

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS , ROURKELA CIRCLE, ROURKELA.**

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| 1. | Name of the Project | Katamati Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. in Keonjhar District, Odisha. |
| 2. | Name of the District/Division | Keonjhar/Keonjhar Forest Division |
| 3. | Date of Inspection | 24 th May,2017 |
| 4 | Name and Designation of Inspecting Officer | Shri Lingaraj Otta,IFS
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela. |
| 5. | Name and Designation of other Officers ,who attend the Inspection including representative of User Agency | 1) Sri Rohit Kumar Lenka, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division.
2) Sri P.N. Rout ,Range Officer, Barbil Range
<u>Representatives of TATA Steel Ltd.</u>
1) Sri R.P. Mali, Chief, Noamundi, Tata Steel Ltd.
2) Sri Rahul Kishore, Head, Katamati Iron Ore Mines
3) Sri P.K. Mohapatra, Sr. Manager(Land, Lease & Legal), Tata Steel Ltd., Joda
4) Sri P.B. Mishra, Sr. Manager(Survey), Katamati Iron Ore Mines
5) Sri Sanjay Kumar, Manager(Survey), Katamati Iron Ore Mines |
| 6. | Legal Status of Forest land with area proposed for diversion. | Non- Forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980- 160.838 ha. |
| 7. | If area required for diversion has been demarcated on the ground | Yes. |

8 The item-wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion is as follows:

Sl. No.	Pattern of Utilization	Broken up non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Virgin non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Total non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha.)	Broken Non-forest land recorded as non- forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Virgin Non-forest land recorded as non- forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Total Non-forest land recorded as non- forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Grand Total (in ha)
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10
							(7+8)	(5+9)
1	Mining	55.5880	65.6355	121.2235	5.0420	-	5.0420	126.2655
2	Storing of Mineral/ Ore	0.9740	0.7760	1.7500	-	0.2500	0.2500	2.0000
3	Dumping of OB/ Sub-grade/ Slime Disposal	19.2468	-	19.2468	22.1225	6.1448	28.2673	47.5141
4	Storing tools and Machinery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Construction of building, power station, plant, workshop	5.7032	2.7564	8.4596	2.8299	5.7480	8.5779	17.0375
6	Township/ Colony	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Construction of road	1.5000	5.9499	7.4499	0.7500	-	0.7500	8.1999
	Total	83.0120	75.1178	158.1298	30.7444	12.1428	42.8872	201.0170
	Safety Zone	-	2.7082	2.7082	-	0.4266	0.4266	3.1348
	G.Total	83.0120	77.8260	160.8380	30.7444	12.5694	43.3138	204.1518

9. **Condition of vegetation and Type of forest in applied area.**

The forest land applied for diversion is situated in contiguous with Thakurani RF and has been depicted as "fairly dense forest mainly Sal" on concerned Toposheet. Therefore, the condition of vegetation has been treated at par with the adjoining Thakurani Reserved Forest. The adjoining Reserved Forest come under the group 3C/C2e(iii) Moist Peninsular Valley Sal. The prevailing vegetation consists of Sal and its associates. The principal associates of Sal includes *Terminalia alata*, *Lagerstroemia perviflora*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Mangifera indica*, *Schleichera oleosa*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Bridelia retusa*, *Madhuca indica*. The middle story is represented by *Syzygium cumini*, *Ougeinia ougenensis*, *Careya arborea*, *Trema orientalis*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Cassia fistula* etc. The shrubs and undergrowth are characterized by *Indigofera pulchella*, *Ardisia solenacea*, *Flemingia chhappar*, *Helicteres ixora* and *Clerodendron viscosum* etc. The prevailing climbers include *Bauhinia vahlii*, *Combretum decandrum* and *Beutia parviflora*. The grasses over the forest floor include *Chrysopogon aciculatus*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Dicanthium carricosum*, *Cynodon dactylon* etc. Eco Value Class has been treated as Eco Value Class-I"based on proximate location-Thakurani Reserved Forest and the canopy density has been considered at par with the prevailing vegetation depicted as "fairly dense forest mainly Sal" on concerned Toposheet and kept at 0.5 since the applied Non-Forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 is broken /used up to the extent of 83.012 ha.

10. **Position of Wild life in general**

The Thakurani Reserved Forest and Revenue Forest along with the non-forest land recorded as forest, involved in the mining lease, is the dwelling habitat for leopard, bear, barking deer, hyena, porcupine etc. Occasional movement of wild elephants is used to be witnessed in the applied forest land and adjoining RF. The applied site falls under elephant habitat Zone-2 as mentioned by ORSAC, Bhubaneswar.

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| 11. Whether the applied area is involved with any eco sensitive Zone/National Park/Sanctuary | The applied area does not involve any Eco-Sensitive Zone/National Park /Sanctuary. |
| 12. Number of trees to be felled and its impact on the system | 2554 Nos. of trees and 4086 Nos. of poles are to be felled. The probability of soil erosion is likely to increase following felling on the undulating topography of the applied areas |
| 13. Details of broken up area and reclamation done, if any(Mining cases) | <p>The total broken up Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980, involved in the mining lease, is 83.012 ha.</p> <p>The User Agency has furnished an undertaking vide Annexure-XV to undertake reclamation of Mined out pits through back filling followed by afforestation as per the approved Reclamation Plan.</p> |
| 14. Position of displacement of people and adequacy of rehabilitation ,if any | Not Applicable |
| 15. Position of rare and endangered species available or importance of area from archeological point of view. | No rare and endangered species are available in the applied area for diversion, but occasional movement of wild elephant is used to be witnessed in the applied forest land and adjoining RF. The applied site falls under elephant habitat zone-2 as mentioned by ORSAC, Bhubaneswar. There is no archaeologically important monument situated in the area. |
| 16. Non-Forest land used in the Project and non-forest land selected for Comp. Afforestation , if included in the DLC report or not | Non-Forest land selected for Compensatory Afforestation, as per the report of DFO, Dhenkanal Division, has not been included in the D.L.C. report |
| 17. Suitability of the identified non forest area for Compensatory Afforestation | The Non-forest Govt. land identified in village Kerajodi under K.Nagar East Forest Range of Kankadahad Tahasil under Dhenkanal Division is suitable, as per the certificate of DFO, Dhenkanal Division, for Compensatory Afforestation under AR Model @1600 seedlings per ha. |

18. **Violation of FC Act, if any,
and action taken thereon**

**Violation committed in respect of the
Mining Lease during 2nd and 3rd RML**

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the lessee has carried out mining activities in violation of section-2 of FC Act, 1980 in Revenue Forest and Reserved Forest from 1983 to 2009 with production of Iron Ore for crushing and subsequent use in Nuamundi during 2nd and 3rd RML without requisite clearance for the Pre-1980 broken up forest land under FC Act, 1980. In addition, working in non-forest land, involved in the mining lease, in absence of approval under FC Act, 1980 in respect of the forest land also amounts to violation of Para- 4.4 of the Hand Book of guidelines issued under FC Act, 1980 and thus, amounts to violation of FC Act, 1980 for the period under question.

Action Taken

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, Forest Offence case vide OR No. 4BL of 2017-18 has been registered for violation of FC Act, 1980 in respect of Reserved Forest and prosecution is to be sanctioned and submitted in the Court of JMFC, Barbil. The Collector, Keonjhar has been requested to take legal action as deemed proper under prevailing act and rules for the fore-stated violation in the Revenue Forest Land vide Letter No. 2304 dated. 07.04.2017 of the DFO, Keonjhar Division. Action taken report is awaited.

**Observation of Hon'ble Shah
Commission and Action taken thereof**

Observation -

- ML area-403.3238 ha comprising RF-56.6373 ha, Rev Forest-142.5347 ha, Non forest(Govt.)-204.0750 ha and Non forest (Pvt)-0.0768 ha.
- Forest Diversion proposal submitted on 28.04.2010. Approval from MOEF not yet obtained.
- EC granted on 06.05.2005 raising the production to 2 MTPA and then on 26.11.2010 raising the production from 2 MPTA to 8 MPTA.
- Working in the Rev forest area from 1983-2003 and from 2003 to 2007 is

illegal. Working in the Forest area has been stopped from 2007 by the DFO. Now the work is confined to Non forest area alone. DFO is to find out the extent of working in the Rev forest and intimate the Collector for appropriate action.

- The lumps from the mines is transported to Jharkhand for crushing and subsequent use in Nuamundi.

Action taken - As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, action is being taken to ascertain the extent of forest land (Revenue and Reserved Forest) worked in violation of FC Act, 1980 during 2nd and 3rd RML and register appropriate legal action under appropriate act in respect of Revenue and Reserved Forest.

d. 11/6/17
Regional Chief Conservator of forests,
Rourkela Circle