

कार्यालय वनमण्डलाधिकारी, नारायणपुर वनमण्डल, नारायणपुर

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क्रमांक/मा.चि./ 5135

नारायणपुर, दिनांक 10/09/2025

प्रति,

मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
कांकेर वृत्त कांकेर

विषय:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 66.20 ha. (57.00ha. Mining lease and 9.02ha. approach road) for Chhotedongar Iron Ore Mine in favour of M/s Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited in Narayanpur District of Chhattisgarh.

संदर्भ :- प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (भू-प्र./ वन (सं. एवं सं.) अ) छत्तीसगढ़ नवा रायपुर का पत्र क्रमांक/ भू-प्रबंध/ खनिज/ 331 - 230/ 1246 दिनांक 20.05.2025

विषयांतर्गत निवेदन है कि, संदर्भित पत्र के माध्यम से मेसर्स बजरंग पावर एण्ड इस्पात लिमिटेड सिलतरा रायपुर के पक्ष में छोटेडोंगर लौह अयस्क खदान के लिए व्यपवर्तन हेतु (वनसंरक्षण एवं संवर्धन) अधिनियम 1980 के तहत 66.02 हे. (57.00 हे. खनन पट्टा और 9.02 हे. पहुंच मार्ग) से संबंधित प्रकरण में 9 बिन्दुओं की चाही गई अतिरिक्त जानकारी का बिन्दुवार विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

Sl. No.	Comments	Compliance
1.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No. (i), The state Govt. reported that the instant project is site specific in nature owing to mining of Iron ore. However, it is stated that the mine is located over pristine forest and in high conservation zone as per the DSS analysis carried out in the Ministry. Further, keeping in view the fact that the area is in the middle of a dense forest the proposal under section 2(iii) was rejected by the Ministry. The State has neither given any justification in view of the Para 7.8(i) of the consolidated guidelines, nor any new fact justifying the diversion at this stage has been brought out.	a) justification for diversion at this stage:- At present the proposed Site Specific Project Chhotedongar Iron Ore Mine is not over pristine forest as it is located adjacent to one existing operating Iron Ore Mines (within 3 km radius) in the same vicinity, having leasehold area 192.25 Ha of other Company (M/s Jayaswals Neco Limited), for which GOI accorded approval on dated 18/01/2007 under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 vide order no 8-31/99-FC (Copy enclosed as Annexure-A). Further density of the proposed forest area remains 0.6 Copy of the letter in this regard is enclosed as Annexure-B Maps showing the Proposed Mining Lease Area and nearby operating Iron Ore Mine within 3.00 km radius is enclosed as Plate - I. b) justification in view of the Para 7.8(i) of the consolidated guidelines:- It is important to note that M/s Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Limited (SBPIL) is having its registered office at Urla Growth centre, Raipur in State of Chhattisgarh and is one of the leading steel producer in the State of

		Chhattisgarh having total requirement of Iron Ore in the tune of 2.00 MTPA but there is only one captive Iron Ore Mines namely Shri Bajrang Iron Ore Mine located at East Bhanupratappur division, of North Bastar Kanker district, CG having production capacity of 1.00 MTPA only (Relevant page of Review of Mining Plan approved by IBM is enclosed as Annexure-C) and average annual production achieved @ 0.80 MTPA during last 5 years because of its very low grade Iron Ore deposit & less Reserve. The lesser availability of raw material particularly iron ore (about 40% only) hampers the targeted finished steel production and development of the state & nation. Hence to fulfil the requirement of raw material particularly Iron Ore @ 2.00 MTPA, this Chhotadongar Iron Ore Mine is proposed for diversion.
2.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(ii), the state has not clearly specified whether the LOI is valid as on date or not. Moreover, the state has submitted an old letter dated 30.05.2017 issued by the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh. In this regard, in view of the provisions of Section 10-A(2)(c), the state shall clearly specify whether a valid LOI exists as on date or not. Further, the State Govt. has not clarified whether the NOC has been sought/obtained from the Ministry of Mines highlighting/indicating that the validity of letter of Intent (LOI) given to the user agency is still valid as the time limit prescribed for getting necessary clearance has exhausted as mentioned in section 10-A(2)(C) of the MMDR Act, 2015.	The issue of validity of Section 10-A(2)(c) is pending consideration in the Hon'ble High Court, New Delhi. The court in the instant case of the applicant, the court has directed that cut-off date of 11 January 2017 would not come in the way of granting relief to the applicant. As such the LOI is not invalidated in view of the specific directions issued by the Hon'ble Court granting the reliefs of processing the case further. Copy of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Court is enclosed herewith as Annex-D.
3.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No. (iv), the land use at end of the conceptual period has been given for an area of 17.118 ha. Instead of 66.02 ha. Forest land proposed for diversion. Further, the Cost Benefit analysis has not been submitted in the prescribed format. Moreover, old NPV rates have been taken into consideration. The CB ratio reported as 1:263.76 which is exorbitantly high. The State Govt. shall submit Cost Benefit analysis as per the prescribed format and details of proposed reclamation/back-filled area at the end of mine life.	a) Since the entire area is not fully explored in detailed (up to G-1) level, the Mining Plan has been prepared based on the existing available geo-science data and according to the approved Mining Plan. It is currently proposed to utilise 17.118ha. out of 57.00 ha. mining lease area at present stage and the balance unexplored area 39.882ha. is to be undisturbed including safety zone of 7.5m. strip all along the Mining Lease boundary. However the land use pattern expected to be changed after completion of exploration upto G-1 Level. In addition to the 17.118ha. the proposed road of 9.02ha. will be utilized for approach to

