

To

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division, Keonjhar

Ref: GM/OMQ/ 07 /11-G

Date: 09.02.2022

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 42.608 Ha of forest land (16.658 Ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 Ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalamang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Block in Keonjhar and Sundergarh District allotted to M/s TATA Steel BSL Ltd. (Formerly known as Bhusan Steel Ltd.) u/s 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980.

(Proposal No - FP/OR/MIN/49169/2020, State Serial No - OR-058/2020, dated-12.10.2020)

Ref: - Your Memo No.8855 / 6F - Mining - 195 / 2017, dated - 10.12.2021

Sir,

With reference to above cited letter, we are complying herewith the discrepancies noticed at your end in our diversion proposal. The point wise details are as follows: -

1. The project proponent M/s TATA Steel BSL Ltd, has applied permission under Section-2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over 42.608 ha of forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division). The above proposal has already been forwarded to Govt. of Odisha, FE & CC Dept. for permission under Section-2(iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide this office memo No. 19325 dated – 15.11.2021. The UA may be advised to submit proposal under Section-2(ii) of FC Act, 1980 instead of under Section-2 (iii) and 2(ii) both.

As per instruction of the Nodal Officer, we have applied for diversion of 42.608 Ha of forest land (16.658 Ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 Ha in Bonai Forest Division) under section 2(ii) of F C Act 1980 and accordingly, we have changed the Form – A, Part-I and Project Details, which is enclosed in the Forest Diversion Proposal.

2. As per para-7.9 of Chapter-7 of Handbook of Guideline dated 28.03.2019, all mining projects are required to have a 7.5-meter-wide peripheral SZ within the mining lease area. But in this instant proposal, the UA has applied for diversion of 24.802 ha forest land under Section-2(ii) of FC Act, 1980 excluding SZ area of 1.148 ha in case of Bonai Division which is contradictory.

As per instruction of the Nodal Officer, we have applied for diversion of 25.950 Ha of forest land in Bonai Forest Division) under section 2(ii) of F C Act 1980 and accordingly, we have changed the Form – A. Part-I and Project Details, which is enclosed in the Forest Diversion Proposal.

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3. 512 number of trees have been enumerated over 16.658 Ha of forest land pertaining to Keonjhar Division. But the RCCF Rourkela Circle and DFO Keonjhar Division reported in Site Inspection Report that 433 number of trees have been enumerated.

Total 512 numbers of trees have been enumerated in applied forest area of 16.658 Ha under Keonjhar Forest Division over 30cm girth. Out of above number of trees enumerated in the applied area 69 number of trees comes within Safety Zone area.

4. The Site-Specific CA and Additional CA scheme should be prepared as per the guidelines issued by the office Memo No. 18833 dated – 08.11.2021 and Memo No. 20566 dated 01.12.2021.

As per instruction of the Nodal Officer, we have prepared the CA Scheme as per the revised CA Norms issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha vide his letter no – 18833, dated 08.11.2021 and Memo no – 20566, dated 01.12.2021, which is enclosed in the Forest Diversion Proposal.

We are submitting herewith 5 set of Forest Diversion Proposal for your needful action.

We would therefore request you to kindly process and forward the proposal to appropriate authority.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Atul Kumar Bhatnagar) General Manager (OMQ)