

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 30-05-2025

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 diversion of 25.072 ha (originally proposed area is 20.383 ha) of forest operation at Bhubaneswari expansion OCP within Mining Lease area over 658.724 ha under Angul Forest Division in Angul District, Odisha (Online proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/155017/2022)–reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0020-2022-8408/FE&CC dated 24.04.2023 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the 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 24.09.2024 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. 10876/9F (MG)- 377/2022 dated 17.05.2025, '*final approval*' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 25.072 ha (originally proposed area is 20.383 ha) of forest operation at Bhubaneswari expansion OCP within Mining Lease area over 658.724 ha under Angul Forest Division in Angul District, Odisha subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The State Government shall ensure that compensatory afforestation over 62.725 ha of degraded Revenue Forest land which has already been notified as "Karanpur Protected Forest", vide Notification No. FE-DIV-FLLD-0020-2022 10F-(Cons)-66/2017-7514/FE&CC dated 27.03.2025, under Section 33 of Odisha Forest Act, 1972 shall be raised and afforestation works shall start

within two years from the date of issue of final approval. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. The compensatory afforestation scheme, as approved, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department. The CA will be maintained at least for 10 years;

3. The State Government shall ensure that the safety zone is maintained within the diverted area only;
4. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
5. 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:
 - i. Mitigation measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream, shall be implemented within a period of two years with effect from the date of issue of order of diversion of forest land, in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - iv. 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° .
7. The State Government shall ensure that no damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;
8. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting 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.
9. **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:
 - i. 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;
 - ii. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - iii. 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;
 - iv. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is

- maintained as per the prescribed norms.
10. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
 11. The State Government shall ensure that trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
 12. The State Government shall ensure that 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
 13. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall carry out 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 concern 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;
 14. The State Government 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;
 15. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 16. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
 17. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 18. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 19. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 20. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
21. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
 22. 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;
 23. 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;
 24. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 25. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
 26. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 24.09.2024 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, for the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before issuing the order for diversion;
 27. The monitoring report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) regularly.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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