



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
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No. **19377** /9F (MG) – 27/2022

Dated, Bhubaneswar the **17th** September' 2025

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests
Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 112.621 ha. of forest land (including 1.808 ha. earmarked as Safety Zone) in village Baldihi under Koira Tehsil and Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within the Block area of 139.223 ha. of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block by M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd. under section 2 (ii) of Forest Conservation Act, 1980- Stage-I compliance regd.

Ref:- Letter F. No.8-31/2022-FC dated 21.12.2023 of Scientist-D, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, it is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi have accorded 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval vide Letter F. No.8-31/2022-FC dated 21.12.2023 for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2(1) (ii) of Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd. for non-forestry use of 112.621 ha. of forest land (including 1.808 ha. earmarked as Safety Zone) in village Baldihi under Koira Tehsil of Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District within the Block area of 139.223 ha. of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block by M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd subject to fulfillment of 43 nos. of conditions imposed therein. The point wise compliance based on the reports of the DFO, Bonai Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

Condition No.1:- Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged which is enclosed at SI No.1 of Annexure-1.

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Condition No.2. Compensatory Afforestation:

(a) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the total Forest land proposed for diversion in respect of the above Iron Ore Block is 112.621 ha. in lieu of which 113.544 ha of Non-Forest Govt. land has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation which comprises of 110.813 ha. in 2 villages namely Jhurmur over 51.744 ha. and Jaidega over 59.069 ha. coming under Birmitrapur Tahasil of Sundargarh District under Rourkela Forest Division and 2.731 ha. in Dharopani village under Rengali Tahasil of Sambalpur District. Accordingly, the C.A. Scheme over 110.813 ha. of Non-Forest Govt. land has been prepared by the DFO, Rourkela Forest Division and the scheme is approved by the PCCF(FD&NO, FC Act) for Rs.10,02,33,800/- with 10 years maintenance. Subsequently, the said scheme was revised to Rs.8,83,88,080.82 by the DFO, Rourkela Division vide his Memo No.4799 Dtd.26.04.2024 in accordance with one-time cost norm taking the base norm for the year 2024-25 and a sum of Rs.2,20,97,020.20 towards the 25% of the CA cost to be spent towards SMC as per condition No.2(g) of Stage-I approval order, totalling Rs.11,04,85,101.02 and necessary demand was raised vide Memo No.4801 Dtd.26.04.2024.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency has deposited ₹11,04,85,101.02/- (out of which ₹8,83,88,080.82 towards CA & ₹2,20,97,020.20 towards SMC) as per demand raised vide Letter No.4801 dt.26.4.2024 of DFO, Rourkela Division through e-portal of MoEF& CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 30.04.2024 vide UTR No.SBINR52024043019258308 which is enclosed as **Annexure-2**. The User agency has submitted an undertaking to deposit the enhanced CA amount, if decided by Govt. in future which is enclosed as **Annexure-2A**.

Further, the CA scheme over 2.731 ha. of Non-Forest land identified in village Dharopani under Rengali Range of Sambalpur Forest Division has been prepared by the DFO, Sambalpur Division for ₹44,00,500/- which has been approved by the Addl. PCCF (Nodal), Bhubaneswar vide Memo No.14094 dt.3.7.2025 with 10 years maintenance. As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹44,00,500/- through e-portal of MoEF& CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 15.07.2025 vide UTR No.SBINR52025071592136009.

The copy of payment details have been enclosed as **Annexure-3**.

(b) The land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an extent of 113.544 ha. of Non-Forest land has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation which comprises of 110.813 ha. in 2 villages namely Jaidega over 59.069 ha. and Jhurmur over 51.744 ha. coming under Birmitrapur Tahasil of Sundargarh District under Rourkela Forest Division and 2.731 ha. in Dharopani village coming under Rengali Tahasil of Sambalpur District under Sambalpur Forest Division.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the aforesaid Non-Forest lands over 59.069 ha. identified in Jaidega and 51.744 ha. in Jhurmur have already been mutated and transferred in favour of the State Forest Department. The copies of RoRs are enclosed as **Annexure-4 & 5**. The said Non-Forest Govt. land have been declared as Protected Forest under Section-33 of the Odisha Forest Act, 1972 vide Notification No.12237/FE&CC dated 29.05.25 and 12223/FE&CC dated 29.05.25 of FE&CC Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, which are enclosed as **Annexure-6 & 7** respectively.

