



1295

STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

E-mail:- nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. 12915 /9F(MG)-70/2021
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 17th June' 2025

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 22.697 ha of Forest land of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block within the total mining Lease area of 456.100 ha in Keonjhar District of M/s OMC Ltd of Keonjhar District

Ref: - 1. F. No. 8-49/1998-FC (PTI) dt.09.02.2024 of MoEF & CC, GoI
2. Memo No.2973/FE&CC dt.23.02.2024 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., Deptt. of FE&CC.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI, New Delhi has accorded Stage-I/in-principle approval vide Letter F. No. 8-49/1998-FC (PTI) dt.09.02.2024 for diversion of 22.697 ha of forest land of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block within total Mining Lease area of 446.100 ha of Odisha Mining Corporation Limited in Keonjhar District of Odisha under under Section-2(1)(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 subject to fulfilment of 32 nos. of conditions. The point wise compliance has been submitted by the RCCF, Rourkela circle based on the compliance submitted by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division which are as follows: -

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion will remain unchanged. However, M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking to this effect at Sl.No.1 of **Annexure-I**.

O/C

1294

2. Compensatory Afforestation:

i. The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 22.697 ha, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within two years from the date of issue of diversion order of the forest land. At least 1000 plants per hectare shall be planted over identified non-forest land and if it is not possible to plant so many saplings in the area identified for CA, the balance saplings will be planted in any other forests as per prescriptions of approved working plan with provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, for raising of compensatory afforestation, non-Forest land over 22.697 ha, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted, has been identified in village-Sorada under Pottangi Tahasil of Koraput District. The Collector, Koraput has allotted the said land in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Division for raising of CA vide his letter No.1535/XXVI-94/2023 dated 21.04.2023. The CA Scheme prepared @1000 plants/ha in one time cost norm basis with a provision for ten years subsequent maintenance has been technically approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) vide his Memo No. 4791/ 9F(MG)-70.2021 dtd. 27.02.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,40,48,800/-. The CA plantation will be raised by the State Forest Department on receipt of necessary funds from the CAMPA within a period of two years from the date of issue of final approval order by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India. Since, the joint verification team has certified that 1000 plants/ha can be accommodated in the allotted area, planting of balance saplings in any other forest may not be required.

ii. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the CA Scheme prepared @1000 plants/ha in one time cost norm basis with a provision of maintenance for subsequent ten years has been technically approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) vide his memo No. 4791/ 9F(MG)-70.2021 dtd.27.02.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,40,48,800/-. Based on the demand raised by him vide his office Letter No. 2690/Mining- dtd 28.03.2024 for Rs 1,40,48,800/- towards payment of the cost of CA Scheme over 22.697 ha identified in village Sorada under Pottangi Tahasil of Koraput district, M/s OMC Ltd. requested the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for adjustment of a total amount of Rs 1,87,30,000/- (Rs1,40,48,800/- towards CA + Rs 46,81,200/- towards Gap plantation and soil & moisture conservation activities) from the amount already deposited in Orissa CAMPA i.e. from the lump sum amount of Rs 27,71,46,750/- already deposited by the User Agency @7.50 lakhs per ha vide UTR No. SBINR1202 1011106076046 dt. 11.01.2021 in Odisha, CAMPA Account over 369.529 ha of forest land involved in the Jilling-Longlota Iron Ore Mines. The PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) vide his Memo No.22874 dt 14.11.2024 permitted the DFO, Keonjhar Division to adjust the said amount after receiving the revised information / figures from the DFO, Keonjhar(WL.) Division. Accordingly, on getting

information/figures from DFO, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anadapur vide his letter No. 5547 dt 21.11.2024, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has adjusted the said amount of Rs.1,87,30,000/- vide his letter No. 9699/6F-Mining-19/2024 dt 28.11.2024 which includes Rs.1,40,48,800/- to be utilized for implementation of the CA scheme.

