

322
12

FORM - A
(See Rule 6)

Form for seeking prior approval under section 2 of the proposals by the
State Governments and other authorities

PART- I
(to be filled up by user agency)

1. Project Details:

(i) Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the forest land is required:

Sarda Mines Pvt. Ltd., a reputed mining company registered under Companies Registration Act, 1956 is engaged in mining iron ores in Thakurani Iron Ore Mines, Block-B, in Barbil region over an diverted area of 865.276 ha With the increasing demand of iron ore the capacity of the mines has also expanded to manifold reaching upto 15 million tons of ore extraction per annum. The iron ores thus extracted are further crushed, screened, washed and transported to the railway siding at Deojhar in Keonjhar Dist. of Orissa for wagon loading.

The transportation was previously done by trucks carrying the lumps and fines to the railway siding from the mine. But seeing the increased transportation load on the hill road which creates a lot of dust pollution, we have to install a Down Hill Conveyor system of capacity 3000 TPH to shift the finished ore/fines from the mine head to the Deojhar site in a plot, replacing the conventional system of truck transport. The downhill conveying system receives two fractions of iron ore lumps and fines (washed+crushed) from the product stock piles at the hill top through the downhill pipe conveyor at the junction house in the stock yard of wagon loading complex.

The Pipe conveyor system was conceived and designed as an improvement over the conventional belt conveyor system overcoming many of its limitations and problems. The pipe conveyor is a belt conveyor where the belt forms into a pipe shape throughout the transport length except at the feed and discharge ends where it opens out gradually. The shape is given rigidity by means of idlers, which are arranged in a hexagonal pattern around the pipe. The entire conveyor system is supported by pillars put at an interval of 24m span.

The environment clearance in favour our mines granted by Ministry of Environment & Forest vide their letter no. J-11015/1176/2007-IA-II(M) dt. 29.08.2008 (Annexure-VII), mentioned that **the iron ore shall be transported through closed pipe conveyor system**. The pipe conveyor system is a new environment friendly technology developed for transportation of mineral in a valley terrain. The main advantages of pipe conveyor are i) it prevents dropping, leaking or flying off of materials conveyed, ii) No spillage of material on the return side, iii) prevents entry of foreign matter and contamination of material, iv) can negotiate horizontal and vertical curves, v) low power consumption compared to conventional pneumatic conveying, vi) low maintenance, vii) it is suitable for long distance conveying at greater vertical angles, viii) because of the pipe shape of the conveyor there will not be any dust generation throughout the length and thus the system ensures a healthy and pollution free environment.

As per the letter no. III (A) SM. 16/05/SM /5188 dt. 11.06.07 Govt. in Steel & Mines Dept., Orissa allowed us to lay closed pipe conveyor system along the road. Accordingly the project was undertaken and finished so as to meet one stipulation from the MoEF that the ore should be transported through closed conveyor system. Now when we came to know that even though the pipe conveyor system is laid along the road but since the forest lands are intervened in linear strips obtaining prior permission from MoEF as per the FC Act, 1980 is required. Hence this proposal is submitted for kind consideration and approval. *The same corridor used for pipe conveyor will also be utilised for underground water pipeline.*

We have been granted diversion of 865.276 ha of forest land in the mining lease area of 947.046 ha (for 20 years from dated 14.08.2001) under sec 2 of F (C) Act, 1980 for mining of Iron Ore in villages Soyabali, Balita and Thakurani RF Block-B in Barbil Tehsil of district Keonjhar vide letter No. 8-55/2000-FC dated 21.06.2001 of Ministry of Forest and Environment. After having working permission over the already broken up area of 94.024 ha and virgin forest land of 155.252 ha we have carried out mining and ancillary operations. Vide our letter no. SMPL/TIOM/2009/MoEF-97 dt. 1.09.2009 wherein we have cited establishment of all our infrastructural facilities within our leased area, we have indicated the installation of transporting conveyor taking 20m wide right of way. As this also extends outside our leased area, we now apply to take a minimum of 15m wide right of way which involves 0.4407ha of Reserve forest, 0.1193ha of Village forest and 0.3857ha of DLC land totaling to 0.9457ha.

224
14
B

Therefore this proposal is submitted for diversion of 0.9457 ha of forest land u/s 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Location : Latitude : 22° 05' 43" to 22° 05' 37"
Longitude : 85° 27' 45" to 85° 28' 21"

(ii) **Map showing the required forest land, boundary of adjoining forest on a 1:50,000 scale map:**

Sl. No.	Name of the Map	Scale
1	Location Map on the topo sheet also showing the route of the pipe conveyer	1: 50,000
2	The route map of the pipe conveyer on the original village sheet showing the reserve forest boundary as well as mining lease boundary	1: 4000

(iii) **Cost of the Project:** The total cost of the project was Rs. 25 crore as has been detailed below:

	Particulars	Rs. in Lakhs
A.Capital Expenditure	Cost of Engineering and consultancy	1180.00
	Cost of materials and Equipments	1000.00
	Cost of Establishment	300.00
	Incidental Charges	13.20
B.Statutory Payment to Govt.	Cost of compensatory afforestation	1.00
	Cost of NPV	5.80

(iv) **Justification for locating the project in forest area:** As already mentioned the Ministry of Forest & Environment has recommended transporting the iron ore through closed conveyor system from the mine site. The Thakurani Iron Ore Mines owned by M/S Sarda Mines Pvt. Ltd. is totally situated in the Thakurani reserve forest and thus any utility line has to cross the reserve forest boundary to reach the mines site.

