

**F. No. 8-01/2019-FC**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change  
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar.

**Sub.:** Diversion of balance forest of 80.826 ha (16.566 ha of forest land and 64.260 ha of non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980) including 3.916 ha of forest land in safety zone and 1.129 ha of forest land in green belt in addition to 52.348 ha of forest land already diverted (total forest land of 133.174 ha in ML) within the total mining lease area over 169.00 ha of Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese Mines of M/s. Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar district, Odisha during extended ML period as per MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015.

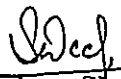
Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of representation as received from the user agency i.e. M/s. Tata Steel Ltd vide their letter No. TSLDEL/128/2019 dated 07.08.2019, regarding condition no. (iii) and (iv) of the Stage-I approval dated 02.08.2019 and to request to withdraw the condition no. (iv) i.e. *"State government shall ensure that 46 ha out of the 80.826 ha un-diverted forest land having vegetation density of more than 0.4, is maintained as green cover, till a comparable area is reclaimed and vegetated"*.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish para-wise comments on the representation of the user agency to this Ministry for further necessary action.

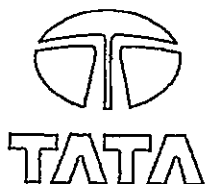
Yours faithfully,

**Encl. : As above.**

  
(Sandeep Sharma)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC) 23.08.19

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Dy. Director General (Central) Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency (M/s Tata Steel Limited).
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.



Inspector General (Forest)  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh, Aliganj Road,  
New Delhi -110003.

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
08/08  
A/C (55)

Ref.: TSLDEL/129/2019  
Date: 07<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Sir,

**Sub:** Proposal for diversion of balance forest of 80.826 ha (16.566 ha of forest land and 64.260 ha of non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980) including 3.916ha. of forest land in safety zone and 1.129ha. of forest land in green belt in addition to 52.348ha. of forest land already diverted (total forest land of 133.174ha, in ML) within the total mining lease area over 169.00 ha of Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese Mines of M/S Tata Steel Ltd in Keonjhar district, Odisha during extended ML period as per MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20092/2016).

This is in reference to our letter number TSLDEL/120/2019 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 (copy enclosed) and the Stage I approval letter granted by MoEF dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 to our above forest diversion proposal for Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese ( F.No.8-01/2019-FC). We would again like to draw your kind attention to the following two specific conditions:

1. State government shall submit detail status of reclamation done by the user agency till date. State government may also see if the user agency had resorted to any violation in respect of any condition stipulated in reclamation plan approved by IBM.
2. State government shall ensure that 46 ha out of the 80.826 ha un-diverted forest land having vegetation density of more than 0.4, is maintained as green cover, till a comparable area is reclaimed and vegetated

We would like to bring to your kind notice the following facts regarding the aforesaid conditions:

- o As far as condition no. 1 above is concerned we are already in compliance with the reclamation plan approved by IBM as part of the Mine plan and the State Government would report the compliance to MoEF & CC while recommending the Stage-I compliance.
- o As far as condition no. 2 above is concerned,
  1. It is humbly submitted that we are unable to locate the 46 ha of forest land where the vegetation density is more than 0.4 within the proposed forest area of 80.826 Ha. Further, as per the site inspection report of DFO, Keonjhar (at Paragraph-9) it has been reported that the proposed area for diversion has been treated as "Eco Value Class - I based on the proximity to Baitarani RF and canopy density is kept at 0.3 and the prevailing vegetation depicted as open mixed jungle mainly Sal on concerned Toposheet". (copy of site inspection report by DFO, Keonjhar is attached for reference as Annexure 1).

*Handwritten notes:*  
19 (P)  
43 67 10/2/19  
27/8/19

**TATA STEEL LIMITED**

Jeevan Bharati Building Tower 1, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor 124 Connaught Circus New Delhi-110 001 India  
Tel.: 91 11 23327072-76 65544000-03 Fax: 91 11 23326265  
Regd. Office Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001  
Tel 022 66658282 Fax 022 66657724  
Corporate Identity Number L27100MH1907PLC000260 Website www.tatasteel.com



2. Similarly, while forwarding the proposal to Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Odisha, Addl PCCF reiterated the fact as stated by DFO, Keonjhar that the said area "*can be treated as Eco Value Class -I and the crop density as 0.3*" (Paragraph no 3: Flora & Fauna composition).
3. Again, while recommending the proposal to MoEF & CC, Government of India, the State government of Odisha ratified the fact that the proposed area is under "*Eco Value Class - I based on the proximity to Baitarani RF and canopy density is kept at 0.3 and the prevailing vegetation depicted as open mixed jungle mainly Sal on concerned Toposheet*" (paragraph no 4: Flora & Fauna) (copy attached for reference as Annexure 2).
4. We would also like to appraise your good self that tree enumeration has been carried out over the proposed Forest Land of 80.826 Ha and as per the enumeration list the total number of trees in the area to be diverted is 2898 Nos consisting of 1943 Nos above 30 cm girth (sound & unsound) and 955 nos of poles (below 30cm girth), which forms is part of the proposal (abstract of enumeration list is attached for reference as Annexure 3). If we derived the tree density in the asking/applied area, it comes out to be around 36 trees/Ha, which does not qualify to be categorized as moderately dense forest (MDF). The same has been also reported in the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office and there is no mention of 46 Ha MDF.
5. Further, the ore in the existing quarries in the proposed area of 80.826 Ha and in already diverted area of 52.348 Ha of Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese Mine has not yet been fully exhausted, hence the said area cannot be reclaimed and vegetated prior to opening the said 46 Ha area. The proposed area is essential for us to keep the mine operational in view of the nature of the deposit.

