

No.5-ORB572/2023-BHU

31st May, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha,
Kharavel Bhavan, Bhubaneswar- 751001.

Sub: Diversion of Diversion of 3.960 ha (Fresh diversion 0.970 ha + rediversion of 2.990 ha) of forest land for laying of water pipeline from Kandara to Nuagaon Iron Ore Mines of M/s JSW Utkal Steel Ltd. under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha.

Ref: State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0043-2023-10014/FE&CC dated 15.05.2023.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the State Govt. vide letter under reference has submitted the above mentioned proposal to this office seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. On examination of the proposal, it is observed that Stage-II forest clearance was granted in favour of NHAI (the primary user agency) for diversion of 174.1595 ha of forest land for 4/6 laning, widening & strengthening of NH-215 of Rimuli-Rajamunda Section and as per FC Act guidelines the NHAI has provided degraded forest land for raising compensatory afforestation as a Central PSU. In the instant proposal, the user agency i.e. M/s JSW Utkal Steel Ltd. (secondary user agency) has proposed for re-diversion of 2.990 ha of already diverted forest land in favour of NHAI.

Since, the secondary user agency is a private user agency; the special provision given to Central PSU for raising compensatory afforestation can not be given to a private agency. Hence, it is requested that equal non-forest land may be identified for raising compensatory afforestation for the instant diversion proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751 023 for kind information and necessary action.
2. The Director, M/s JSW Steel Ltd., Plot No.3, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar-751009 for information and necessary action.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)