And since the right of way for the utilities normally takes a linear path with the ground profile playing a vital role for the alignment, this pipe conveyor also crosses the forest but affecting negligible area.

- (v) **Cost- Benefit analysis:** Not applicable as the forest area involved is less than even 1 ha as per the annexure-VI of the guidelines for forest diversion proposal issued by MoEF.
- (vi) **Employment likely to be generated:** Increase in production capacity coupled with efficient logistic arrangement lead to the employment of 16 persons in the company.

2. Purpose wise break up of the total land required:

Purpose	Outside mining lease area			Total forest land to be diverted in ha
	Reserve Forest in ha	Village Forest in ha	DLC in ha	
Down hill pipe conveyor <i>to water pipe line</i>	0.4407	0.1193	0.3857	0.9457

3. Details of displacement of people due to project if any:

- (i) **Number of families**-Nil
- (ii) **Number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes families**- does not arise
- (iii) **Rehabilitation Plan(to be enclosed):-** Does not arise

a. **Whether clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 required:** No. As per the EIA notification no. S.O. 1533 dt. 4.09.2006, this type of project does not find a place under the list of projects which needs prior environmental clearance. Rather MoEF while granting environment clearance for the expansion of our mines stipulated a special condition for providing the closed pipe conveyor system for ore transportation which is highlighted in green colour in the said letter attached as Annexure-I.

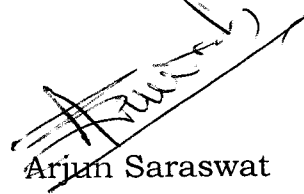
b. **Undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and/or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost of protection and regeneration of safety zone etc. as per the scheme prepared by the State Government:** Enclosed at Annexure-II.

c. Details of certificates/Documents enclosed as required under the instructions:

- i. Permission from the Govt. of Steel & Mines Deptt. Govt. of Orissa for installation of the down hill pipe conveyor system-Annexure-I.

- 326
16
- ii. Map in original topo sheet showing the downhill conveyor line- Annexure-II.
 - iii. Right of way marked in original village maps showing the village forest area and DLC and - Annexure- III.
 - iv. Detail land schedule on which the right of way passes: Annexure- IV.
 - v. Undertaking to pay NPV and fees for Compensatory Afforestation : Annexure- V.
 - vi. Undertaking regarding the minimum forest land required for the proposed project and that the forest shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal: Annexure- VI
 - vii. Copy of the conditions stipulated by MoEF for setting up a closed conveyor system: Annexure-VII.
 - viii. Boundary Description & Land Schedule : Annexure-VIII.

Signature



Arjun Saraswat

Nominated Owner
Thakurani Iron Ore Mines
Block-B, P.B. No.-85
Barbil-758035

Date: 10.12.2009

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date Serial No. of Proposal_____

(To be filled up by the Nodal Officer with date receipt)

327

17

PART-II

**(To be filled by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)
State Serial No. of Proposal – 364/10 dt.14.01.2010.**

7. Location of the Project/Scheme.

- i. State/Union Territory. Orissa.
- ii. District. Keonjhar.
- iii. Forest Division. Keonjhar Forest Division.
- iv. Area of Forest land proposed for diversion (in ha.) R.F.- 0.4407 ha (Thakurani R.F.)
V.F.- 0.1193 ha
DLC-0. 3857 Ha.
Total.0.9457 Ha.
- v. Legal status of Forest. R.F.- 0.4407 ha (Thakurani R.F.)
V.F.- 0.1193 ha
DLC-0. 3857 Ha.
- vi. Density of vegetation. 0.1
- vii. Species wise (Scientific names) and diameter class wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed. In case if Irrigation/hydel projects enumeration at FRL, FRL-2 meter & FRL-4 meter also to be enclosed. Species wise abstract of trees enumerated enclosed as Annexure -
- viii. Brief note on vulnerability of the Forest area to erosion. Nil
- ix. Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of Forest. The proposed area of this project partly coming within Thakurani Reserve Forest.
- x. Whether forms part of National park, wild life sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wild Life Warden to be annexed) The area does not form any part of National Park, wild life Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or Wild life Corridor. But the area is coming under Elephant habitat zone-2 as per report of ORSAC. There is movement of wild elephants often noticed in the nearby area.
- xi. Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna in the area, if so details thereof. No endangered species is reported in the area. But wild animal such as Elephants are seen occasionally in the near by areas.
- xii. Whether any protected archeological / heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required. No

8. Whether the requirement of Forest land as proposed by the user 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.

The forest land as proposed by the user agency for down hill conveyor system for transporting of iron ore from his Thakurani Iron Mines over 865.276 ha diverted by GoI, MoEF vide their letter No. 8-55/2000-FC dated 21.06.2001 to Deojhar Railway siding.