Further, the Non-Forest land over 2.731 ha identified in village Dharopani under Rengali Range of Sambalpur Forest Division under Sambalpur District has already been mutated and transferred in favour of Forest Department. Copy of RoR is enclosed as **Annexure-8** and the said land has been notified as Protected Forest under Section-33 of Odisha Forest Act, 1972 vide Notification No.12230/FE&CC dt.29.05.25 which is enclosed as **Annexure-9**.

(c) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the cost of survey, demarcation & pillar posting remains included in the norm for Block Plantation @1600 seedlings/ha and ANR @500 seedlings/ha provided in the CA schemes over 110.813 ha. prepared by the DFO, Rourkela Division and AR plantation @1000 seedlings/ha. provided in the CA scheme over 2.731 ha. prepared by the DFO, Sambalpur Division. The CA schemes include the maintenance cost for 10 years. The scheme includes afforestation of species such as Karanj, Neem, Amla, Bahada, Arjun, bamboo, Bija and Pahadi Sissoo etc. with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.

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(d) The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 112.621 ha, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage-II approval. Further the details of CA on NFL along with KML will be submitted at the time of submission of compliance of Stage-I.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that Non-Forest land over 113.544 ha. has been identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of the Forest land over 112.621 ha. proposed for diversion in respect of the above Iron Ore Block which comprises of 110.813 ha. in 2 villages namely Jhurmur over 51.744 ha. and Jaidega over 59.069 ha. coming under Birmitrapur Tahasil of Sundargarh District under Rourkela Forest Division and 2.731 ha. in Dharopani village coming under Rengali Tahasil and Sambalpur Forest Division of Sambalpur District. Accordingly, the C.A. Scheme over 110.813 ha. of Non-Forest land prepared by the DFO, Rourkela Forest Division was approved by the PCCF(FD&NO, FC Act) for Rs.10,02,33,800/-. Subsequently the said scheme was revised to Rs.8,83,88,080.82 by the DFO, Rourkela Division vide his Memo No.4799 Dtd.26.04.2024 in accordance with one-time cost norm taking the base norm for the year 2024-25 and a sum of Rs.2,20,97,020.20 has been added towards the 25% of the CA cost to be spent towards SMC as per condition No.2(g) of Stage-I approval order, totaling Rs.11,04,85,101.02 and necessary demand was raised vide Memo No.4801 Dtd.26.04.2024.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹11,04,85,101.02/- (out of which ₹8,83,88,080.82 towards CA & ₹2,20,97,020.20 towards SMC) as per demand raised vide Letter No.4801 dt.26.4.2024 of DFO, Rourkela Division through e-portal of MoEF& CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 30.04.2024 vide UTR No.SBINR52024043019258308 which is enclosed as **Annexure-2**.

Further, the CA scheme over 2.731 ha. of Non-Forest land identified in village Dharopani under Rengali Range of Sambalpur Forest Division and prepared by the DFO, Sambalpur Division has been approved for ₹44,00,500/- by the Addl. PCCF (Nodal), Bhubaneswar vide Memo No.14094 dt.3.7.2025 with 10 years maintenance. As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹44,00,500/- through e-portal of MoEF& CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 15.07.2025 vide UTR No.SBINR52025071592136009.

The copy of payment details have been enclosed as **Annexure-3**.

The approved CA over 110.813 ha. and over 2.731 ha. will be implemented and maintained by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rourkela Forest Division and Sambalpur Forest Division respectively within 3 years from the date of grant of Stage-II approval on receipt of necessary funds.

The CA Schemes are enclosed as **Annexure-10** & the KML file is appended in Pen Drive.

e) Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and half time the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an area of 3.00 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified in Kunjar RF of Sole Range of Bonai Forest Division towards 1.5 times the area under Safety Zone and accordingly the Afforestation Scheme has been prepared by the DFO, Bonai Division. Further, the Scheme has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela vide Memo No.5414 dt.28.10.2024 for ₹49,27,900/-. The approved Scheme with GPS map and Toposheet are enclosed as **Annexure-10A**.

