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Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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SPEED POST

No.5-ORA262/2015-FCE

Date: 08.06.2017

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block,
Jor Bagh Road, Alliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

Sub: Site inspection report in respect of diversion of forest land of 106.016 ha. (diversion of 103.198 ha and change in land use pattern of 2.818 ha.) in Rebana RF under Keonjhar (WL) division of Keonjhar district, Odisha for installation of mechanized facilities by OMC Ltd. for production and dispatch of 2.5 MTPA of iron ore from their Daitari Iron Ore Mines – reg.

Ref.: Ministry's letter No. 8-27/2017-FC dated 22-03-2017

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited as above, I am directed to inform you that the site inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by the Conservator of Forests (Central) of this office on 27.04.2017 and the site inspection report is enclosed herewith for favour of information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(R. K. Samal, IFS)

Conservator of Forests (C)

Encl: As above

Site inspection report in respect of diversion of forest land of 106.016 ha. (diversion of 103.198 ha and change in land use pattern of 2.818 ha.) in Rebana RF under Keonjhar (WL) division of Keonjhar district, Odisha for installation of mechanized facilities by OMC Ltd. for production and dispatch of 2.5 MTPA of iron ore from their Daitari Iron Ore Mines.

The site inspection of the above diversion proposal was conducted by me on 27-04-2017. I was accompanied by Shri D. K. Pattanaik, DGM (Geology), Shri Shyam Sundar Barik, Regional Manager, Keonjhar, Shri Jagannath Patra, Mines Manager(Daitari mines), Shri Purnachandra Padhy, Dy. Manager, Shri Brajahari Khuntia, Manager (Geology) of M/s OMC Ltd.

DFO, Keonjhar (WL), Shri Ajit Kumar Satpathy and Shri Dilleswar Behera, Range Officer, Brahmanipala Range were present.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion

Reserve Forest-106.016 ha.

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

RF area for diversion		RF area for change in land use			Total area in Ha.
Pattern of utilization	Area in Ha.	Land use approved by MoEF	Land use proposed	Area in Ha.	
Crusher, Conveyor, Storage bin, Pump house, sub-station.	1.641	Stacking & processing and Road	Crushing plant, Conveyor corridor and road	1.508	3.149
Conveyor and transmission line	11.168	Road and Electric line	Conveyor corridor	0.224	11.392
(Left out area of OSCTC) Stacking and reclaiming, conveyor, storage bin, plant road, stock pile, pump house, service centre, construction office, storage area, fabrication yard.	48.96	-	-	-	48.96
Conveyor, plant road, transmission line.	9.242	-	-	-	9.242
Conveyor, pump house, storage bin, wagon loader	28.691	Road	Railway siding	0.438	29.129

platform, weighing area with control room, dispatch yard and railway line.					
-	-	Stacking & Processing and Road	Pump house and pipeline	0.158	0.158
Electric substation.	0.317	Stacking Yard	Road	0.490	0.807
Temporary approach road and permanent roads.	3.179	-	-		3.179
Total	103.198			2.818	106.016

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

No. Does not involve construction of buildings including residential areas.

4. **Total cost of the project at present rates:**

Rs.680.861 crores

5. **Wildlife:**
Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

The proposed area does not form a part of National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the area is rich in wildlife including a number of Schedule-I & II species. Rare and endangered species like Tiger, Leopard, Indian elephant, Mouse deer, Ratel, Sloth bear, Fox, Jackal, Barking deer, Sambar, Hyena, Wild pig, Porcupine, etc. are reportedly available in the area proposed for diversion.

Avi-fauna like Peafowl, Cranes, cuckoos, Doves, Jungle fowl, Kingfishers, Myna, Owl, etc are found in the area. Reptiles like Monitor lizard, Python, King cobra, chameleon, Russel's viper, etc are reportedly available in the area.

6. **Vegetation:**

The vegetation of the site applied for diversion consists of dense forest with a canopy density 0.6 (Eco value Class-I). This stretch of land consists of almost virgin forest. The type of forests found in the area belongs to (i) 3C/C_{2e} (iii) Moist Peninsular Valley Sal, (ii) 5B/C₂ Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest, (iii) E4 Lateritic Semi Evergreen Forest and (iv) 5B/C_{1e} Dry Peninsular Sal forests.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled.

As per the sample plot estimation an estimated 13,060 number of trees to be felled.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Felling of such large number of trees if taken at a single point of time will cause severe damage to the environment of the area. Therefore, as far as possible the trees should be cut as and when required in phased manner.

