

Sub: Diversion of balance forest land 162.42 ha including 24.150 ha of forest land to be maintained safety zone (as per Sabik settlement record as on 25.10.1980 and after 25.10.1980) excluding the 104.79 ha forest land already diverted pertaining to total ML area of 382.709 ha of Sukurangi Chromite Mines of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd spread over villages like kamarda, ostapal, Saruabil, Sukurangi, Tailangi and Forest block No. 27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of jajpur Tailangi and Forest Block No. 27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of jajpur district (under Cuttack Forest Division), Odisha during extended period of mining lease up to 31.3.2020 as per MMDR Amendment Act, 2015.

1. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. 10F (Cons) 195/2016/13965/F&E dated 29.07.2016 submitted the above mentioned proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Sectin-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The facts related to the proposal as contained in the State Government's letter dated 29.07.2016 are given below in the form of fact sheet:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of balance forest land 162.42 ha including 24.150 ha of forest land to be maintained safety zone (as per Sabik settlement record as on 25.10.1980 and after 25.10.1980) excluding the 104.79 ha forest land already diverted pertaining to total ML area of 382.709 ha of Sukurangi Chromite Mines of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd spread over villages like kamarda, ostapal, Saruabil, Sukurangi, Tailangi and Forest block No. 27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of jajpur Tailangi and Forest Block No. 27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of jajpur district (under Cuttack Forest Division), Odisha during extended period of mining lease up to 31.3.2020 as per MMDR Amendment Act, 2015.
2.	Location (i) State (ii) District	Odisha Jajpur
3.	Particulars of Forests: (i) Name of Forest Division and Forest area involved. (ii) Legal status/Sy.No. (iii) Map	Cuttack Forest Division : 162.42 ha Revenue forest 147.811 ha DPF 14.609 ha ----- 162.420 ha i. SOI Topo-sheet Pg - 978/c ii. DGPS Map Pg - 980/c
4.	Topography of the area	-
5.	(i) Geology	-

	(ii) Vulnerability to erosion	The proposed area is not vulnerable to erosion and do not form a part of severely eroded area.
6.	(i) Vegetation (ii) Density (iii) No. of trees enumerated/to be actually felled	Sissoo, Gambhari, Kuruma, Kangada, Piasal, Sal, Asana, Dhamana, Dhaura, jamu, Kasi, Mahula, Mango, Siddha, Simili, Tentela, Acassla, Achhu, Anla, Bahada, bara, Barabakulia, bela Chakunda, Champa, Chatiana, Chauli, Coconut, Dimiri, Eucalyptus, Gandhapalasha, Giringa, halda, harida, Kalicha, Kalikendu, Karada, karanja, Kathakusuma, Kendu, Koli, Krushnachuda, Kumbhi, Kurei, Kusuma, Mai, Maha Neem, Osta. Palasha, Pani Gambhara, jack Fruit, Patuli, Pempura, Phenphena, Sakuan, Sahada, Sunari, Tentuli, Valia etc. Eco Class I, below 0.4 Above 30 cm girth 11,166 Below 30 cm girth 7,642 Total 18,808 (Pg.964-973/c)
7.	Whether forms part of National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. (if so, details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden	The proposed area do not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. The project area proposed for diversion comes within a distance of 10 Km from the proposed Tiger Corridor in Daitary DPF of Sukinda Forest Range in Jajpur District.
8.	Whether any RET species of flora and fauna are found in the area. If so details thereof	Migratory elephant, Wild Boar, Ratel, Sloth Bear, Peacock, Porcupine, Pangolin, Python, King Cobra found in the area.
9.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	Adjacent to Mahagiri DPF
10.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.	No
11.	Whether any work of in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	No
12.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user	Yes, the requirement of land is unavoidable and barest minimum for the Mining purpose.

	agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project, if no recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	
13.	Whether clearance under the Environment (protection) Act, 1986 is required?	Yes, Environment Clearance has been granted vide this Ministry's letter no.J-11015/409/2008-IA-II (M) dated 18.02.2010 (Pg.907-917/c).
14.	Compensatory Afforestation	Compensatory afforestation has been proposed on 156.771 ha land.
	(i) Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for CA, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patches.	Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 156.771 ha in the followings. Balangi Village: 52.395 ha. Barakaudi Village: 35.610 ha. Jubang Village: 68.766 ha.
	(ii) Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for CA and adjoining forest boundaries.	Map enclosed. Pg- 981/c
	(iii) Detailed CA scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	CA scheme for 10 years of area identified for CA has been submitted by the State Government (pg.875-906/c).
	(iv) Total financial outlay for CA	Rs. 5,38,83,000/- (pg.903/c).
	(v) Certificate from the competent authority regarding suitability of the area identified for CA and from management point of view.	DFO, Cuttack Forest Division has given the suitability certificate and placed in file at Pg-47/c .
15.	Catchment Area Treatment	NA
16.	Rehabilitation of Oustees a) No of families involved b) Category of families c) Details of rehabilitation plan	Nil NA NA
17.	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 along-with resolution of Gram Sabha has been submitted by the State Government (Pg. 668-874/c).
18.	Cost Benefit Ratio	Cost benefit ratio of the project is 1:11.7
19.	Total Cost of the Project	Rs 3202 (Rupees in lacs)
20.	Site Inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in column	The SIR has been done by DFO cuttack and available in file at Page- 69-70/c .

		The proposal has been recommended for approval under section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (Pg. 68/c).
21.	Recommendation	
	i. DCF	Recommended (Pg-66-68/c)
	ii. RCCF	The proposal for diversion of 162.42 ha of balance forest land may be considered subject to the following condition (Pg-71/c): 1. RCC wall to be constructed by the User Agency along the Damsola nallah which is a tributary of Brahmani river to avoid water contamination and pollution. 2. The safety zone area around the proposed mining & dumping area needs to be planted by the user Agency to maintain a green belt.
	iii. PCCF	Recommended (Pg-74/c)
	iv SG	Recommended (Pg-75/c)
22.	District Profile	
	(i) Total Geographical area of the district	2899.00 sq km 725.27 sq km
	(ii) Total Forest area/ Divisional Forest area	3636.854 ha/22 no
	(iii) Total area diverted since 1980	(31.12.2012)
	(iv) Total CA stipulated since 1980 (Forest land)	2452.441 ha
	a. Forest land including penal CA	2968.013 ha
	b. Non Forest Land	
	(v) Progress of Compensatory Afforestation	(31.12.2012)
	a. Forest land	2130.239 ha
	b. Non Forest land	2457.862 ha

3. **SITE INSPECTION REPORT (SIR):** The SIR has been carried out by R. K. Samal IFS, Conservator of Forests ©, Eastern Regional office, Bhubaneswar on 09.09.2016 in respect of diversion of balance forest land 162.42 ha. Including 24.150 ha. Of forest land to be maintained safety zone (as per Sabik Settlement record as on 25.10.1980 and after 25.10.1980) excluding the 104.79 ha. Forest land already diverted pertaining to total ML area of 382.709 ha. of Sukurangi Chromite Mines of Mis Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. spread over villages like Kamarda, Ostapal, SaruaBiI, Sukurangi, Tailangi and Forest Block NO.27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur district (under Cuttack Forest Division), Odisha during extended period of mining lease up to 31.03.2020 as per MMDR amendment Act, 2015.

4. The following officers accompanied during the field visit: Shri B. K. Behera, Sr. Regional Manager, OMC Ltd., Shri M. D. Patra, Manager, Sukurangi Mines, OMC Ltd., Shri A. K. Sahu, ACF, Cuttack and other local officials offorest and OMC Sukurangi Mines.
5. The SIR is reproduced below:

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion

Total balance forest land proposed to be diverted 162.42 ha. Which includes 14.609 ha. DPF (Demarcated Protected Forest) and 147.811 ha. Revenue Forest.

