the appellate authority has been directed to fix an early date of hearing of the appeal and disposed of the same on merits in accordance with law. The copy of the Court order is enclosed as **Annexure-2C.**
- The appeal against the order dated 19.01.2008 passed by the Civil Judge (Junior Division), Bonai in C.M.A No.4/2007 arising out of C.S No.3 of 2007 has been dismissed on context but in the peculiar circumstances of case, without any cost and the imposed order of the lower court dated 19.01.2008 is confirmed by the Hon'ble District Judge on 29th Day of November 2008. The Court order is enclosed as **Annexure-2D.**

EDS No.(2):- *The State Govt. has reported that at the time of execution of lease in 21.04.1997, the entire area of 18 hectares involved in the Mining lease were non forest land, but from 06.06.1998, the leased out plots No 1(p) & 54(p) over 12.565 hectares were declared as DLC forest land by the Forest Dept. based on the report of District level committee. The total forest area of 12.565 hectares land involved within the lease has been reported to be broken-up prior to declaration of the DLC forest and intimation to the Apex court. The State Govt. shall clarify why the proposal for approval for diversion of forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evar Samvardhan), 1980 has not been submitted since 1998.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the Joint field verification was done on 24.02.2007 to ascertain the Kisam of land within the mining lease. DFO, Bonai, instructed to stop mining operations on 01.11.2007 stating that the non-forest land within the ML which has been broken up was DLC forest land.

The legal process contending the Kisam of land and stoppage of mining operations continued till the end of 2008. Nowhere, the Project Proponent was instructed to file forest diversion till 13.08.2010 when Deputy Director of Mines, Koida stopped the mining operations due to want of EC. The copy of the order of DDM, Koida is enclosed as **Annexure-3.**

The EC was granted by SEIAA, BBSR Vide No.3212/SEIAA, dated 14.05.2015 for 05 years wherein there was a condition to file forest diversion for the area for which EC was granted.

Accordingly, forest diversion proposal was filed vide State SL. No.700/14 dt. 30.07.2014 which is still under pipeline for obtaining final approval. The SEIAA letter no. 3212/SEIAA on dated 14.05.2015 is enclosed as **Annexure-3A**.

EDS No.(3):- *The State Government, through Demand Notice dated 02.09.2017, has raised a demand of Rs.123,87,49,199/- for production of minerals in excess of the Environmental Clearance-approved production limits during the period 2000–01 to 2010–11. The State Government shall furnish detailed information regarding this matter. The State Government shall also indicate whether the User Agency has made any payment against the above demand notice. Additionally, details of any related court proceedings, if applicable, shall be submitted by the State Government.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the Deputy Director of Mines, Koira Circle vide L.No. 5076 dt.02.09.2017 has demanded Rs.123,87,49,199/- towards price of mineral and the notional value of 1314301 MT of iron one produced without EC during the period 2000-01 to 2010-11 as per the recommendation of CEC based on the interim order dt.16.05.2014 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of W.P.(C) No.114/2014 filed by Common Cause Vs. Union of India. The copy is enclosed as **Annexure-4A**.

While granting permission for re-opening of mines, the Deputy Director of Mines, Koira circle vide his order no. 3515 dt.26.07.2018 has clearly mentioned that the lessee has deposited Rs.123,87,49,199/- only being the price thereof towards compensation U/s 21(5) of MMDR Act, 1957 along with the applicable interest of Rs.3,14,63,641/-. The copy is enclosed as **Annexure-4B**.

EDS No.(4):- *It has been reported that the Elephant movement is observed occasionally in the nearby applied area. Therefore, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Odisha on the likely impact of the project on movement of elephant needs to be furnished by the State.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the Project Proponent has applied to PCCF(WL), Odisha to for his views on the likely impact of the project on occasional movement of elephant in the nearby applied area of the lease. The copy of the letter is enclosed as **Annexure-5A**. Further, the Project Proponent has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by DFO, Bonai Forest Division to pay the amount if any that would be demanded on account of wildlife mitigation plan. The undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure-5B**.