The copies of the above correspondences in this regard are enclosed as **Annexure-II Series** for reference.

iii. The land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government under Section-4 or PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, before the Stage-II approval;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Non-forest Govt. land over 22.697 ha identified in village Sorada under Pottangi Tahasil of Koraput District for raising Compensatory Afforestation has been mutated in favour of the State Forest Department and also notified by the State Govt. vide order No.FE-DIV-FLD-0044-2022-{10F-(Cons)-21/2022}-12926/FE&CC dt 19.07.2024 as "**Sorada-A Protected Forests**" under Section-33 of Odisha Forest Act, 1972 (Odisha Act-14 of 1972). The copy of the RoR and PF Notification are enclosed as **Annexure-III**.

iv. The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. has already fixed permanent RCC pillars of 4' high at each corner points of the CA land boundary spread over 22.697 ha as per the DGPS survey vetted by ORSAC. The copies of the photographs of pillars posted are enclosed as **Annexure-IV**. The CA scheme has been technically approved with a maintenance period of 10 years and it includes afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. The copy of the approved CA scheme is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-V**.

v. 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the approved CA cost amounting to Rs 1,40,48,800/- deposited by the User Agency includes the cost towards soil and moisture conservation activities as per site requirement which is 25% of the CA cost.

vi. The State Government shall ensure that non-forest land of 22.697 ha proposed for raising compensatory afforestation is made available free from all encumbrances and detail of the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Non-Forest Govt. land over 22.697 ha identified in village Sorada under Pottangi Tahasil of Koraput District has been jointly verified by Revenue and Forest Officers. The verification team certified that the land identified for Compensatory Afforestation is free from all encumbrances mentioning all other details therein. The copy of the joint verification certificate is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

vii. The State Government shall ensure that the non-forest land of 46.082 ha identified for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of 342.602 ha of forest land granted on 8.10.2014, already transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, is notified as PF under the Indian Forest Act or local Act and a copy of the same shall be submitted along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the land identified in village Asanbahali over 30.8047 ha under Ghasipura Tahasil and in Village Lungajhar over 15.2771 ha under Bansapal Tahasil of Keonjhar district towards CA in lieu of diversion of 342.602 ha of forest land granted by the MoEF & CC, GoI, New Delhi vide F. No.8-49/98-FC(pt) dated 8.10.2014 has already been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department and also notified as PF by the State Govt. The details are as given under: -

Sl. No.	Name of the village and Tahasil	Area in ha	Name of the protected forests	Govt. order No. and date in which PF notification issued
1	Asanbahali GHASIPURA TAHASIL	30.8047	Asanabahali Protected Forests: Under Section-33 of Odisha Forest Act, 1972 (Odisha Act-14 of 1972).	10 F (Div)- 36/2012- 6143/F&E dt 25.08. 2012.
2	Lungajhar BANSAPAL TAHASIL	15.2771	Lungajhar-A Protected Forests: Under Section-33 of Odisha Forest Act, 1972 (Odisha Act-14 of 1972).	10 F (Div)- 36/2012- 16137/F&E dt 25. 08.2012.
Total		46.0818 ha or say 46.082 ha		

The copy of the RoRs and PF Notifications are enclosed as **Annexure-VII series**.

3. Net Present Value:

i. User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines given under para 3 of the Chapter-3 of the Consolidate Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 published by the Ministry on 29.12.2023, through e-payment module on PARIVESH portal, into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned, managed by the National Authority (CAMPA);

291

As per para-3 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the entire cost towards NPV has been transferred by M/s OMC Ltd. The details are given below: -

Demand raised by DFO		Amount paid by OMC		
Letter No and date	Amount in Rs	Letter No and date	Amount in Rs	DD/UTR No. & date
No.322/6F-Mining/2020 dt.11.01.2021	27,71,46,750/-	dt.11.01.2021	27, 71, 46, 750/-	SBINR 12021011100076046 dt.11.01.2021.
No. 8445/6F-Mining-19/ 2024 dt 17.10.2024	2,44,30,067/-	-	2,44,30,067/-	Adjusted vide letter No. 9699/6F-Mining-19/ 2024 dt 28.11.2024 by DFO, Keonjhar from the amount paid earlier.

The copy of the demand Letters and RTGS receipts in support of proof of the deposits made by M/s OMC Ltd. are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-VIII** for reference.

ii. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India; 8-49/1998-FC(PT1) I/64942/2024

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.2 of Annexure-I** to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

4. The penalty for violation of the Adhiniyam for using the 22.697 ha of forest land w.e.f. 9.03.2015 onwards and executing leases by including 22.697 ha of forest land without the prior approval of the Central Government under the Adhiniyam shall be equal to 5 times the normal rates of NPV over 22.697 ha of forest land w.e.f. 9.03.2015 onwards plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, in pursuance of the above condition, the Ex-Lessee and the present Lessee were requested vide his office letter No.4059 dated 16.05.2024 to deposit the Penal NPV over 22.697 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest land, as detailed below: -

Details Calculation of Penal NPV to be paid by the Ex- lessee & Present Lessee.