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Forest land In ha	Non-forest land in ha.	Total lease land in ha
I.	Mining	67.362	2.885	70.247
	Dumping of overburden	54.700	0.00	54.700
	Infrastructure for site services	1.335	4.576	5.911
	Sub-grade ore storage	14.873	0.00	14.873
	Road	0.00	1.540	1.540
	Area earmarked for safety zone	24.150	2.100	26.250
	Total land proposed for diversion	162.420	11.101	173.521
II	Untouched tenanted land	0.00	88.849	88.849
III	Forest area already approved by MoEF, Gol for diversion date 21.07.2011	104.790	15.549	120.339
	Grand Total	267.210	115.499	382.709

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

Yes. Infrastructure for site services which involves establishment of township/housing colony for the workers in an area of 1.335 ha. As per Para 4.5 of Forest Conservation Act Guidelines, 2003 diversion of forest land for dwelling houses/residential accommodation is not permissible. This component of land use plan may not be accepted.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates: Rs. 32.02 crores

5. Wildlife: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not: The proposed area not very important from wildlife point of view. However, the proposed area comes within a distance of 10 km from the proposed Tiger corridor in Daitary DPF of Sukinda Forest Range in Jajpur District. Wildlife such as migratory elephants, Wild Boar, Ratel, Sloth Bear, Peacock, Porcupine, Pangolin, Python, King Cobra, etc. found in the area.

6. Vegetation: Dry deciduous forest with mixed vegetation with Sal as dominant species.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled: 11,166 number of trees of different species above 30 cm girth and 7,642 number of poles under 30 cm girth have been enumerated for felling from the area proposed for diversion.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area: Removal of trees will have some bad effect in the ecosystem of the area.

(b) Important species: Species like Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Sisoo (*Dalbergia sisoo*), Asana (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Chhatian (*I*), Mahula (*Madhuca indica*), Harida, Teak, Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), Palash (*Butea monosperma*), Kusuma, Jack Fruit (*Morus sp.*), Dhaura (*Anogeisus latifolia*), Baheda (*Terminalia belerica*) etc.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm: 7,643

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm: 3,523

7. **Background note on the proposal:** Sukurangi Chromite mine of OMC Ltd., is an ongoing mining project for extraction of Chromite ore within mining lease of 382.709 ha. spread over 5 revenue villages i.e. Kamarda, Ostapal, Saruabil, Sukurangi, Tailangi and Forest Block NO.27 in Sukinda Tahasi of Jajpur district of Odisha. Earlier Sukurangi Chromite mine was granted and executed in favour of M/s Serajuddin & Sons over a period of 20 years from 17.04.1959 to 05.12.1979. The mine was operated by the said lessee up to 05.12.1963. The mine was subsequently allotted to OMC Ltd. in the year 20.07.1970 and the lease was executed in the year 1980. Thus, the mine was not in operation from 06.12.1963 to 19.07.1970. A joint verification over the mining lease area showed 80.94 ha of forest land was broken by M/s Serajuddin & Sons and OMC for mining and ancillary activities prior to 25.10.1980. The first mining lease was executed on 20.09.1980 for a period of 20 years. The first renewal of this mining lease was applied by OMC in the year 1999. Pursuant to the provisions of MMDR Act 2015, the Steel and Mines Deptt. extended the lease period up to 31.03.2020. Initially out of the total 382.709 ha it contained 177.76 ha of forest land and remaining 204.949 ha of non-forest land. The lessee had then applied for diversion of 132.94 ha of forest land. However, MoEF, Govt. of India had accorded final forest clearance for 104.79 ha (80.94 ha of already broken up forest land and 23.85 ha of virgin forest land) of forest land during 2011. As per MoEF&CC guidelines bearing NO.8-78/1996-FC (pt) dated 10.03.2015 it has come to notice that out of 382.709 ha of mining lease area 267.21 ha afforest kism land is existing within the lease including 24.15 ha of forest land to be used as safety zone. The remaining 115.119 ha is non-forest land. The 267.21 ha of forest land includes 246.689 ha forest land as on 25.10.1980 and 20.521 ha declared as forest kism after 25.10.1980. The lessee has already obtained forest clearance for 104.79 ha of forest land in year 2011. In view of the above guideline dated 10.03.2015 they have now applied for diversion of 162.42 ha including 24.15 ha of forest land for safety zone of mining lease.

