



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

E-mail:- nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. 7842 /9F (MG) - 18/2015
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 07th April' 2025

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

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 balance forest land of 84.707 ha in favour of M/s D. C. Jain for mining of Iron and manganese ore in Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Ore mines located in Baitrani RF II, District Keonjhar (Odisha)- regarding.

Ref:- F.No.8-31/2015-FC dated 13.03.2025 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting reference to the above mentioned subject, it is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), New Delhi has requested to furnish compliance to 3(three) nos. observation vide letter dated 13.03.2025. The point wise compliance based on the reports of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle is furnished below:-

Observation No. 1:- The user agency at the time of submission of the proposal was Shri DC Jain who is no more now. The State shall examine the matter and submit the request/proposal for the change in the name of the user agency with requisite documents keeping in view the legal heirs/ person/agency having the valid Letter of intent with respect to the proposed mining lease.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Govt. of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department vide No.3957/SM dated 28.04.2022 has extended the validity period of mining lease for Iron and Manganese over an area of 89.961 ha in village Dalpahar Block-A of Keonjhar under Section-8A of the Amendment Act, 2015 in favour of Sri Avin Jain (Power of Attorney Holder of Sri Dharmachand Jain) with direction to execute the supplementary lease deed accordingly within a period of one year from the date of issue of the letter and the letter is enclosed as **Annexure-I**. As per direction of the Steel & Mines Department, the Mining Lease Deed of Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Mines (Block-A) over 89.961 ha has been transferred and executed in favour of Sri Avin Jain, Power of attorney holder of Smt. Sobha Jain (wife of late Dharmchand Jain) on 27.04.2023 (**copy enclosed as Annexure-II**). But the instant forest diversion proposal over 79.367 ha (89.961-10.594 diverted area) has been applied in the

name of the Lessee, Late Sri Dharmchand Jain (D.C. Jain) on 27.02.2015. However, the Supplementary Lease Deed for Block-A over 89.961 ha of the said Mines has been executed in favour of Sri Avin Jain on 27.04.2023, a copy of which is already enclosed as **Annexure-II** above.

In pursuance of the observations of the Advisory Committee (FAC) on dated 05.03.2025, the User Agency has applied for change in the name of the user agency in "Form F" in the Parivesh 2.0 web portal vide Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/530182/2025 and Single Window No.SW/240631/2025. However, the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Division that, before the final forest clearance in respect of the aforesaid diversion proposal is accorded by the GoI, MoEF & CC, the name of user agency will be changed from Late Sri Dharmchand Jain to Sri Avin Jain Power of attorney holder of Smt. Sobha Jain (wife of late Dharm Chand Jain) which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-III**.

Observation No.2:- The area proposed for diversion is falling in high conservation zone. The State Govt. shall justify the requirement of the same with cogent reasons.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, during the site inspection of DFO, Keonjhar Division of Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Mines (Block-A) over 89.961 ha in 2015, the density of vegetation was reported to be 0.2 in Broken up & 0.5 in Virgin area. After almost 10 years, the density of the above proposed diversion area is hardly changed & it is the same as before i.e. 0.2 in Broken up area & 0.5 in virgin area and basically the area is not inviolate.

Whereas a number of mining leases are operating within Baitarani RF-II around the Dalpahar Iron & Manganese mines (Block-A), so the workers of all the operating mines are travelling through this area. The local villagers are also moving through Dalpahar Iron & Manganese mines (Block-A) to collect firewood and Sal leaf. Therefore, the above area is not inviolate. The map showing the mining leases operating around the Dalpahar Iron & Manganese Mines (Block-A) is enclosed as Plate-1.

The area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve, and it does not come under any Wildlife corridor. There is no archaeologically important monument situated in the area. Since there are so many mines operating in the area, it may not be considered a high conservation zone.

Further, a comprehensive Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for Dalpahar Iron & Manganese mines (Block-A) has been approved vide Memo No.13358 dated 14.12.2023 (**copy enclosed as Annexure-IV**) of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar with a financial outlay of Rs 491.46 Lakhs for the project impact area of both Keonjhar & Bonai Forest Division and the user agency has deposited the said amount vide UTR No.KKBKR52024011500724506 dated 15.01.2024 (**copy enclosed as Annexure-V**). Besides, the user agency has deposited a sum of Rs.76.01 Lakhs towards the proportionate contribution for implementation of the Regional Wildlife Management Plan.

There are so many mines operating within Baitarani RF-II around the Dalpahar Iron & Manganese mines (Block-A) & as the area is not broken up, the proposed area may not be treated as high conservation zone.