Name of the Lessee	Area of violation	Period of violation	Violation Factor (Total area x period violation)	Total Violation Factor (Ex-lessee + Present Lessee)	Penal NPV to be paid (Lessee wise violation factor / Tot. violation factor x Tot. Penal NPV amount)	12% simple interest for 1 month over Penal NPV amount	Total Penal NPV with 12% simple interest to be paid by user agency.
Ex-lessee i.e. M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd.	5.76 ha	5.06 Yrs	29.1456	99.0296	29.1456 / 99.0296 x Rs. 16,30,40,495/- = Rs. 4,79,84,775/-	Rs. 4,79,848/-	Rs. 4,84,64,623
Present Lessee i.e. M/s OMC Ltd.	22.697 ha (5.76 ha + 16.937 ha)	3.079 Yrs	69.884		69.884 / 99.0296 x Rs. 16,30,40,495/- = Rs. 11,50,55,720/-	Rs. 11,50,557/-	Rs. 11,62,06,277
Total			99.0296				

1290

As per the demand raised by the DFO, Keonjhar Division vide the above letter for the period from 11.01.2021 to 09.02.2024 and vetted by PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) towards penalty for violation of the Adhiniyam for using 22.697 ha of forest land without the prior approval of the Central Government, M/s OMC Ltd. has transferred Rs.11,62,06,277.00 online as per the challan generated from PARIVESH portal through RTGS mode vide UTR No. UBINJ 24163871690 in ORISSA CAMPA, A/c No. 1508258142115320, IFSC Code: UBIN 0996335, Union Bank of India, FCS Centre, 21/1, III Floor, Jelitta Towers, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027. The copy of the demand letter and RTGS receipt in support of proof of deposit by M/s OMC Ltd. is enclosed as **Annexure-IX** Series for reference.

The DFO, Keonjhar Division feels it pertinent to mention that, the Sabik KISSAM Forest land over 5.76 ha was used as dump & vehicle shed by the earlier lessee i.e. M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. in absence of forest clearance under section 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980. Hence, the Ex-lessee needs to pay the Penal NPV i.e. 5 times of normal NPV w.e.f. 09.03.2015 onwards + 12% interest from the date of raising the demand till deposit is made. In the instant case, the lease of Ex-lessee expired on 31.03.2020. Hence, the Penal NPV has been calculated w.e.f 09.03.2015 to 31.03.2020 and demand has been raised accordingly vide his office letter No.9059 dated 16.05.2024.

It has been mentioned by the DFO, Keonjhar here that, in his letter dated 08.10.2024, the Ex-lessee, M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. has inter-alia stated regarding the identification of Sabik land in the above mining Lease and payment of NPV thereon, which is reproduced below for reference.

1. In pursuance to the guidelines of MoEF&CC and Director of Mines, M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. had written a letter to Tahasildar, Barbil on dated 11.04.2016 for requesting to verify the status of non-forest land in the Government records on or after 25.10.1980 involved in the lease area.
2. The Tahasildar, Barbil had furnished the status of both forest & non-forest land within the lease area of JillingLanglota Iron ore Mines of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd vide his letter No.2912 dated 21.06.2016.
3. Thereafter, the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division had raised a demand on M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd, vide letter No.3085 dated 03.05.2018 for Rs. 1,01,61,201/- towards NPV for an area of 10.8213 ha non-forest land recorded as Sabik Forest, as intimated by the Tahasildar, Barbil Tahasil.

4. Further, Tahasildar, Barbil was requested to demarcate the Sabik Kissam Forest land in Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Mines of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd to the extent of 10.8213 ha along with mining and Forest Department officials vide letter No.3173 dated 07.05.2018 of the DFO, Keonjhar Division.
5. Accordingly, joint demarcation was made by the Revenue, Forest and Mining officials on 15.11.2018 to the extent of 10.8213 ha of Sabik Kissam Forest land within the lease hold area of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Mines of M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd.

From the above, it has been ascertained by the DFO, Keonjhar that, the Ex-lessee had paid the NPV of Rs.1,01,61,201/- on 29.05.2018 for the Sabik Forest over 10.8213 ha, as identified by the Tahasildar, Barbil during the year 2016.