8. **Compensatory afforestation:** 156.711 ha area to be afforested in three villages i.e. Balangi (52.395 ha.), Barakaudi (35.610 ha), Jubanga (68.766 ha) under Kalahandi South Forest Division, Thuamul Rampur Tahasil, Thuamul Rampur (South) & Thuamul Rafilpur (North) Ranges. Out of the total diverted area 7.5 metre along the mine lease boundary is considered as the safety zone area which comprises of 5.65 ha and has been deducted from the total diverted area of 162.42 ha for compensatory afforestation as per the decision of earlier FAC. Maintenance of vegetation of 50 metre on either side of perennial Nallah and 10 metres on either sides of public road have not been considered as safety zone and therefore have not been deducted from the total area of diversion for determining the quantum of compensatory afforestation. The 3 plots selected for compensatory

afforestation mostly are non-forest and scrub except Balangi which contains only 5 ha. of medium density forest cover as per DSS analysis. Copies of DSS analysis are enclosed.

- (a) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:** Yes. Land suitability certificate has been given by DFO, Kalahandi South Forest Division.
 - (b) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:** Yes. Non encroachment and non -encumbrance certificate has been given by the Tahasildar Thuamul Rampur. However, from the DSS report it is seen that some of the areas (about 30%) have been encroached for agriculture.
 - (c) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:** As referred from the compensatory afforestation scheme of DFO, the area selected for CA is not important from religious and archaeological point of view.
 - (d) **Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:** They are in five patches. The patches are compact.
 - (e) **Map with details:** Submitted by the project.
 - (i) **Total financial outlay:** Rs. 5,38,83,000/-
9. **Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:** No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been reported by the DFO Cuttack Forest Division or the RCCF, Angul Circle in their site inspection reports.
10. **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:** The project does not involve displacement of human habitation. Hence Rehabilitation and resettlement plan is not necessary.
11. **Reclamation plan:** The reclamation and afforestation scheme and biological reclamation for the mining project has been provided by the user agency.
12. **Details and financial allocation:** The User Agency stated that the mined out undulating areas and saturated dumps are to be reclaimed and stabilized by taking up tall plantation along the contours interspersed with staggered contour bonds and benches to be planted with soil binding short height species like Agave (to form the lower storey of vegetation) so as to check soil erosion and runoff as well as to increase the green vegetation and built up the eco-system. For this they will take up vegetative fencing, block plantation, soil conservation measures. They have given the cost estimate for each hectare of such activities.
13. **Details on catchment and command area under the project:** Not applicable.
14. **Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:** Not applicable.

15. **Cost benefit ratio:** 1: 11.7
16. **Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:** Recommended.
17. **Recommendations of Add! Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:** Annexed separately.
18. **Conservator of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:** The Chromite ore occurs in a specific band under the Sukinda valley. It is site specific and it cannot be shifted to any other forest or non-forest land.
19. **Utility of the project: Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:** The excavation of Chromite by OMC will give the State of Odisha much needed revenue and help the Steel Sector and industrialization of the State and the country. It is stated that 90% of the Chromite required in India is obtained from Sukinda valley. Most of the workers belong to the ST community. The proposed activities will provide the opportunity for continuation of the services of 200 workmen and 200 staff and officers (400 persons in total) already engaged in mining activities for exploitation of the mineral. Apart from the above direct employment, another 100 people are engaged in the allied activities like transporting ore/waste by trucks. Thus, around 500 people are engaged. The project provides livelihood to about 2500 persons in and around Sukurangi Chromite Mines.
20. (a) **Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:** No.
(b) **Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the Areas proposed for diversion:** No
(c) **Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:** No
21. **Situation with respect to any Protected Area:** The proposed diversion comes within a distance of 10 km from the proposed Tiger Corridor in Daitary DPF of Sukinda Forest Range in Jajpur District.
22. **Any other information relating to the project:** They have complied the earlier stipulated conditions during the Stage-II approval of 104.79 ha. In the year 201 J. The compensatory afforestation has been raised and growth of plants is appreciable.

In view of above, the facts related to the above proposal may be placed before FAC in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held on 9th-10th November, 2016 for their examination and appropriate recommendation.