the Mining lease area. **So presently total area 17.118+9.02 = 26.138ha. will be utilized for mining and allied activity out of 66.02ha. proposed for diversion (57.00 ha. mining lease + 9.02ha. mine approach road).**

In accordance to the approved mining Plan another 15 nos. of exploratory Bore holes are to be drilled after opening of mine to Re-estimate the mineral Reserve/ Resources.

However, after completion of detailed exploration upto G-1 level, there is possibility of enhancement of Reserve and Resources of Iron Ore and total utilization area for mining and allied activities likely to be changed and Land use pattern likely to be modified.

b) In accordance to the consolidated guidelines and clarification issued under Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Rules, 2023 The Revised and Corrected Cost Benefit Analysis in the prescribed format considering the present NPV rates @ Rs 12,28,590/- per Hect for Eco-class-III Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest of Dense Forest has been prepared and enclosed as **Annexure – E**. As per the aforesaid calculation, the revised Cost Benefit Ratio is 1:55.30

c) The details of proposed reclamation/backfilled area at the end of mine life as per present approved mining plan is given below: -

Since the mining will be carried out by top slicing method, the height of the hill will be reduced and a major part will be converted into pit and some part will be converted as working faces/benches and will be part of hill slope. The mined out area cannot be reclaimed through backfilling and major pit will be converted into water reservoir. The Copy of relevant page of Approved Mining Plan is attached as **Annexure-F** for ready reference.

The entire quarry of 6.930ha. will be rehabilitated by plantation except the area converted is water reservoir and the entire Dump area of 2.698ha. will also be rehabilitated with plantation of native species.

4.	As per the component wise breakup/kml file an area of 39.882ha. has been mentioned as undisturbed area, which needs justification. Further, the state shall specify the proposed land use of the forest area in the entire life of mine, clearly indicating the total area required for mining and other activities.	This is a Partially Explored Block. According to the approved Mining Plan. It is currently proposed to utilise 17.118ha. out of 57.00 ha mining lease area and balance 39.822 ha is unexplored & undisturbed. Hence 39.822ha. is mentioned as undisturbed. As per rule 12(3) of MCDR 2017, the holder of a mining lease shall carry out detailed exploration (G1 level) over the entire potentially mineralized area under the mining lease, in the manner as specified in the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 within a period of 5 years from the date of opening of the mine after execution of such mining lease. After converting the lease into a fully explored mine, the total utilisation area for mining and allied activities likely to be changed & land use pattern likely to be modified. So after exploration the total area required for mining and allied activities including safety zone will be 57.00 ha. in the entire life of mine.
5.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(v) and (vii), the State Govt. has not submitted the suitability certificate for the CA land in Village Tatijharia (12.621 ha.) and Village Bata (18.503 ha.) along with CA scheme. The State Government shall submit the CA scheme along with suitability certificate.	Copy of Site Suitability Certificate for CA land in Village Bata (18.503ha.) & Village Tatijharia (12.621ha.) along with CA scheme is enclosed as Annexure -G and Annexure -H
6.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi) (a) , DSS Cell has observed that the State Govt. has not carried out necessary correction in the KML file of proposed forest land because the KML area of the proposed forest land is found 65.778ha. instead of 66.02ha. The State Govt. has not submitted a CD containing the KML file of proposed forest land. The state govt. shall submit the corrected KML file of proposed forest land.	The Revised & Corrected KML file of 66.02ha. (57.00ha. Mining lease and 9.02 ha. approach road) for the proposed forest land is uploaded in the PARIVESH portal and provided separately in a pen drive.