But, as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the above Penal NPV of Rs.4,84,64,623/- has been demanded vide his office letter No.4059 dated 16.05.2024 for using of Sabik kisam forest land over 5.76 ha for non-forestry purpose without obtaining the forest clearance from the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India. The said Penal NPV has not been paid by the Ex-lessee till date.

However, as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Ex-lessee i.e. M/s Essel Mining & Industries Limited has filed a representation dated 08.10.2024 to wave out the demand made by the DFO, Keonjhar Division. A clarification had been sought by DFO, Keonjhar Division vide his office memo No.840 dated 24.01.2025 from the Additional PCCF (Nodal) as to whether the Ex-lessee will be exempted from the payment of aforesaid Penal NPV. DFO, Keonjhar Division has also issued a reminder to the Ex-lessee to deposit the demanded Penal NPV vide this office Memo No. 1451 Dtd.21.03.2025 enclosed as **Annexure-IX series**. The Additional PCCF(Nodal) has furnished the clarification as sought by the DFO, Keonjhar division on the representation of the Ex-lessee filed for exemption of demanded penal NPV for utilisation of Sabik Kisam Forest Land without according forest Clearance from MoEF&CC, GoI vide memo no.8027 dt.08.04.2025 enclosed as **Annexure-IX series**.

5. Action against the officers responsible for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, shall be taken under 3 (A)/3 (B) or under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act for unauthorized use of forest land without the permission;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested vide his office letter No.7856 dated 06.11.2021 with copy to all concerned to initiate legal action for use of Sabik Kissam Forest land over 5.76 ha by the ex-lessee i.e. M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. till expiry of lease on 31.03.2020 & thereafter by the present lessee. But as reported by him, the action taken by the Collector, Keonjhar is yet to be received in his office.

✓ 288

6. *Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-payment module on PARIVESH portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>), into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned, managed by the National Authority (CAMPA);*

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, all the compensatory levies have been deposited in Orissa CAMPA Account by M/s OMC Ltd. through online and details of the deposits made by the User Agency in prescribed CAMPA Format have been furnished. The CAMPA format is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-X**.

7. *The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details prior to 'Final' approval;*

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. vide letter No.3473/OMC/F&E/2024 dt 26.02.2024 (**Annexure-XI**) has submitted a CD containing the KML files of total diverted area, the CA area, the proposed SMC treatment area within ML and the WLMP area (Core and Buffer) to his office & all such KML files have been uploaded on the e-green watch portal.

10. *Following activities, as per approved plan/ schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval:*

i. *Mitigation measures, to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream, shall be implemented within a period of two years with effect from the date of issue of order of diversion of forest land, in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;*

A scheme for mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs.69,75,900/-. M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.3 of Annexure-I** to implement the scheme at the approved financial outlay in the lease area under the supervision of the State Forest Department within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II forest clearance. The copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XII**.

ii. *Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;*

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the degraded forest area within 50 mtr on either side of Dalko Nala (with 200 plants/ha) has been considered as the appropriate area within the mining lease for planting of drought hardy species. Accordingly, a scheme for planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide

his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs.2,80,49,900/- . M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.4 of Annexure-I** to implement the scheme at the approved financial outlay in the lease area under the supervision of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II forest clearance. The copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XIII**.

iii. Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;

A scheme for construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs. 3,39,80, 100/-. M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.5 of Annexure-I** to implement the scheme at the approved financial outlay in the lease area to implement the scheme under the supervision of the DFO, Keonjhar Division. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XIV**.

iv. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and

A scheme to Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,10,31,600/-. M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.6 of Annexure-I** to implement the scheme at the approved financial outlay in the lease area to implement the scheme under the supervision of the DFO, Keonjhar Division. The copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XV**.

v. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division the entire virgin forest land of the ML has been disturbed and the top soil generated has been utilized for plantation in safety zone and dump site. No top soil is likely to be generated in future. Therefore, no additional financial provision has been proposed in the scheme. Accordingly, a scheme prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 and a copy is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI**. However, M/s OMC Ltd. have furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.7 of Annexure-I** is enclosed herewith to implement the scheme within ML area if there is any generation of top soil.

