

8-13/2022-FC
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi — 110003
Dated: 22nd December, 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)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022-10644 dated 17.06.2022, and additional information submitted vide No. 22410/ 9F (MG)—66/2021 dated 03.11.2022, vide letter No. 4255/9F (MG)—51/2021 dated 03.03.2023, vide letter No. 15271/9F (MG)—66/2021 dated 28.07.2023 and vide letter No. 9F (MG)- 12/2023 dated 21.11.2023 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 29.11.2023 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords '*in-principle*' approval under Section - 2 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) subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. **Compensatory Afforestation:**
 - a. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;
 - b. The land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under Section-4 or PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, before the Stage-II approval;
 - c. The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
 - d. The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 42.608 ha, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval. The details of CA in NFL along with KML will be submitted at the time of submission of compliance of Stage-I.
 - e. Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - f. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II Clearance;
 - g. 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF;

3. NPV:

- a. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being divened under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 06.01.2022 read with 22.03.2022 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
- b. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;

4. Transportation of ore shall be as per the recommendation in the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI;

5. A holistic transportation plan shall be prepared by the State Govt. aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The same shall be implemented. Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyor belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc. Transportation of ore through road should be minimized in a time bound manner;

6. An Oversight Committee shall be constituted under the Chairmanship of the DDGF (Central) RO Bhubaneswar for 10 years who will monitor and review the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval for these five mines [namely- 1. Netrabanda Pahar iron Ore Block (area 112.621 ha, 2. Netrabanda Pahar (West) area 66.242 ha), 3. Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha), 4. Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines Iron Ore Block area 42.608 ha) and 5. Guali Opencast Iron Ore Mines (area 194.683 ha)] twice a year and submit their yearly report to this Ministry in the month of December. This Oversight Committee shall consist following members and logistics of this Committee shall be borne by State Government at the cost of UAs:

- a. DDGF (Central) — Regional Office Bhubaneswar- Chairman.
- b. One Representative from IIM Bhopal.
- c. One Representative from WI Dehradun.
- d. One Representative from ICFRE.
- e. One Representative from NEERI.
- f. One expert in Geology.
- g. Two other experts nominated by MoEF&CC.

The recommendation made by the said committee shall be considered by the Ministry and if agreed the same shall be binding on the UAs;

7. Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site/species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions;

8. A Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for this entire landscape shall also be prepared by the State Govt at the cost of UA;

9. Soil and moisture conservation measures shall be undertaken in and around 10 KM radius of the mining lease areas at project cost;

10. The conditions stipulated in EC should be strictly implemented and monitored;

11. Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

12. The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage-II approval;

13. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval:

- a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
- b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
- c. Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
- d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and

14. Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:

- a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
- c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;

15. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;

16. The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II approval;

17. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;

18. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;

19. The User Agency shall undertake that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up at project cost;

20. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.

21. A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF (Wildlife) for the protection and conservation of wildlife of the area. A copy of approved Plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of Stage-I approval. Entire cost of implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA of the State;

22. State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, along with compliance of Stage-I approval, as prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;

23. The User Agency shall undertake that agency and the State Forest Department shall create and maintain from funds to be provided by the user agency alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project as per the plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden Odisha. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;

24. The User Agency shall undertake that the project authority needs to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, stabilizing retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion;

25. The User Agency shall undertake that plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred under afforestation on the OB dumps and fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps;

26. The User Agency shall undertake that prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area;

27. The User Agency shall undertake that the angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety;

28. The User Agency shall undertake that vetiver grass can be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump;

29. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concerned Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;

30. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re- grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;

31. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;

32. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

33. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

34. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;

35. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;

36. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

37. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;

38. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and

39. The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

40. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

41. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly; and

42. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

3. After receipt of the compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Guard File.

Signed by
Charan Jeet Singh
Date: 22-12-2023 10:12:02

Yours Sincerely,
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

8-13/2022-FC

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 30-07-2025

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

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 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) Iron Ore Block 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)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022-10644 dated 17.06.2022, and additional information submitted vide No. 22410/ 9F (MG)—66/2021 dated 03.11.2022, vide letter No. 4255/9F (MG)—51/2021 dated 03.03.2023, vide letter No. 15271/9F (MG)—66/2021 dated 28.07.2023 and vide letter No. 9F (MG)- 12/2023 dated 21.11.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, 'in-principle' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 22.12.2023 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. 18578/ 9F (MG)—66/2021 dated 12.09.2024, letter no. 24851/9F (MG)—380/2019 dated 09.12.2024 and subsequent letter no. 25269/ 9F (MG)—66/2021 dated 13.12.2024, and letter dated 06.06.2025, 'final' approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is hereby granted 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

10. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall follow the recommendations of the CSIR-NEERI guidelines and the suggested ore transportation mode SOTM3. Further, the State Govt. shall also ensure the implementation of transportation of iron ore through proposed slurry pipeline from source of ore to their Steel Plant located at Kalinganagar.
11. The State Govt. shall ensure that the oversight committee constituted vide letter no. 8-96/1996-FGC (Pt.-I) dated 29.12.2023 shall submit the monitoring report of the compliance of the conditions stipulated in this final approval every year end of the December.
12. The State Govt. shall ensure the implementation of already prepared Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site/species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions;
13. The Biodiversity Conservation plan has been prepared by the IIM Bhopal for entire landscape of Netrabandha Paar. The State Govt. shall ensure that proportionate cost of implementation of the plan shall be deposited by the User Agency in CAMPA Account before handing over the forest land to the User Agency.
14. The State Govt. shall ensure that the conditions stipulated in EC shall be strictly implemented and monitored;
15. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Soil and moisture conservation measures shall be implemented in and around 10 KM radius of the mining lease areas at project cost;
16. As per the recommendation of the NEERI report the State Government shall explore the possibility for transportation of iron ore through conveyor belt and take a reasoned decision;
17. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be implement in the lease area by the user agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
- Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of final approval in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°;
 - Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°;
16. **Safety Zone Management:** Following activities, at project cost, shall be implement by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
- User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
17. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;
18. The User Agency shall regularly undertake de-silting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per plan submitted along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval, so as to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies.
19. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
20. The User Agency shall undertake that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up at project cost;
21. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
22. The provisions of the approved Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented by the State Forest Department from the cost realized from the user agency on pro rata basis;
23. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concerned Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
24. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
25. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
26. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
27. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
28. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
29. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
30. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
31. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
32. The State Govt. shall ensure that the that user agency and the State Forest Department shall create and maintain from funds to be provided by the user agency alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project as per the plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden Odisha. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
33. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall implement to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, stabilizing retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion;
34. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall maintain that plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred under afforestation on the OB dumps and fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps;
35. The State Govt. shall implement R&R plan (if applicable) as the Rules and Regulations;
36. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall make all possible efforts to prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area;
37. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
38. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall maintain the angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety;
39. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall maintain that vetiver grass can be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump;
40. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
41. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Eevam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1983 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
42. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
43. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 22.12.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006;
44. The monitoring report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) regularly; and
45. The State Government after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion.

Digitally signed by
SUNEET BHARDWAJ
Date : 30-07-2025
09:22:49

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- The DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
- The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- User Agency
- Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

By Speed Post/e-mail

No. FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022-23570/FE&CC, Bhubaneswar, dated the 08 AUG 2025
10F (Cons) 23/2022

ORDER

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Eevam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 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) Iron Ore Block in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited (Formerly known as Bhushan Steel) (Online Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/49169/2020).

WHEREAS, M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd, 273, Bhousa Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar had applied for diversion of forest land over 42.608 ha (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Division + 25.950 ha in Bonai Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Block in Keonjhar District and Sundargarh District.

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi had accorded 'in-principle' approval 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 Districts of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited (Formerly known as Bhushan Steel Ltd.), subject to fulfilment of the conditions as laid down therein vide letter dtd.22.12.2023 (**Annexure-I**).

