Justification for Locating the Project in the Forest Land

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 10(B), Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and The Mineral Auction Rules, 2015 notified there under and Supreme Court Judgement, Government of Karnataka had identified C Category Iron ore mines for electronic auction for grant of mining lease.

Accordingly, the auction of **M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Pvt. Ltd. ML No. 2365 & ML No. 2366** (the C Category Mines) was held on 4th October 2016. In the auction, JSW Steel Ltd. has been declared the preferred bidder under clause 8.1B(c) of Tender Document. The office of Commissioner and Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka has issued Letter of Intent (LoI) vide LoI no. **DMG/MLS/CCA/12/2365/2016-17 & DMG/MLS/CCA/12/2366/2016-17 dated** 26.10.2016**,** and has been declared the successful bidder for the above-mentioned mining leases.

The mining lease will be granted, once all the Clearances, Permits, Consents, NOCs are submitted to sign the Mine Development & Production Agreement. Therefore, to commence the above-mentioned process, we had put up a proposal to obtain the prior approval of Govt. of India & GoK, under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the lease area 133.58 ha & 33.21 ha. being specified in the sketch provided by the Central Empowered Committee. The Forest Clearance for ML No. 2366 has been transferred in the favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited and the FC renewal for ML No. 2365, is under process.

We have proposed to adopt a very environment friendly and a cost-effective mode of transporting the material from the mine head to the JSW Steel Plant at Toranagallu. We have planned to install the Pipe Conveyor leading to our steel plant, which will be facilitated, by a number of Downhill Pipe Conveyor from the Mine heads of JSW Mining Leases. One of the Downhill Pipe Conveyor has been planned to be laid down from Tunga Iron Ore Mine & Bhadra Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2366 & 2365 to Sy. No 121 in Bannihatti Village**.** Therefore, JSW Steel Ltd. has proposed to obtain prior approval of Govt. of India & Govt. of Karnataka under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the Downhill Pipe Conveyor**.** The said proposed downhill conveyor can be divided into 3 segments:

1. **DHPC Segment 1:** The very first segment starts inside the Bhadra Mining lease (ML No. 2365) to the tune of approx. **0.4924 ha. (410.35 m length; 12.0 m)** and the proposal for the lease has been already moved for prior approval of Govt. of Karnataka & Govt. of India. (Unique Proposal No.: FP/KA/MIN/25219/2017).

2. **DHPC Segment 2:** The second segment is the forest area **(0.604 ha.; 503.38 m length; 12.0 m width)** for which M/s. JSW Steel Ltd. is moving the proposal.

3. **DHPC Segment 3:** The third segment lies in the non-forest land (Patta land/Revenue Land) and is spread over about 3.9135 ha. (3261.27 m. length; 12.0 m width). The third segment (lying in non-forest land) is proposed to meet the Main Pipe Conveyor (FP/KA/Others/19136/2016) at Sy No. 121 in Bannihatti Village, Sandur Taluk.

Therefore, the extent of forest area involved in the whole Down Hill Pipe Conveyor (DHPC) is **0.604 ha. (Length 503.38m., width 12.0m.)**. We also have planned to lay down water pipe line, power line all along the trusses of the above-mentioned downhill conveyor to our mine head. This initiative will eliminate the diversion of extra forestland for other allied/ancillary activities.

Details of the Proposed area of diversion for Downhill Pipe Conveyor					
Sl. No.	**Downhill Pipe Conveyor Segment Name**	**Length m**	**Width m**	**Area**	
				Ha.	**Forest/ Non-Forest**
1.	Downhill Pipe Conveyor Segment-1	410.35	12.0	0.4924	Forest area but in ML No. 2365
2.	Downhill Pipe Conveyor Segment-2	503.38	12.0	0.6040	Forest Area outside the ML No.2365 **(Proposed for FC)**
3.	Downhill Pipe Conveyor Segment-3	3261.27	12.0	3.9135	Nonforest area (Revenue/Patta Land)

The transportation of Iron ore using Pipe conveyor has many advantages:

i. Best means of transportation to ensure zero spillage and save precious mineral resources.
ii. Saves fossil fuel which otherwise would be used for road transport.
iii. Reduces burden on the transport infrastructure such as road and rail, prevents accidents.
iv. Reduces emissions associated with road transport such as gaseous pollutants, dust and particulate matter.
v. Minimal particulate emissions at loading and unloading points.
vi. Faster means of transportation and saves times and resources.

vii. Flexibility in transportation and continuity of Conveying.
viii. Hassle free transportation and least logistic issues.
ix. Extremely high environmental friendliness. It is pollution free transportation and no dust, fugitive emissions as in case of any other means of transportation.
x. Less strain on the existing government infrastructure and facilities.

To optimize the conveyor profile with existing ground profile, choice of route is restricted. The route has been planned to minimize forestland. The corridor for the downhill conveyor is kept bare minimum of 12m. In addition, there were some inherent limitation because of typical project components making restriction on the turning radius of the downhill pipe conveyors. The material will also be transported by using Dumper or Dumper-rake mechanism, until the pipe conveyor comes in operation.

So far, it can be justified that the said project is planned to minimize the diversion of forestland but avoiding the forestland completely was impossible. Therefore, the project was located in the forestland and there are no other shorter routes available, which can further lower the diversion of forest area