1286

11. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF & CC along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the area within 100 mtr strip from the outer perimeter of the mining lease comprises 5.191 ha of non-Forest and 74.402 ha of MDF & VDF as per DSS. Accordingly, a scheme to undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities over 5.191 ha of non-forest and open forest area and implementation of ANR without gap plantation over 74.402 ha of MDF & VDF area to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests having crown density less than 0.40 within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease submitted by the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs. 46, 81, 200/-. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. requested the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for adjustment of Rs.46,81,200/- from the amount already paid by them earlier. In reply, PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) vide Memo No.22874 dt. 14.11.2024 permitted the DFO, Keonjhar to adjust the said amount after receiving revised information/figures from the DFO, Keonjhar (WL) Division. Accordingly, on getting information/figures from DFO, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur vide his letter No. 5547 dt 21.11.2024, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has adjusted a sum of Rs.1,87,30,000/- vide his office Letter No. 9699/6F-Mining-19/2024 dt 28.11.2024 which includes Rs 46,81,200/- towards the cost of the instant scheme.

The copy of the approval letter along with the scheme, SMC measures, location map and copy of the adjustment letter in respect of payment by M/s OMC Ltd. are enclosed as **Annexure-XVII series.**

12. The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF& CC along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. has prepared a list of village tanks and other water bodies located within 5.0 km from the ML boundary with GPS co-ordinates and distance between corner points duly authenticated by DFO, Keonjhar. Accordingly, a scheme for desilting at regular interval prepared by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs.53,81,300/-. An undertaking submitted by

M/s OMC Ltd. at **Sl.No.8 of Annexure-I** is enclosed herewith to implement the scheme at the approved financial outlay under the supervision of the State Forest Department. The copy of the list of the water tanks/other water bodies duly authenticated and approved scheme for desilting is enclosed as **Annexure-XVIII**.

13. Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:

i. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the total safety zone area of 11.58 ha (7.5 mtr strip all along the inner side of the ML boundary) has been covered with plantation. In the current proposal 1.462 ha of forest area as on 25.10.1980(Sabik) has been considered for plantation in safety zone. The total safety zone area including the area considered in the current proposal has been demarcated with 4.0 feet high RCC pillars with GPS co-ordinates and barbed wire fencing. The area is under watch and ward to protect the green belt. Further a scheme for plantation @ 500 plants/ha in over 1.462 ha of forest area within the safety zone submitted by the DFO, Keonjhar Division has been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela vide his office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs 38,50,700/-. The User Agency furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.9 of Annexure-I** to implement the scheme under the supervision of the DFO, Keonjhar Division. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XIX**.

ii. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, fencing along the safety zone boundary with barbed wire adjacent to the habitation/road shall be done by M/s OMC Ltd. as per the cost structure included in the approved scheme. An undertaking to this effect submitted by the user agency is at **Sl.No.10 of Annexure-I**.

iii. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and

A scheme for maintenance of the safety zone as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Keonjhar has been approved by the undersigned vide this office Memo No. 1824/3F-817/2024 dt 30.04.2024 with a total financial outlay of Rs 38,50,700/- in compliance with condition No.13 (i). Adequate steps shall be taken by the User Agency to regenerate the vegetation under the supervision of the State

1284
Forest Department. An undertaking has been furnished by the OMC Ltd to implement the schen. under the supervision of the Forest Deptt.

iv. *The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;*

M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.12 of Annexure-I** to ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms. All the above conditions (i to iv) have been complied through the approved scheme. The photographs of safety zone pillars are enclosed as **Annexure-XX**.

14. *The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;*

M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.13 of Annexure-I** to deposit the cost towards felling of trees with the State Forest Department on receiving the demand. Tree shall be felled in a phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of DFO, Keonjhar Division.

15. *Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;*

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.14 of Annexure-I** to carry out tree felling in a phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan and with prior permission of DFO, Keonjhar Division.

16. *The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;*

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department. An undertaking to this effect submitted by the user agency is enclosed at **Sl.No.15 of Annexure-I**.

17. *A Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan to mitigate the impact of project on wildlife of the area shall be prepared by the state Government in consultation with the PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of State at project cost and an approved copy of the same along with detail of deposition of funds into the CAMPA account shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval;*

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, a Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan to mitigate the impact of project on wildlife of the area prepared by him has been approved by the PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha vide his memo No.7059 dt 27.06.2024 with a total financial

outlay of Rs 323.58 lakhs. M/s OMC Ltd. was asked vide his office letter No.5821/6F-Mining-19/2024 dt 06.07.2024 to deposit a sum of Rs 323.58 lakh through online. Based on the request made by M/s OMC Ltd. for adjustment of the said amount from the amount already paid earlier, PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) vide his memo No.22874 dt 14.11.2024 permitted the DFO, Keonjhar to adjust the amount from the amount paid by M/s OMC Ltd. earlier for a project in Keonjhar (WL) Division, Anandapur. Accordingly, on getting information/figures from DFO, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur vide letter No. 5547 dt 21.11.2024, the DFO, Keonjhar adjusted Rs.3,23,58,000/- vide his letter No. 9699/6F-Mining-19/2024 dt 28.11.2024 addressed to the PCCF (FD & NO FC Act) to be utilized for implementation of the Management Plan.