(b) Important species:

Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Kangra (*Xylia xylocarpa*), Kurum (*Adina cordifolia*), Pahadi sisu (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Bandhan (*Ougeinia ougenensis*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Rohini (*Soymida febrifuga*), Tendra (*Albizia procera*), Kasi (*Bridelia retusa*), Mahula (*Madhuca indica*), Panigambhari (*Trewia nudiflora*), Poijamu (*Syzygium operculatum*), Siris (*Albizia lebbek*), Bahada (*Terminalia Belerica*), Bhalia (*Semecarpus anacardium*), Chara (*Buchanania lanzan*), Harida (*Terminalia chebula*), Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa*), Sunari (*Cassia fistula*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), Mai (*Lannea coromandelica*), Achhu (*Morinda tinctoria*), Bel (*Aegle marmelos*), Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Gandhapalas (*Miliusa velutina*), Bara (*Ficus benglenisis*), Gohira (*Acacacia leucophlaea*), Kendu (*Dispyros melanoxylon*), Karada (*Clestanthus collinus*), Kurei (*Holarrhena antidysenterica*), Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), Babul (*Acacia nilotica*), Rai (*Dillenia pentagyna*), Ambada (*Spondias pinnata*), Dimiri (*Ficus retusa*), Gangasiuli (*Nyctanthes arbortiristis*), Simili (*Bombax ceiba*), etc. Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is the predominant species.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

From the enumerated plots comprising of 94.96 ha. around 5061 number of trees are girth below 60 cm

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

From the enumerated plots comprising of 94.96 ha. around 7,999 number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

7. Background note on the proposal:

M/s OMC Ltd. a fully owned State Government undertaking, has a mining lease over 1018.3085 ha (partly in Revena RF) for mining of iron ore. The mining lease spreads over Daitari hill and Sindoor Mundi hill of Keonjhar and Jajpur districts. Out of the above mining lease area, an extent of 95.60 ha of forest land is broken up and under mining operation for which forest clearance has been granted by the Govt. of India vide letter No.8-164/97-FC dated 25.01.2005. The State Government in steel and Mines Department vide order No.6450 dated 15.07.2015 has extended the validity of this mining lease up to 31.03.2020 as per amended provision of MMDR Act. The proposal

for installation of mechanized facilities for production and dispatch of additional 3.00 MTPA (with scope for expansion) of Iron ore at Daitari iron ore mines, has been approved by the Govt. of Odisha, Steel & Mines vide letter No.SM.OMC.22/08-772/SM dated 11.02.2010.

The proposal involves 106.016 ha of forest land (103.198 ha for diversion +2.818 ha for change in land use pattern) in Rebena RF in Keonjhar district of Odisha to install ore additional crushing and screening plant inside Daitari mining lease of M/s OMC and transporting the crushed iron ore through conveyor belt to area left/surrendered by Odisha State Commercial Transport Corporation (OSCTC) at Baliparbat for tertiary crushing and screening to produce and stockpile the finished products at a new railway siding proposed to be developed parallel to the existing Daitari Railway siding for mechanized wagon loading. The 106.016 ha in Rebena RF proposed to be used for installing mining infrastructure by M/s OMC include 48.96 ha. of pre-1980 broken up forest land being left by OSCTC at Baliparbat in favour of M/s OMC Ltd., 2.818 ha of already diverted forest land (1.890 ha within the diverted forest area of 95.60 ha of Daitari mining lease of OMC Ltd. +0.928 ha within the diverted forest area of 249.968 ha of Daitari Extension area of M/s OMC and 54.238 ha of virgin forest land.

Environmental clearance for production of 3.0 MTPA of iron ore from Daitari iron ore mines has been granted by MoEF vide letter No.J-11015/1003/2007-IA.II (M) dated 22.09.2010. At present Daitari iron ore mine is producing around 2.0 MTPA of iron ore. The shortfall in production is due to want of infrastructure for evacuation of extracted minerals. Transportation through Ghat road is prone to accident due to steep gradient and narrow curves and only maximum amount of 0.5 MTPA of iron ore can be transported through this road per year. The conveyor belt system constructed up to Baliparbat stock yard in 1960 has been renovated but iron ore up to maximum limit of 1.5 MTPA can be transported through it. Govt. of Odisha has signed MoU with many iron and steel industries inside the State. Daitari iron ore mines due to its reserve potential and location enjoys definite strategic advantages compared to other iron ore mines of OMC. It is at a distance of 140 km from Paradip port and well connected to the port by express highway as well as rail. Kalinga Nagar industrial area is located close to Daitari mines. Other upcoming steel plants in Angul, Dhenkanal and Athagarh areas are also located close to Daitari mine. There is good demand of iron ore at present from the steel plants in Kalinga Nagar and other nearby areas. The upcoming steel plants will add to the domestic demand of iron ore from Daitari. There is scope of export also.

