

Justification for Locating the Project in the Forest Land

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 10 (B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and 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**- one of the C Category Mines) was held on 1st October 2016. In the auction, JSW Steel Ltd. has been declared the preferred bidder under clause 8.1 B (c) of Tender Document vide Letter of Intent no. **DMG/MLS/CCA/12/2365/2016-17** issued from the office of the Commissioner and Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka and shall be declared the successful bidder after the submission of Performance Security and Mining Plan. 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 are putting up a proposal to obtain the prior approval of Govt. of India under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the lease area being specified in the sketch provided by the Central Empowered Committee. The lease stretch proposed is over an extent of 130.53 Ha. area. In addition to that, there is an existing approach road, which connects both the parts/blocks of the ML No. 2365. The existing width of the road is 7-10 m with an approx. length of 2.54 km. Therefore, we also have proposed to obtain prior approval from Govt. of Karnataka & Govt. of India for the said above-mentioned approach road to the tune of 3.05 ha. Therefore, the total area for forest diversion is 133.58 ha. The existence of the Iron ore is evidenced in the proposed area and the same land will be leased as per vide LoI No. DMG/MLS/CCA/12/2365/2016-17 issued by the Dept. of Mines & Geology, Karnataka, to extract the minerals in a scientific & environment friendly manner. The Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, a Miniratna company under Govt. of India, carried out the detailed exploration and gave the report that the valuable iron ore reserves fall underneath the forestland. The iron ore reserves falling underneath the said forestland cannot be moved by any other method or medium to any other place other than the Open-pit mining which further needs diversion of the forestland i.e. the project is site specific. Therefore, the project is proposed to locate in the land, which will be leased, and the same is forestland over 130.53 Ha. In addition to that, the above-mentioned existing approach road is an essential component, which will enable us to access the other part of the lease. It shall be noted that there is a single ingress approach road for both ML No. 2365 & 2365 and the proposal for the same has already been moved for prior approval of Govt. of Karnataka with a unique proposal no. FP/KA/ROAD/21837/2016. Since, there is no other method or way or approach road to access the other part of the lease, the approach is located in the forestland.