EDS No.(5):- *In online Part-II, it has been reported that the proposed forest land is highly vulnerable to erosion. Therefore, State Govt. shall submit the comments along with mitigation measures in this regard.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, it may be seen that the lease area is very small and almost broken. No mitigation measure can be taken up inside the lease area. However, mitigation plan on the impact area of 10 km radius from the lease boundary shall be prepared and submitted alongwith Stage-I compliance. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by DFO, Bonai Forest Division to prepare the mitigation plan as per the direction of DFO, Bonai & to pay the amount for implementation of the same. The undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure-6**.

EDS No.(6):- The site suitability certificate has been submitted only for 1.00 ha land identified for compensatory afforestation. Further, the two patches proposed for Compensatory Afforestation are less than 5 ha in area. The state shall ensure that compensatory afforestation patches are of appropriate size as per applicable guidelines. The complete details of CA areas including the suitability certificates shall be submitted accordingly.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the Non-forest Govt. land over 11.586 ha in 02 patches in village Khariabhal, Sianbanal under Koira Tahasil has been allotted by Collector, Sundargarh in favour of the lessee for CA against the proposed 12.565 ha DLC land of Bhanjapalli Iron Ore Mines of J.N Patnaik applied for diversion. The site suitability certificate in respect of two patches jointly signed by Tahasildar, Koira and DFO, Rourkela is enclosed as **Annexure-7A**.

Further, the lessee has provided 1.00 ha non-forest Govt. land in village Khariabhal against the diversion of Safety Zone over 01.020 ha within the mining lease. The site suitability certificate-cum-joint verification certificate duly signed by Tahasildar, Koira and DFO, Rourkela is enclosed as **Annexure-7B**.

The patches selected for CA are adjacent to each other although they come under the ambit of different Revenue Villages. Further, the CA land identified are contiguous to the existing Revenue forest land under Category “Open jungle mainly Sal”. It satisfies the extant guidelines for CA land.

The details of the land identified for CA is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Village	Tahasil	Plot No.	Khata No.	Kisam	Area	Remarks
1.	Khariabhal	Koira	426(P)	100(AAA)	Pahad	19.43	Suitable for plantation
2.	Sianbahal	Koira	32(P)	21(AAA)	Dungur	9.20	—Do—
3.	Khariabhal	Koira	426(P)	100(AAA)	Pahad	2.47	—Do—
				Total		31.10 Ac=12.586 ha	

The KML file of the CA land identified has been furnished in shape of **Pen-Drive**.

EDS No.(7):- State Government has not uploaded Cost Benefit analysis as per the Ministry' guidelines and on prescribed format on Parivesh portal. The same needs to be submitted and uploaded on Parivesh portal.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the cost of the project has been evaluated by DFO, Bonai and benefit of the project has been estimated by the user agency. The cost benefit ratio comes to 1:23. The copy of Cost Benefit analysis is enclosed as **Annexure-8**.

EDS No.(8):- The DSS analysis of the area proposed for diversion and area proposed for CA revealed the following: (a)the component wise details of the proposed project area(both forest and no forest) is not available, the same needs submission.(b)After the analysis of the KML file of the proposed CA land it has been observed that there is an overlap between Khariabhal Patch-1 and Patch-2. In this regard the state shall provide the correct KML files.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the proposed land use as furnished by the State Govt. vide letter no.FE- DIV-FLD-0022-2025-10F (Cons)-17/2025-29563/FE & CC dated 20.09.2025 is furnished below:

Sl No	Pattern of utilization	Forest in ha	Non-forest in ha	Grand Total in ha
1	Mining and haul road	9.10	2.10	11.20
2	Storing minerals	-	0.423	0.423
3	Dumping of overburden	1.901	-	1.901
4	Infrastructure	0.544	0.305	0.849
5	Magazine	-	0.010	0.010
6	Un disturbed area	-	1.647	1.647
Sub-Total		11.545	4.485	16.030
7	Safety zone along the 7.5mtr Lease boundary	1.020	0.815	1.835
8	Safety zone around the magazine	-	0.135	0.135
Total Safety zone		1.020	0.950	1.970
Grand Total		12.565	5.435	18.00

Further, the CA land in village Khariabhal has been identified in two phases. Both the patches are part of the same plot. The rectified KML file has been furnished in shape of a pen-drive.