The copies of the approval letter along with approved SSWLCP, demand letter by DFO and correspondences regarding adjustment of the said amount is enclosed as **Annexure-XXI series**.

18. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd has intimated that, in order to achieve the production target of 10.0 million tons of iron ore, operation within the ML area has been approved by IBM vide their Letter No. MPM/A/15-ORI/BHU/2021-22.1241 dt 18.11.2021. Considering the nature of the ore occurrences, concurrent reclamation is not possible from the first year of operation. It has been envisaged for back filling of exhausted quarry and Dump stabilization in the five-year plan period from 2020-21 to 2024-25. To begin with, Jajang-Gangeiguda quarry over 46.30 ha shall be back filled. Thereafter, Apahatu-Behera Quarry over 23.30 ha shall be back filled followed by Jajang-Langalotta quarry over 25.36 ha.

Besides the above, Dump-4 shall be stabilized over 4.50 ha by plantation. During conceptual stage the total mined out area reclaimed shall be 71.35 ha, Water Reservoir shall be 71.07 ha, Stabilized waste shall be over 40.69 ha and Regressing shall be done over 6.30 ha of the ML area. The copy of the reclamation details of the approved mining plan is enclosed as **Annexure-XXII** for reference.

The reclamation plan shall be strictly followed as per the mining plan approved by IBM. An undertaking to this effect and to submit annual report on implementation of the above to the CCF (FD & NO) and Regional Officer, IRO, Bhubaneswar furnished by the User Agency is enclosed at **Sl.No.16 of Annexure-I**.

1203

19. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;

M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.17 of Annexure-I** to comply the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner.

20. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;

M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.18 of Annexure-I** to abide by the provision that the period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under.

21. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. has obtained Environment Clearance for production of 10.0 million tons of iron ore vide letter No. J-11015/595/2007-IA. II (M) dt 07.05.2024. The copy of the grant order of EC is enclosed as **Annexure-XXIII**.

22. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

M/s OMC Ltd. has furnished an undertaking at **Sl.No.19 of Annexure-I** to provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas and that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land.

23. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.20 of Annexure-I** to demarcate the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone on ground by erecting four feet high RCC pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.

25. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.21 of Annexure-I** that the layout plan of the mining plan/proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that indicated in the proposal.

26. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.22 of Annexure-I** that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government

27. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.23 of Annexure-I** that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.

28. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.24 of Annexure-I** to abide by any other condition that the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.

29. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.25 of Annexure-I** to comply with all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

30. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.26 of Annexure-I** not to commit any violation which otherwise will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and shall abide by the action that would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by the Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

1290
31. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

M/s OMC Ltd. has submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.27 of Annexure-I** to submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI by the end of March every year regularly;

32. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 06.03.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;

M/s OMC Ltd. have submitted an undertaking at **Sl.No.28 of Annexure-I** to comply all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 06.03.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from them and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, for the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before taking over the forest land from the Forest Department.

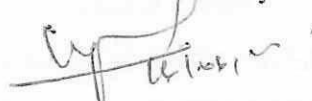
33. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the compliance report has already been uploaded on the e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) by the user Agency.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of Van (Suraksha Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 22.697 ha forest land involved in the total mining lease area over 456.100 ha of Jiling-Langlota Iron Ore mines under Keonjhar Forest Division and Keonjhar District of Odisha.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully



Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 12916 Date. 17-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha for information with reference to his office Memo No.2973 dt.23.02.2024.

16/6/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 12917 Date. 17-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information with reference to his office Memo No.1470 dt.24.03.2025 and Memo No.2671 dt.27.05.2025.

16/6/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 12918 Date. 17-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Divisions for information & necessary action with reference to Memo No.1471 dt.24.03.2025 and Memo No.2672 dt.22.05.2027 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

16/6/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 12919 Date. 17-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the Chief Vigilance and Land Officer, Authorized Signatory, M/s OMC House, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary

16/6/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)