***Observation No.3:-**From the land use plan, it has also been learnt that 12.89 ha area is being proposed for Waste Dump Yard with Env. Protective Measures (Retaining wall, Garland drain & Settling Pond) and 28.551 for utility services most of which are non-site specific activities, and normally not considered on the forest land. The state govt. shall explore the possibility to shift the same to non-forest areas and provide the proper justification in this regard.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the entire Mining Lease area over 89.961 ha of Dalpahar Iron & Manganese mines (Block-A) is located inside the Baitarani Reserved Forest-II and it is surrounded by a number of mining leases & vast expanse of forest land, thereby no non-forest land is available within or around the above mining lease area. Hence, it is not possible to shift the proposed waste dump yard & utility services area. The user agency has stated that, the mining will not be economically viable and technically feasible if they go for non-forest land for waste dumping & utility services. The topo map showing the location of Dalpahar Iron & Manganese mines (Block-A) and the mining leases & vast forest land surrounding it is already enclosed as Plate-1 above.

Further, 12.89 ha of land has been approved in the mining plan (**copy enclosed as Annexure-VI**) for waste dump with its Environment Protective Measures (Retaining wall, Garland drain & Settling Pond). At the end of the lease period, the mined-out area will be reclaimed by the waste materials from the dumping material and the dump yards will be rehabilitated by plantation so as to restore their original status.

Moreover, 28.551 ha of land has been approved in the mining plan for utility services i.e. for mineral processing unit with stocking yards, topsoil storage, roads and necessary infrastructure.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, as per the extant rule, without paying royalty & dues of District Mineral Foundation (DMF), minerals are not allowed to be sent outside the Mining Leases. So all activities of ore processing & stocking will be done only inside the mining lease area. Mineral processing unit with stocking yards is an important part of the mining activity and it is temporary in nature. Iron ore will be processed through screen plant & crushing plant and Manganese ore will be sorted manually (by Labourer) to get the saleable size and will be stacked in stock yard for getting permission from Dy. Director of Mines (DDM) before dispatch to the outside of Mining lease area to reach the desired destination. At the end of the lease period the area over 19.07 ha used for Mineral processing unit with stocking yard will be Rehabilitated by plantation to restore their original status.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the topsoil will be stored temporarily until it can be utilized for restoration or reclamation of the mined out area and other areas, disturbed during mining activities. For storage of topsoil, 3.817 ha has been approved in the Mining Plan. After removal of topsoil, the storage area will be rehabilitated by plantation so as to restore to their

original status. So, the topsoil will be stored only inside the mining lease area by protecting it from rain and sun, and away from ground moisture.

Roads are most important for mining activities and transportation of ore. These are fully temporary and at the end of the lease period the area over 2.91 ha used for roads will be rehabilitated by plantation to restore to their original status.

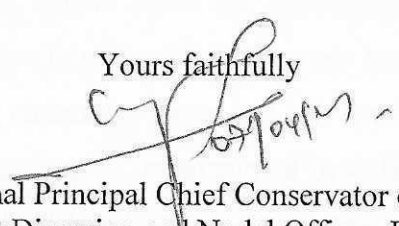
Further, the area over 2.754 ha has been approved in the mining plan for construction of infrastructure which provides the basic facilities and system for mining activities and fulfilling the condition of CSIR-NEERI & DGMS. As these are temporary structures, at the end of the lease period, the lands used for these purposes will be rehabilitated by plantation so as to restore to their original status.

Based on the above, it could be concluded that the area over 12.89 ha of land for waste dump with its Environment Protective Measures and 28.551 ha for utility services are all site specific activities and as these have been approved in the Mining Plan, they need to be carried out inside the Mining lease area.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations of GoI, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi dated 13.03.2025 is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: Compliance in one set

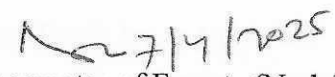
Yours faithfully


Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 7843

/Dt. 07.04.2025

Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to F.No.8-31/2015-FC dated 13.03.2025 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

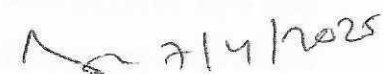

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 7844

/Dt. 07.04.2025

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to F.No.8-31/2015-FC dated 13.03.2025 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 7845

/Dt. 07.04.2025

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.1757 dated 03.04.2025.

[Signature] 7/4/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

7846

/Dt. 07.04.2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.1758 dated 03.04.2025 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

[Signature] 7/4/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

7847

/Dt. 07.04.2025

Copy forwarded to Avin Jain, POA, C/o Dharamchand Jain (Mining Lessee), Dharam Villa, 12-A, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi-110024 for information.

[Signature] 7/4/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)