EDS No.(9):- *The State Govt. shall submit the MoM of PSC with part-IV as per the provisions of the Guidelines issued dated 25.01.2024.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, as per guideline of MoEF & CC, GoI on 25.01.2024 to realign the proposal of Parivesh 1.0, it was placed before 79th Project Screening Committee held on 21.11.2025 through virtual mode for processing of the forest diversion proposal and accorded its approval regarding completeness and correctness of the proposal. The MoM of PSC and the Part-IV are enclosed as **Annexure-9**.

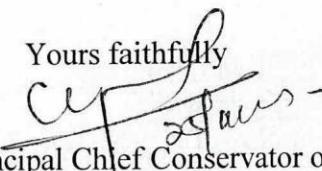
EDS No.(10):- *The State Government shall provide details on how the requirements of electricity, water and mineral evacuation will be met for the proposed project, as well as information regarding any additional forest land required for this purpose. Further, the State Government shall also submit the mineral transportation plan and the mineral utilization plan for the proposal.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the Project Proponent intimated that the electric connection has been taken from the Public utility transmission feeder of OPTCL. No further forest land is required for transmission line. To meet the water requirement, permission has been obtained from Central Ground Water Board vide letter no.CGWA/NOC/MIN/REN/1/2024/9495 dt.13.05.2024 to utilize 9 KL water daily. The copy is enclosed as **Annexure-10**.

EC allowed for 0.26 MTPA by SEIAA. As per SOTM, the Project Proponent are entitled to transport the materials by truck from the mines to elsewhere. To meet the requirement of end users, the minerals are being sold inside the State & outside the State.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations of Government of India, MoEF & CC(FC Division), New Delhi dated 10.11.2025 is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl:- Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

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

Memo No. 23800

/Dt. 26-11-2025

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 dated 10.11.2025 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, (FC Division), New Delhi.

25/11/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 23801

/Dt. 26-11-2025

Copy alongwith the compliance report 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 dated 10.11.2025 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, (FC Division), New Delhi.

25/11/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 23802

/Dt. 26-11-2025

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action.

25/11/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 23803

/Dt. 26-11-2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for information and necessary action.

25/11/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 23804

/Dt. 26-11-2025

Copy forwarded to Sri J.N. Patnaik, Mine Owner, Bonaikela, Joda, Dist-Keonjhar-758038 for information.

25/11/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

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PROPOSAL FOR DIVERSION OF 12.565 HA FOREST LAND INCLUDING SAFETY ZONE (1.020 HA) WITHIN MINING LEASE AREA OVER 18.0 HA IN RESPECT OF BHANJAPALI IRON ORE MINES UNDER BONAI FOREST DIVISION Q SUNDARGARH DISTRICT BY SRI J. N. PATNAIK.

PROJECT CATEGORY: MINING / QUARRYING

FOREST AREA – 12.565 ha (DLC Forest – 11.970 ha + PRF – 0.595 ha)

PROPOSAL NO- FP/OR/MIN/27247/2017

FOREST DIVISION- BONAI FOREST DIVISION

Bhanjapalli Iron Ore project, a mining project located in village Bhanjapalli under Koira Tahasil of Sundargarh District under Bonai Forest Division. The proposal has been applied by Sri J. N. Patnaik on Parivesh 1.0 on dated 02.08.2019. The proposal has been duly processed in hardcopy by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, RCCF, Rourkela Circle, State Nodal Officer and Govt. of Odisha, FE&CC Department and was forwarded to GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for according necessary approvals under Section 2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The AIGF, GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi (FC Division) has raised EDS on 10 points which has to be complied by the State Forest Department. The EDS No. ix has stipulated that the State Govt. shall submit the MOM of PSC with Part-IV as per the provisions of the guideline issued dated 25.01.2024.

Hence, the proposal was taken up in PSC meeting for complying the EDS stipulations of MoEF&CC, GoI dt. 10.11.2025.

In view of above observation, the PSC recommended the proposal to forward to the State Govt. for grant of Forest Clearance as per provision of Section-9 (16) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the chair.

24/10/2025
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act)
O/c the P.C.C.F, Odisha, Bhubaneswar