In order to meet the domestic as well as export requirement, the OMC Ltd. is in the process of enhancing the production capacity to 6.0 MTPA from Daitari iron ore mines. To process and evacuate the minerals at enhanced rate, the user agency has planned to install an additional crushing and screening plant inside the Daitari ML area and transporting the crushed iron ore through belt conveyor to OSCTC area at Baliparbat for tertiary crushing and screening to produce and stock pile the finished products and to further transport the finished products to a new railway siding proposed to be developed parallel to the existing Daitari railway siding for mechanized wagon loading.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

Forest land of 106.016 ha. proposed for diversion for this project which includes 48.96 ha of pre-1980 broken up forest land being left by OSCTC at Baliparbat in favour of OMC Ltd. for which compensatory afforestation is not required and 2.818 ha of already diverted forest land for which compensatory afforestation has already been provisioned. Hence, non-forest land to the extent of 54.238 ha in Dandapadar village of Thuamul Rampur Tahsil within the jurisdiction of Kalahandi (S) division has been identified for compensatory afforestation. The details are as follows:

Name of Tahsil	Name of village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Total area of the plot in acre	Effective extent of are taken for CA (in acre)	Kissam
Thuamul Rampur	Dandapadar	44 (Abada Ajogya Anabadi)	157	13.95	11.05	Dangar
			158	38.68	38.68	
			159	35.75	35.75	
			160	27.80	25.80	
			171	25.65	22.75	
		Total			134.03 or 54.238 ha.	

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

Yes.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

Yes.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

No.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

Land identified for compensatory afforestation is in one patch.

(e) Map with details:

Enclosed in the diversion proposal.

(f) Total financial outlay:

Rs. 65,96,000/-

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.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not :

No.

11. Reclamation plan:

Details and financial allocation:

This proposal does not involve mining activities and is only considering the conveyor belt and crushing unit. Therefore, there is no reclamation involved in the proposal.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

Not applicable.

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

Not applicable.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

1:2.716

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:

Yes. Recommended.

15. Recommendations of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:

Annexed separately.

16. **Conservator of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:**

It is site specific and it cannot be shifted to any other forest or non forest land.

17. **Utility of the project:**

This project will help in generating direct employment 110 person and indirect employment to more than 1000 persons.

Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:

The area has a lot of Scheduled Tribes population and is expected many of them to be benefited directly and indirectly.

18.

- (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:**

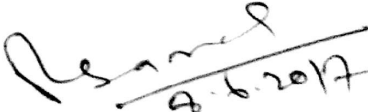
No.

19. **Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**

The Hadgarh Wildlife sanctuary is around 45 km from the project site.

20. **Any other information relating to the project:**

The User Agency has complied all the conditions for the earlier Stage-II approved for Daitari mining (95.60 ha.) vide F. No. 8-164/97-FC dated 25.01.2005 and Daitari extension (249.9685ha.) approval granted vide F. No. 8-02/2013-FC dated 27th August, 2014 for infrastructure and township. Stage-II approved 0.7925 ha. of forest land for widening of existing Ghat road of Daitari iron ore mines vide F. No.8(26)1/2000-FCE dated 06.08.2001.



(R. K. Samal, IFS)
Conservator of Forests (C)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADDL. PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)

As per the direction of the Ministry, the site inspection report of CF (Central) for the proposal for diversion of forest land of 106.016 ha. (diversion of 103.198 ha and change in land use pattern of 2.818 ha.) in Rebana RF under Keonjhar (WL) division of Keonjhar district, Odisha for installation of mechanized facilities by OMC Ltd. for production and dispatch of 3.00 MTPA of iron ore from their Daitari Iron Ore Mines is examined and enclosed for perusal. The user agency has placed this proposal for installation of facilities for increasing their capacity from present production of 3.00 MTPA to 6.00 MTPA from nearby mine and transport through this land to proposed railway siding at Daitari. As per user agency, the existing conveyor system and surface transport by truck may not be able to meet the enhanced workload. From the additional documents submitted by the user agency i.e., valuation of the physical infrastructure by an independent Agency in the year 1998 prior to dissolution of earlier lease holder's organisation (State PSU) and other related documents it appears that an area of 48.96 Ha. was broken prior to 1980 by Orissa State Commercial Transport corporation (OSCTC), which may be broadly enumerated as follows:

1. The earlier user agency OSCTC as permitted from 1966 to 1976 (10 years only) to use this land dump yard for transportation of ore.
2. The State Government permission was not extended beyond 1976.
3. The user agency organization (State PSU) was disbanded in the year 1998.
4. Accordingly it appears, the OSCTC might have stopped using this piece of land for transport/dump yard.
5. It appears that the infrastructure were built much prior to 1980 (may be during 1966 to 1976) and possibly prior to dissolution of the organization in 1998.
6. It may also be presumed that for the safety of the land especially from encroachment the State Govt. had directed OMC to keep the land in their custody.
7. Considering the enhanced transport requirement of OMC and the location of the said land and may be to save fresh land, OMC appears to have moved this proposal.
8. Accordingly, as per fresh user agency, whatever document available, has been submitted as proof of non-forestry use of 48.96 ha of land prior to 1980.
9. However, no clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been taken by OSCTC and the land was under their custody till 2006 even after dissolution of the corporation in 1998.

Considering the above and the site inspection report enclosed herewith, previous user agency of the land appears to have missed to realise the importance of obtaining the forest clearance for the said land. Considering the indications, records and dissolution of original user agency and direction of the State Government to take the land under custody, the offence appears to be unintentional and may be considered leniently. This proposal of new user agency (M/s OMC Ltd.) is recommended for consideration of the FAC.


(R. K. Dey)
Addl. PCCF (Central)