7.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No. (vi) (c), DSS Cell has observed that still the KML file of Mining lease boundary is found shifted from the KML file of proposed forest land. Hence, the correct KML file of the Mining lease has not been submitted in a CD and neither upload +on PARIVESH portal. Accordingly, State Government shall submit the correct KML file.	The Revised & Corrected KML file of Mining Lease Boundary for the proposed forest land is uploaded in the PARIVESH portal and provided separately in a pen drive. The original LOI for the Lease area over 57.00ha. has been issued by the Mineral Resources Department of state govt. vide letter no. -F3-23/2010/12 dt. 24/12/2014 (Copy enclosed as Annexure-I) comprising the following boundary co-ordinates:- <table border="1" data-bbox="900 444 1458 603"> <thead> <tr> <th>Point</th><th>Longitude</th><th>Latitude</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td><td>81° 16' 58.6"</td><td>19° 24' 43.9"</td></tr> <tr> <td>B</td><td>81° 17' 12.5"</td><td>19° 24' 51.4"</td></tr> <tr> <td>C</td><td>81° 17' 31.9"</td><td>19° 24' 20.4"</td></tr> <tr> <td>D</td><td>81° 17' 17.6"</td><td>19° 24' 12.5"</td></tr> </tbody> </table> And in accordance to the LOI co-ordinates, Revised KML file of the proposed Forest Land prepared & submitted.	Point	Longitude	Latitude	A	81° 16' 58.6"	19° 24' 43.9"	B	81° 17' 12.5"	19° 24' 51.4"	C	81° 17' 31.9"	19° 24' 20.4"	D	81° 17' 17.6"	19° 24' 12.5"															
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8.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi)(d), DSS Cell has observed that still the KML file showing the component utilization of the proposed forest land has not submitted in a CD and also not uploaded on PARIVESH portal. Accordingly, State Government shall submit the KML file of component utilization of forest land.	The desired KML file containing component wise utilization of the proposed forest land is uploaded in the PARIVESH portal and provided separately in a pendrive. The component wise utilization of the proposed forest land In accordance to the Approved Mining Plan, is as follows:- <table border="1" data-bbox="893 1123 1458 1528"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl No</th><th>Activity</th><th>Area (HA)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i</td><td>Quarry</td><td>6.930</td></tr> <tr> <td>ii</td><td>Dump</td><td>2.698</td></tr> <tr> <td>iii</td><td>Road within ML area</td><td>2.480</td></tr> <tr> <td>iv</td><td>Infrastructure</td><td>0.310</td></tr> <tr> <td>v</td><td>Plantation</td><td>2.35</td></tr> <tr> <td>vi</td><td>SZ(Undisturbed)</td><td>2.35</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Sub Total</td><td>17.118</td></tr> <tr> <td>vii</td><td>Un-Explored area (un-disturbed)</td><td>39.882</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Total</td><td>57.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table> In addition to the above another area of 9.02ha. is to be utilised as Approach road to the ML Area. So Grand total area to be utilised = 57.00 + 9.02 = 66.02 ha.	Sl No	Activity	Area (HA)	i	Quarry	6.930	ii	Dump	2.698	iii	Road within ML area	2.480	iv	Infrastructure	0.310	v	Plantation	2.35	vi	SZ(Undisturbed)	2.35		Sub Total	17.118	vii	Un-Explored area (un-disturbed)	39.882		Total	57.00
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9.	With reference to reply submitted at S.No.(vi)(f), DSS Cell has observed that presence of settlements are clearly visible through satellite imagery in the village Dumarkholi(patch-1) and Village Bata(patch-5) which has been proposed for CA. The Sate Govt. shall submit comments in this regard.	Recently on dt. 27/08/2024 the site inspection was conducted jointly by Forest & Revenue dept. of the state govt. in the Presence of Local People along with representative of applicant and found that the CA land in village Dumarkholi(patch-1) and Village Bata(patch-5) is free from encroachment & encumbrances at Ground Level. The Copy of																														

	"Panchnama" is enclosed as Annexure -J. The Proposed CA land solely belongs to Director of M/s Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat limited (SBPIL) as per R.O.R. Copy of ROR is enclosed as Annexure- K. To keep watch & ward of the land, temporary shelter for security / watchman has been made and Whatever infrastructure is visible in the Satellite Imagery are belonging to SBPIL, which are being used by the security guard/watchman deployed. This temporary structure will be handed over to state forest dept. or dismantled as per the advice of Forest dept. as confirmed by Project proponent.
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अतः चाही गई 9 बिन्दुओं की अतिरिक्त जानकारी बिन्दुवार तैयार कर पूर्ण अनुशंसा सहित आपके अवलोकनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु संलग्न सादर सम्प्रेषित ।

पृ0क्रमांक/मा.चि./ 5136

प्रतिलिपि:-

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, (भू-प्रबंध/वन (सं. एवं सं.)अ) छत्तीसगढ़ नवा रायपुर की ओर आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु संदर्भित पत्र के तारतम्य में सादर सूचनार्थ सम्प्रेषित ।

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नारायणपुर, दिनांक 10/09/2025

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नारायणपुर वनमण्डल नारायणपुर