

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

Memo No. 19961 /FE&CC, Date 21.09.23
FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022/ 10F-(Cons)-23/2022

Copy of Government of India, MoEF&CC (FC Division), New Delhi Letter No.8-13/2022-FC, dt.01.09.2023 on the matter of proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha of forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalamang West (Northern Part) Block Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited (Formerly known as Bhusan Steel Ltd) forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha for kind information and necessary action.

He is requested to kindly furnish the requisite information/documents directly to the Ministry under intimation to this Department.

d/18/9/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 19962 /FE&CC, Date 21.09.23

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha for information and necessary action.

d/18/9/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 19963 /FE&CC, Date 21.09.23

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to Steel & Mines Department/ Revenue & Disaster Management Department/ Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department/ Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha/ Collector, Keonjhar/ Collector, Sundargarh for information and necessary action.

d/18/9/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 19964 /FE&CC, Date 21.09.23

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle/ Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division/ Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for information and necessary action.

d/18/9/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 19965 /FE&CC, Date 21.09.23

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd., 273, Bhouma Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

d/18/9/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government



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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 1st September, 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 for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha of forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited (Formerly known as Bhusan Steel Ltd) (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/49169/2020).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022-10644 dated 17.06.2022, letter no. 22410/ 9F (MG) -66/2021 dated 03.11.2022, letter No. 4255/9F (MG)-51/2021 dated 03.03.2023 and letter No. no. 15271/ 9F (MG) -66/2021 dated 28.07.2023 on above subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 21.08.2023, after discussion and thorough deliberation the Committee deferred the proposal and and sought the following information for further action in the matter:

- i. Since many proposals of iron ore mining in this landscape are in the process at the Central Government level or being proposed for diversion. Therefore, there is a need to analyse the issue at the landscape level in order to conserve the forests and biodiversity. In this regard, detailed consultations with the State Govt. authorities and other stakeholders including mining lessees shall be carried out by the DDGF (C) Bhubaneswar by involving ministry officials and WII and report shall be submitted in 45 days.
- ii. Further, 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.
- iii. The CSIR- NEERI has given its recommendation on carrying capacity vis-à-

USEL Div)
27/9/2023
SO (Div)
28/9/2023

vis pollution in these area 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 report with justification, whether there is a need to re-validate the said study or a need to carry a fresh study in this regard.

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

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 04-09-2023 09:53:34

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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