

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110 003
Dated: 04 July, 2024

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Raipur.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 66.20 ha (57 ha mining lease and 9.02 ha approach road of forest land for Chhotedongar Iron Ore Mine in favour of M/s Bajrang Power & Ispat in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh– regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the the State Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-18/2020/10-2 dated 22.05.2024 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of proposal the following shortcomings are observed:

1. The State Government vide letter dated 30.11.2016 submitted the proposal in favour of M/s Shri Bajrang Power and Isapat Limited under Section 2 (iii) of FCA, 1980 over 66.02 ha Chhotedongar Iron Ore Mines. The said proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 26.12.2016 and AC recommended that "On analysis through DSS it is learnt that the proposed forest land for diversion is in the middle of very dense forest land any intervention is expected to change the adjoining pristine forest. FAC do not recommend the proposal for diversion". After its acceptance of the competent authority, Ministry vide letter no. 8-64/2016-FC dated 09.03.2017 rejected the proposal under Section 2 (iii) of FCA, 1980. Now the State Government has submitted the same proposal under Section- 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 without any cogent justification/

clarification or new facts for submitting the proposal under Section- 2 (1) (ii) of Adhiniyam. The same needs to be submitted.

2. State Government has not submitted valid Letter of Intent (LoI) along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted to the Ministry and uploaded on PARIVESH portal.
3. State Government has submitted a copy of approved Mining plan along with the proposal which was valid upto 14.12.2021. In this regard, the State Government shall provide a copy of valid approved Mining Plan and upload the same on PARIVESH portal.
4. The details of proposed reclamation/back-filled area at the end of mine life has not been given in the project report. The same needs to be submitted. Cost benefit analysis has not been submitted by the State Government. The same needs to be submitted.
5. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 66.02 ha non-forest land and KML file is also submitted for the same, whereas, CA scheme and suitability certificate has been submitted for 76.916 ha. by DFO concerned. In this regard, clarification may be submitted by the State Government whether CA will be carried out in 76.916 ha or in 66.02 ha. Accordingly revised CA details needs to be submitted.
6. Analysis of the area proposed for diversion using DSS analysis revealed the following:-
 - a. Calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 65.778 Ha (software calculated) instead of 66.02 ha as per the proposal. KML file may be verified again and correct KML file for exact area proposed for diversion needs to be submitted.
 - b. Further, Software calculated area of the proposed CA land is found to 65.708 ha instead of 66.02 ha. KML file may be verified again and correct KML file for exact area proposed for diversion needs to be submitted.
 - c. KML file of Mining lease boundary is found shifted from the KML file of proposed forest land. The State Govt. is requested to verify and upload the correct KML file of Mining lease on PARIVESH portal.
 - d. Component wise breakup has been given for an area of 16.318 ha instead of 66.02 ha proposed forest land. Further, KML file of safety zone has also been not uploaded on PARIVESH portal. Therefore, the

State Govt. is requested to provide/submit the KML files indicating the different components depicting the various project components as per the approved mining plan.

- e. Some patches of proposed CA land located in the Villages namely Dumarkholi and Bata are falling in the forest compartment boundary. The same needs to be revisited by the State Government and revised/correct KML files needs to be submitted.
 - f. Presence of Agriculture land and settlements are clearly visible in the proposed CA land. The State Govt may offer comments in this regard.
7. DFO, Balrampur has given Site Suitability Certificate for CA land without mentioning whether the land is free from encroachment and encumbrances. A certificate that the land is free for encroachment and encumbrances shall be submitted.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur.
3. The Nodal Officer, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC.