

Justification for locating the project in forest area
(Gandhamardan Block A of Odisha Mining Corporation Limited)

Mining of a particular ore deposit is always site specific irrespective of the land classification. Gandhamardan (Block-A) mining lease of OMC Ltd. covers an area of **618.576 ha** out of which **519.7472 ha** is forest area which is about **84%** of the total land mass. The exploration conducted proved substantial resource of high grade (63 to 66% Fe) iron ore. The exploration further substantiated the fact that the deposits are only confined to forest areas. Since most of the potential deposits are confined to the forest area of the lease, selection of alternative non-forest land within the lease area for undertaking mining activities is ruled out. The annual production target is envisaged to be around **3, 50,000 MT** which would cater the need of the Sponge Iron Plants and forthcoming Steel Plants. If the demand of raw material will rise then the rated capacity of production shall be enhanced in future. This deposit is suitable for the steel industry. This demands continuation and expansion of the mining operation on a large scale in this mining lease area.

A scientific and judicious method of mining is proposed to be adopted requiring forest land likely to be exploited more specifically for mining purpose. The forest area proposed for mining is required for exploitation of minable reserve over **114 years** at the rate of 3.50 lakh MT/annum. Keeping in view the extent of overburden that will be generated in the process of mining, an area of **7.4716 ha** of forest land is necessarily required for safe and systematic dumping of the generated overburden by maintaining proper slope and terracing. In addition **(i) 338.1681 ha** is proposed for mining **(ii) 4.7877 ha** for use by stacking of ore **(iii) 11.1385 ha** is for use by sub-grade ore stacking, **(iv) 28.9267 ha** for use by processing and stacking of ore and **(v) 21.43 ha** is prohibited and protected as safety zone area (out of which **7.2807 ha** is forest land) in this mine. 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.


(S.K. Das)

Dy. General Manager (Geo)
Power of Attorney Holder
Odisha Mining Corporation Limited
S.K. Das
Dy. General Manager (Geo)
Power of Attorney Holder
Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd
Bhubaneswar-751001