

To

**The Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Forest Division**

Sub.: Proposal for diversion of 22.551 ha of Forest land of Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Mines under BarbilTahasil, Barbil Range of Keonihar Forest Division in Keonjhar District within Mining Lease Block area of 24.203 ha by M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Limited under Section-2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhai) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Ref.: (i) Letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0069-2025-32527/FE&CC, dt.03.11.2025 of FE&CC Dept. Govt. of Odisha.
(ii) letter No.12577 dt.03.12.2025 by DFO, Keonjhar.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above cited subject, FE&CC Dept. has raised observations on scrutiny of the forest diversion proposal over 22.551 ha pertaining to Rengalbeda(NE) Iron Ore Block of OMC, and the observations are being forwarded vide letter under reference (ii).The pointwise compliance to the observations raised are as under:

i. In the first & last paras of the forwarding letter the purpose for which the forest diversion proposal has been submitted to this Department has not been mentioned.

In compliance, it is submitted that the purpose of diversion of forest land is for mining and its ancillary activity. It is requested to recommend the compliance mentioning the purpose of the forest diversion proposal as 'mining and its ancillary activity'.

ii. The breakup of the forest land proposed for diversion has not been provided.

In compliance, the breakup of forest land proposed for diversion is as below:

Sl. No.	Pattern of Utilization		Forest Area (ha.)				Non-forest Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)	
			R.F.	Revenue forest	Forest as on 25.10.1980	Total			
1.	Mining		-	13.167	4.933	18.100	-	18.100	
	Dumping of Overburden		-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Infrastructure		-	-	0.010	0.010	-	0.010	
2	Safety Zone	7.5m strip along the ML boundary.	-	0.788	0.708	1.496	-	1.496	4.441
		50 m on either side of NH-215.	-	2.602	0.343	2.945	-	2.945	
Total			-	16.557	5.994	22.551	-	22.551	

Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.

(A Gold Category State PSU)

Registered Office : OMC House, Bhubaneswar - 751001, India

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CIN : U13100OR1956SGC000313

iii. Upon perusal of the PARIVESH portal it is seen that the Part-II dtd.06.11.2021 & Site Inspection Report dtd.06.10.2021 of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and Part-III dtd.17.11.2021 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle have been uploaded in the PARIVESH portal, but the Part-II dtd.19.07.2025 & SIR dtd.09.07.2025 of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and Part-III dtd.07.08.2025 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle available in the Diversion proposal have not been uploaded in the PARIVESH portal.

In compliance, it is requested to upload the Part-II dtd. 19.07.2025, SIR dt. 09.07.2025 and Part-III dt.07.08.2025 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle report in the PARIVESH portal while forwarding this compliance to higher quarter.

iv. The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division in Site Inspection Report dtd.06.10.2021 had reported that there is an encroachment by 10 nos. of house holders inside mining lease area. In this regards Collector, Keonjhar has been requested to take appropriate legal action against the encroachers vide his office letter No.7860 dt.06.11.2021. But in the SIR report dtd.09.07.2025 of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division there is no mention of encroachment. However, in the SIR report dtd.09.07.2025 under the Column 14 i.e. position of displacement of people and adequacy of rehabilitation, if any, the DFO has reported that during the site inspection, it is observed that, 16 to 17 nos. households are staying in Nuagaon village, coming within the lease area since last 30 years or more. Hence, Resettlement of the above households are essential. So, the user agency should prepare the Re-habilitation Plan for the above purpose and get it approved by the competent authority. But in the earlier SIR dtd.06.10.2021 of DFO, Keonjhar under Column '14 it was reported that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation and therefore the re-settlement and rehabilitation plan is not warranted. Necessary clarification/ compliance on the above observation may please be submitted for further action at this end.

In compliance, it is submitted that, as per the land schedule furnished by the Tahasildar, Barbil, it is ascertained that no Record of Right (RoR) of tenanted holdings exist within the Rengalbeda(NE) Iron Oremining lease area. Nevertheless, instances of encroachment have been identified within the ML boundary. In this context, Collector, Keonjhar was requested by DFO, Keonjhar to take appropriate legal action against the encroachers vide its office letter No.7860 dt.06.11.2021. However, if required, in alignment with statutory obligations, M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMC), a State Public Sector Undertaking, hereby affirms its commitment to abide the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan as per the approved R&R framework and operative guidelines of the State Govt. An undertaking to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

In view of the above, it is requested to consider compliance to the observations raised and recommend the proposal to higher quarter for onward recommendation of the proposal for grant of Stage-I FC.

Encl.: As above

Yours faithfully,


Executive Director (F&E)

UNDERTAKING

I, Sudhansu Sekhar Khora, IFS, Executive Director (F&E), at Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) do hereby undertake to implement the R&R Plan as per the approved R&R framework and operative guidelines of the State Govt., in alignment with statutory obligations, if required, for furtherance of the forest diversion proposal over 22.551 ha for production of Iron Ore from Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Mines of Odisha Mining Corporation Limited.


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