Further, as reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency has deposited the approved cost of Rs.49,27,900/- on 12.11.2024 vide UTR No.SBINR52024111261850413. The copy of payment details is enclosed as **Annexure-3**.

(f) User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & 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 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF& CC before Stage-II Clearance;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Gap Plantation and soil moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.40) prepared by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved for ₹64,20,100/- by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle. The copy of approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-11**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division to implement the Scheme which is enclosed at **Sl No.2 of Annexure-1**.

(g) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that in lieu of forest land over 112.621 ha proposed for diversion, Non-Forest Govt. land over 113.544 ha comprising of 110.813 ha. in Rourkela Forest Division and 2.731 ha in Sambalpur Forest Division have been identified for CA and accordingly the schemes have been approved by the PCCF(Nodal).

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In respect of the CA scheme over 110.813 ha, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹2,20,97,020.20 being 25% of the revised CA cost of ₹8,83,88,080.82 towards SMC through online on 30.04.2024 as per demand raised vide Letter No.4801 dt.26.4.2024 of DFO, Rourkela Division. The copy of payment details has already enclosed as Annexure-3.

The DFO, Sambalpur Forest Division has demanded vide office Memo No.8493 Dtd.19.08.2025 to deposit ₹11,00,125/- being 25% of the cost of CA amounting ₹44,00,500/- in respect of the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over 2.731 ha. of land identified in Dharopani Protected Forest under Rengali Range of Sambalpur Forest Division. In compliance of the same, the User Agency has deposited the aforesaid amount of Rs.11,00,125/- in the CAMPA Account through e-portal of MoEF& CC on 26.08.2025 vide UTR No.SBIN425238737751. The copy of payment details is enclosed as Annexure-3A.

Thus, a sum of ₹2,31,97,145.20 has been realized additionally from the User Agency being 25 % of CA Scheme towards SMC.

Condition No.3:- NPV

(a) The 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 issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 06.01.2022 read with 22.03.2022 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the demand has been raised by the DFO, Bonai Division vide his Office Letter No.3513 dt.26.04.2023 to pay a sum of ₹16,17,99,212.00 @14,36,670/- per ha over 112.621 ha (Canopy density 0.5 & Eco Class-I) towards payment of Net Present Value (NPV). Accordingly, the User Agency has deposited ₹16,17,99,212/- towards NPV through online on 2.5.2023 vide UTR No. SBIN123122038775 in favour of ORRISA CAMPA Account. The copy of payment details is enclosed as Annexure-12.

(b) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at SI No.3 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.4:- The CA area has been provided over 110.813 ha NFL; therefore, the State Govt. shall ensure that the equivalent non-forest land to the extent of the forest land being diverted will be provided;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an extent of 110.813 ha. of Govt. non-forest land has been identified in village Jhurmur over 51.744 ha. and Jaidega over 59.069 ha. under Biramitrapur Tehsil of Rourkela Forest Division for Compensatory Afforestation.

Further, an area of 2.731 ha. Non-Forest land has also been identified in village Dharopani under Rengali Range of Sambalpur Forest Division for CA.

Thus, Non-Forest land over 113.544 ha has been provided by the User Agency for raising CA pertaining to 112.621 ha of Forest land proposed for diversion.

Condition No.5:- *Transportation of ore shall be as per the recommendation in the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI;*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will implement the conditions for transportation of ore as per recommendation, in the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI which is enclosed at **SI No.4 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.6:- *A holistic transportation plan shall be prepared by the State Govt. aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The same shall be implemented. Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyor belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc. Transportation of ore through road should be minimized in a time bound manner;*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they shall carry out the transportation plan prepared by the State Govt., aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape which is enclosed at **SI No.5 of Annexure-1.** Further, a holistic transportation plan for the mines located in the Netrabandha Pahar landscape of Keonjhar and Bonai Division in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District has been prepared and sent to GoI, MoEF & CC vide this office Letter No.12295 dated 06.06.2025 to consider the holistic plan. The letter is enclosed as **Annexure-12A.**

Condition No.7:- *An Oversight Committee shall be constituted under the Chairmanship of the DDGF (Central) RO Bhubaneswar for 10 years who will monitor and review the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval for these five mines [namely-1. Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block (area 112.621 ha, 2. Netrabandha Pahar (West) area 66.242 ha), 3. Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha), 4. Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines Iron Ore Block (Area 42.608 ha) and 5. Guali Opencast Iron Ore Mines (area 194.683 ha)] twice a year and submit their yearly report to this Ministry in the month of December. This Oversight Committee shall consist following members and logistics of this Committee shall be borne by State Government at the cost of UAs:*

- a) DDGF (Central) – Regional Office Bhubaneswar- Chairman.
- b) One Representative from IIFM Bhopal.
- c) One Representative from WII Dehradun.
- d) One Representative from ICFRE.

