

I/9695/2022

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003  
**Dated: 12th July, 2022**

To

**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar**

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha of forest land in favour of M/s M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited for iron ore mining in Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block in Keonjhar and Bonai Forest Division in Districts Keonjhar and Sundargarh (Odisha) -reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022-10644 dated 17.06.2022, on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government and to say that examination of said proposal in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. Elephant Habitat is reported in the area proposed for diversion; further, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Odisha on the likely impacts of the project on the elephant habitat and other scheduled species reported in the area has not been provided and information on the same needs to be provided by the State Government to the Ministry.
- ii. Cost benefit ratio has been estimated to be 1:157,53 which seems to be on higher side. It seems estimation of cost and benefits components has not been done properly i.e., cost corresponding to 42.608 ha has been estimated while the benefits to be accrued from the entire mining lease area have been accounted for in the analysis. The analysis needs to be re-estimated by accounting CB parameters appropriately.
- iii. Part-II and details given in the mining plan mentions that an area of 8.693 ha has been reported to be under use for road (0.726 ha, infrastructure (2.286 ha) and safety zone (5.681 ha). The State Government, therefore, needs to confirm whether the use of area of 8.693 ha involves forest land and status of violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 if any committed by the user agency.
- iv. The proposal does not involve displacement of people. However, Google Satellite imagery shows cultivation in the area. The State Government may therefore furnish its comments on the visible cultivation activity in the mining lease area and measures proposed to stop or remove such activities from the area.
- v. Single consolidated KML file depicting the purpose-wise breakup of forest land as well as non-forest land, including the safety zone, may be furnished by the State.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

**Copy to:-**

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1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
5. Guard file.