In view of the facts stated above, we would humbly request you to withdraw the said condition no 2 i.e. "ensure that 46 ha out of the 80.826 ha un-diverted forest land having vegetation density of more than 0.4, is maintained as green cover, till a comparable area is reclaimed and vegetated".

We trust the above meets your requirement and we will be happy to provide any further inputs, if required. Further, may we also request for time to meet your goodself to present the case in details.

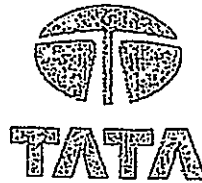
Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Sateesh Singh)  
Chief Resident Executive, Delhi

Enclosure: A/a

226148/2019/O/o DIG(AKM)



Inspector General (Forest)  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh, Aliganj Road,  
New Delhi -110003.

Ref: TSLDEL/120/2019  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

Sub: Proposal for diversion of balance forest of 80.826 ha (16.566 ha of forest land and 64.260 ha of non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980) including 3.916ha. of forest land in safety zone and 1.129ha. of forest land in green belt in addition to 52.348ha. of forest land already diverted (total forest land of 133.174ha, in ML) within the total mining lease area over 169,00 ha of Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese Mines of M/S Tata Steel Ltd in Keonjhar district, Odisha during extended ML period as per MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20092/2016).

Dear Sir,

With reference to the minutes of meeting uploaded in the website of the ministry regarding the Forest Advisory Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 wherein our forest diversion proposal for Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese was discussed as Agenda No.2 ( F.No.8-01/2019-FC), we would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that in the minutes of meeting while recommending the proposal of Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese mines over an area of 80.826 Ha, the following two specific conditions have been mentioned;

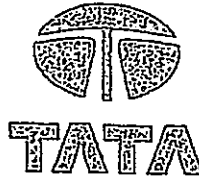
1. *State government shall submit detail status of reclamation done by the user agency till date. State government may also see if the user agency had resorted to any violation in respect of any condition stipulated in reclamation plan approved by IBM.*
2. *State government shall ensure that 46 ha out of the 80.826 ha un-diverted forest land having vegetation density of more than 0.4, is maintained as green cover, till a comparable area is reclaimed and vegetated*

We would like to bring to your kind notice the following facts regarding the aforesaid conditions:

- As far as condition no. 1 is concerned we are already in compliance with the reclamation plan approved by IBM as part of the Mine plan and the State Government would report the compliance to MoEF & CC while recommending the Stage-I compliance.
- As far as condition no.2 is concerned,
  1. It is humbly submitted that we are unable to locate the 46 ha of forest land where the vegetation density is more than 0.4 within the proposed forest area of 80.826 Ha. Further, as per the site inspection report of DFO, Keonjhar it has been reported that the proposed area for diversion has been treated as "Eco Value Class – I based on the proximity to Baitarani RF and canopy density is kept at 0.3 and the prevailing vegetation depicted as open mixed jungle mainly Sal on concerned Toposheet". The same has been reiterated by Addl PCCF and the State government of Odisha while forwarding/recommending the proposal.

#### TATA STEEL LIMITED

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Tel 022 66658282 Fax 022 66657724  
Corporate Identity Number L27100MH1907PLC000260 Website www.tatasteel.com



: 2 :

- 2. As per tree enumeration the total number of trees in the area to be diverted is 2898 Nos consisting of 1943 Nos above 30 cm girth (sound & unsound) and 955 nos of poles (below 30cm girth), which is around 36 trees/Ha, and does not qualify to be categorized as moderately dense forest (MDF).
- 3. Further, the ore in the existing quarries in the proposed area of 80.826 Ha and in already diverted area of 52.348 Ha of Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese Mine has not yet been fully exhausted, hence the said area cannot be reclaimed and vegetated. The proposed area is essential for us to keep the mine operational in view of the nature of the deposit.

In view of the above, we would request you to kindly reconsider the 'special conditions' imposed as per MoM.

On account of the facts stated above, may we also request for time to meet your good self to present the case in details.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Sateesh Singh)  
Chief Resident Executive, Delhi

CC: Director General Forests and Special Secretary

AIG, Forest

24/12/19  
 श्री. ए. ए. चण्डा  
 आयुक्त, वन विभाग  
 जयपुर रोड, अजमेर  
 राजस्थान-305003