The Govt. of Orissa, Steel & Mines Department vide their letter No. III (A) SM 16/05/5188 dt.11.6.07 allowed the user Agency to lay out the Pipe conveyor belt for transportation of Iron ore from their Thakurani Mines to Deojhar Railway siding along the existing road as per road layout subject to fulfillment of 3 nos of conditions. But the User Agency has illegally installed Pipe conveyor system without obtaining Forest clearance under Section-2 of F.C. Act, 1980 from the Govt. of India, MoEF. Now the User Agency has submitted the diversion proposal taking 15 mtr wide corridor over 0.9457 ha of forest land to regularize the project.

9. Whether any work in violation of the Act 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.

The Lessee has unauthorized installed Conveyor Belt & under ground pipe line out side his lease area of M/s Sarda Mines (P) Ltd. in side Forest area without taking approval from Forest Department under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Hence a Forest Case has been booked against the Lessee vide O.R. Case No. 296BI of 2009-10 under Section 27 (3) (a) & (c) of Orissa Forest Act, 1972 (Amended) for the said violation.

The said Forest Offence Case is now under trial in the Court of Law.

10. Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.

i. Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.

Not Applicable.

ii. Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.

Not Applicable

iii. Detailed compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.

Not Applicable

iv. Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme

Nil

v. Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and from management point of view.(To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests).

Not Applicable

11. Site Inspection report of the D.C.F. (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in col.7 (xi,xii), 8 and 9 above.

Site inspection Report of D.C.F. is furnished in Annexure-II

329

19

12. Division/ District Profile.

I) Geographical area of the district.

830300.000 Ha.

ii) Forest area of the district.

336615.6293 Ha.

iii) Total Forest area diverted since 1980 with numbers

8657.9307 Ha. (60)

iv. Total compensatory afforestation stipulated in the District/Division since 1980 on

(a) Forest land including Penal compensatory afforestation.

C.A. 615.2734 Ha.

(b) Non-forest land.

P.C.A. 3982.0900 Ha

7561.1988 Ha.

v. Progress of Compensatory afforestation as on (date)

(a) Forest land

C.A. 610.2734 Ha.

P.C.A. 2588.1020 Ha

(b) Non-forest land.

4559.5591 Ha.

13. Specific recommendation of the D.C.F. for acceptance or other wise of the proposal with reasons.

The proposal for diversion of 0.9457 ha of Forest land for already installed closed pipe conveyor system & under ground water pipe line is recommended for approval under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 (Amended).

2.Penal compensatory afforestation in degraded Forest land elsewhere be imposed including logistic support against the use of Forest as above.

3.The User Agency shall bear the expenses of the Regional Wildlife Management Plan for Keonjhar & Bonai Region.

Date : 28.4.10

Place-.Keonjhar

Signature.

Name. Sri Sarat Kumar Mohanty, IFS

Divisional Forest Officer

Official Seal. **Keonjhar Division**

28/4/10

330
20

PART-III

(To be filled by the concerned Conservator of Forests)

14. **Whether site, where forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection & observation made in form of inspection note to be enclosed).**

As per Rule-4.10 (i) of Forest (Conservation) Rule-2003 the site inspection report is not required.


15. **Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agrees with the information given in Part - B and recommendation of Deputy Conservator of Forests.**

Yes.

16. **Specific recommendation of concerned Conservator of forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.**

The proposal for diversion of 0.9457 ha. of Forest land for the Downhill Pipe Conveyor System passing through the Thakurani Reserve Forest and Village Forest and DLC land for village Kitabeda in Keonjhar Forest Division by M/s Sarada Mines Pvt. Ltd. in Keonjhar District is recommended for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 , (Amended) subject to standard stipulations.

Date: 29.04.2010
Place: Rourkela

Signature 
Name: Ajay Raizada, IFS
Official Seal **Conservator of Forests**
Rourkela Circle

351
21

PART-IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Coservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

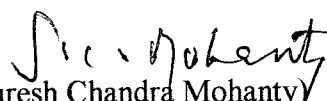
13. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks.

(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)

Recommended for diversion of 0.9457 ha. of forest land for the project.

Date : 16.08.2010.
Place : Bhubaneswar

Signature



(Suresh Chandra Mohanty)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Odisha.
(Official Seal)

332
22

PART-V

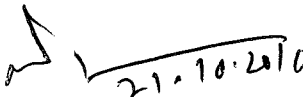
(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

18. Recommendation of the State Government.

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part-C or Part-D above should be specifically commented upon)

“Recommended for diversion of 0.9457ha. of forest land for the project

Date: 21.10.2010
Place: Bhubaneswar .


Signature
Name & Designation
(Official Seal)
(B. P. SINGH)
Secy. to Govt.
Forest & Env. Deptt.