

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bagh Road Aliganj  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: August, 2023**

To,  
The Addl. Chief 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 Bhusan Power & Steel Limited for non-forestry use of 112.621 ha of Forest land (including 1.808 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) in village Baldihi under Koira Tahasil and Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within the block area of 139.223 ha in respect of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block in Odisha State (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/26965/2017)**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter FE-DIV-FLD-0088-2022-19934/FE&CC dated 09.11.2022 and additional information submitted vide No. 2680/9F (MG)-27/2022 dated 10.02.2023 and vide letter no 10285/9F (MG) -27/2022 dated 29.05.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 17.07.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry: [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The AC decided to defer the proposal and desired following information from the State Government:

- i. Considering the present situation of mining in the area and rise in human elephant conflict the compensation mechanism for the victims by the user agencies needs to be developed.
- ii. The CSIR- NEERI has given its recommendation on carrying capacity vis-à-vis pollution in these areas and the Suggested Ore Transportation Mode (SOTM) in 2014. After lapse of about 9 years, many changes in the landscape and fresh mining in the region, the State Govt. shall examine and submit a detailed report with proper justification, whether there is a need to revalidate the said study or a need to carry a fresh study in this regard.

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

Yours faithfully,

**(Dr. Surabhi Rai)**

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office at Bhubaneswar.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.