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi in consideration of the compliance of the conditions of the 'in-principle' approval, have granted "final" approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Eevam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 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 Bhushan Steel Ltd.), subject to fulfilment of the conditions as stipulated therein vide letter dtd.30.07.2025 (**Annexure-II**).

Now, therefore, the Government of Odisha do hereby allow 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 Bhushan Steel Ltd.), as per approved land schedule and land use.

The Collector, Keonjhar, Collector, Sundargarh, Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division, as the case may be are hereby authorized to handover the forest land coming within their jurisdiction, as has been finally diverted after necessary compliance following due procedure of law. Before handing over the diverted forest land to the user agency, it shall be ensured that Net Present Value of the forest land for this project for which approval has been obtained shall be deposited in full, at applicable rates.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division and Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division are also directed to monitor compliance to the conditions stipulated for such diversion in the respective forest/wildlife clearance order and to report, violations, if any, to the Nodal Officer, O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha and to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.

Execution of project activities will be subject to availability of all other statutory clearances required under relevant Acts/ Rules for this project, deposit of requisite funds and compliance of Court's order, if any.

By order of the Governor

(Lingaraj Otta)
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23571/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha for kind information and necessary follow up action.

Appropriate instruction to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division, Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division and user agency may be imparted for required follow up action at their end. It may be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division and Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division that Net Present Value of the forest land involved in this project of the user agency is deposited by them in appropriate head in full, at applicable rates. The user agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for facilitating monitoring of compliances.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23572/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Asst. Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF&CC (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi, Pin-110003/ Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Government of India, Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-23 for kind information and necessary follow up action in compliance to the order of Hon'ble NGT dtd. 07.11.2012 communicated by the MoEF, Government of India vide their letter F. No. 7-23/2012-FC dtd. 24.07.2013.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23573/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

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

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23574/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures 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 immediate necessary compliance.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

It may be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division that Net Present Value of the forest land involved in this project of the user agency shall be deposited by them in full, at applicable rates in appropriate head before handing over of the forest land to the user agency. Besides, funds, if any, due to be deposited by the user agency for this project shall also be deposited by the project proponent before the forest land is handed over to them. The user agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for facilitating monitoring of compliance by them.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division are also instructed to ensure that the directions given to the user agency are executed immediately.

Memo No. 23575/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures 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 follow up action.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23576/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd, 273, Bhousa Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar for information and immediate necessary action.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

The user agency is asked to take following actions immediately as per orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dtd. 07.11.2012 in Appeal No. 07/2012 communicated by the MoEF, Government of India vide their letter F. No. 7-23/2012-FC dtd. 24.07.2013.

i. They shall publish the entire forest clearance granted in verbatim along with conditions and safeguards imposed by the Central Government in Stage-I/II forest clearance in two widely circulated daily newspapers, one in vernacular language and the other in English language so as to make people aware of the permission granted to the Project for use of forest land for non-forest purposes.

ii. They shall submit the copies of forest clearance orders granted by the Central Government/State Government to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal bodies along with the relevant offices of the State Government, who in turn, shall display the same for 30 days from date of receipt.

iii. Detailed action taken in compliance to the above order of State Government shall be intimated to the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division/DFO, Bonai Forest Division/RCCF, Rourkela Circle/PCCF & HoFF, Odisha/Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for reference.

Besides the above, the user agency is also asked to deposit Net Present Value of forest land for this project in full, if not deposited yet, at applicable rates. Requisite funds due for deposit by the user agency on account of this project shall also be deposited under appropriate head.

The user agency shall furnish compliances to the conditions prescribed in the forest/wildlife clearance order to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division & Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division in every quarter, for the purpose of monitoring by him.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23577/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Head, State Portal, I.T. Centre, Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action. He is requested to upload this order along with its enclosures in the website of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department immediately for information of all concerned. This is required in compliance to order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dtd. 07.11.2012 in Appeal No. 07/2012. Hence this may be done unfailingly.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 23578/FE&CC Date: 08 AUG 2025

Copy along with copy of the Annexures forwarded to the Deputy Secretary to Government, Office Establishment Section, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for information and necessary action with reference to their letter No. 12939/F&E dtd. 16.07.2016.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

