

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 1st May, 2023

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Kashvi Power & Steel Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 60.508 ha of forest land including 2.331 ha of safety zone in Dholta Pahar Iron Ore Block for iron ore mining in Bonai Forest Division under Sundargarh District, Odisha –reg. (Online No. FP/OR/MIN/150522/2021)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-00-0030-2023-5799/FE&CC dated 28.03.2023 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that preliminary scrutiny of the proposal revealed following shortcomings:

- i. As per DSS analysis, based upon decision Rule 1, the area falls in High Conservation Value Zone. Moreover the area is also an important wildlife habitat. The justification for proposing mining in this biodiversity rich area shall be provided.
- ii. The state government shall submit a detailed report on the possible impact of mining on forest and wildlife in this area.
- iii. The area is very dense forest and Elephant Movement is reported in the area proposed for diversion. Therefore, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Odisha needs to be provided by the State Government.
- iv. The area proposed for mining is within a pristine and very dense forest. Mining activities in this area would require road, electricity and water. However the proposal does not include the details of how such requirements will be met and whether additional forest land will be required for that or not.
- v. Legible copy of the approved mining plan has not been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal which is required to be done.
- vi. The State Govt shall ensure that the proposed component wise land-use is in conformity with the landuse in the approved mining plan. A comparative analysis of the same shall be made and justification for variation if any shall be provided.
- vii. All the documents pertaining to Compensatory Afforestation like CA scheme, KML file, DGPS Maps, SOI toposheets etc have not been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
- viii. Kachha road and mined area is visible in the area proposed for Compensatory

Afforestation. The areas proposed for CA must be free from all encumbrances. The State Govt shall also ensure that the proposed CA areas are not part of any mining lease and are not proposed for mining.

- ix. The copy of the ownership/revenue record and the documentary evidence regarding allotment of Non forest Govt land for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation shall be submitted.
- x. The KML file of the proposed area indicating the land use plan/component wise breakup/ mineralized and non-mineralized zonation shall be submitted.
- xi. Many non-site specific activities like Mineral stackyard, OB Dump, Mineral processing etc. are proposed on forest land. The justification for proposing non site specific activities on forest land shall be submitted.
- xii. The Cost benefit ratio has been mentioned as 1:186 which is very high. The State govt. shall recheck the same. Further the CB analysis has to be prepared keeping in view the parameters and format prescribed in the FCA Handbook of guidelines.
- xiii. A copy of the approval of Regional wildlife plan and the basis of calculation of the money proposed to be realized from the User agency in this regard shall be submitted.
- xiv. CA Scheme, Site Suitability Certificate, KML file of CA land in lieu of 1.5 times of safety zone may be provided/Uploaded on portal.

The State Government, is therefore, requested to furnish the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF(C) Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division.