

**Justification for locating the project in the forest land included in
Daitari Iron Ore ML of Odisha Mining Corporation Limited.**

Mining of iron ore deposit is always site specific irrespective of the land classification. Daitari revised renewal mining lease of OMC Ltd. over 1018.3085 ha comprises **846.3995 ha** of forest land, **171.637 ha** of non-forest Govt. land and **0.272 ha** of tenanted land occurring to the northern part of the ML. Mining at Daitari is confined to 95.60 ha of approved forest area with a production target of 3.0 million tons of iron ore per annum. OMC has now planned to enhance the production capacity up to 6.0 million tons per annum. Newly explored Sinduramundi deposit is also proposed to be developed in order to cater the demand. Since a large quantity of iron ore (60.0 lakh MT) is required to be utilized, it is proposed to extend the mining activities by developing new quarries around the existing ones identified to the west and north of the deposit. A scientific and judicious method of mining therefore requires additional forest land. The forest area proposed for mining required for exploitation of mine-able reserve for more than **31 years**, considering the area required for proper benching commensurate with the ground contours. Moreover unless the total forest land within the ML is diverted the lease cannot be renewed and executed. Keeping in view the extent of overburden, sub-grade ore and fines that will be generated in the process of mining for more than **31 years**, an area of **846.3995 ha** of forest land is the barest minimum area required for safe and systematic mining, dumping, beneficiation, processing and other ancillary activities including 95.60 ha of forest area already allowed for mining and ancillary operation by MoEF, Govt. of India in 2005 for a period up to **dt 26.01.2016**.

The annual production target is envisaged to be around **60,00,000 MT** which would cater the need of the nearby Steel Plants and forthcoming Steel Plants. This demands harmonic continuation and expansion of the mining operation in this lease area. The continuation and expansion of the mining operations, as proposed, is going to enhance the revenue earnings both for the State and the central Government. This project will also be a major source of earnings for the local tribal community.

In addition to **95.60 ha** of forest area approved by MoEF, Govt. of India, **746.3325 ha** of forest land is proposed to be utilized for mining and ancillary activities in the current proposal.

The project has absorbed **1064** persons directly. At least **6000** persons mostly from tribal community comprising of employees and their families who will be self employed or indirectly employed, the number of which may increase, would benefit by coming up of the project.


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