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- e) *One Representative from NEERI.*
 - f) *One expert in Geology.*
 - g) *Two other experts nominated by MoEF & CC.*
 - h) *The recommendation made by the said committee shall be considered by the Ministry and if agreed the same shall be binding on the UAs;*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will implement the condition recommended by the committee which is enclosed at SI No.6 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.8:- *Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site/species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions;*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted a copy of the approved Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWLMP) for 10 years from 2024-25 to 2033-34. The detailed annual plan of operation has been provided in Chapter-3 of the approved RWLMP. The copy of the approved Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWLMP) is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-13**. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will implement the RWLMP for 10 years of the plan which is enclosed at SI No.7 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.9:- *A Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for this entire landscape shall also be prepared by the State Govt at the cost of UA;*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that demand was raised by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division vide his Letter No.3792 dt.8.5.2024 to deposit the proportionate cost for an amount ₹6,30,847/- towards 50% of the total cost of consultancy in respect of Netrabandha Pahar West Iron Ore Mine in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal for "Preparation of Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the entire Landscape of Netrabandha Pahar".

The User Agency has deposited ₹6,30,847/- towards 50% of the total cost of consultancy in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal on 01.06.2024 vide UTR No. SBIN402058484 which is enclosed as **Annexure-14**.

The Biodiversity Conservation Plan for Netrabandha Pahar entire landscape has already been submitted to GoI, MoEF & CC vide this office Memo No.14693 dated 10.07.2025 which is enclosed as **Annexure-15**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition of the bio-diversity conservation plan, which is enclosed at SI No.8 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.10:- Soil and moisture conservation measures shall be undertaken in and around 10KM radius of the mining lease areas at project cost;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Scheme for Soil and Moisture Conservation within 10 km radius of mining lease areas, submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide Memo No.5414/3F-871/2024 dt.28.10.2024 for ₹1,96,30,800/-. The approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-16**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at **SI No.9 of Annexure-1**.

Condition No.11:- The conditions stipulated in EC should be strictly implemented and monitored.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above conditions which is enclosed at **SI No.10 of Annexure-11**.

Condition No.12:- Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that all funds received from the User Agency under the project have been transferred / deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). The CAMPA format showing the deposit of all compensatory levies duly signed by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division and countersigned by the Addl. PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) is enclosed as **Annexure-29**.

Condition No.13:- 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 Stage-II approval;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the DFO, Bonai instructed that the e-green watch portal is not working for uploading now. The KML file of the area to be diverted, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area will be uploaded on the e-green watch portal when it works.

Condition No.14:- 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 Stage-I approval:

(a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;

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Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams submitted by the User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,03,56,000/- vide Memo No.3398 dt.31.07.2024. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-17**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the scheme which is enclosed at **SI No.12 of Annexure-1**.

(b) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹33,06,500/- vide Memo No.3398 dt.31.07.2024. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-18**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at **SI No.13 of Annexure-1**.

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

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹66,70,300/- vide Memo No.3398 dt.31.07.2024. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-19**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at **SI No.14 of Annexure-1**.

(d) 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°;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that The Scheme for stabilization of the overburden dumps by appropriate grading / benching so as to ensure that the angle of repose at any given place is less than 28° submitted by the User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹2,21,48,600/- vide Memo No.3398 dt.31.07.2024. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-20**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at SI No.15 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.15 : 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:*

(a) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Range Officer, Koira has intimated that the UA has demarcated the safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along inner boundary of the mining lease area) for its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire. Provision for deploying adequate number of watchers has been included in the Safety Zone Scheme and the same will be implemented after grant of final approval. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at SI No.16 of Annexure-1.

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

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at SI No.17 of Annexure-1.

(c) 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;

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the scheme for fencing, protection and regeneration of safety zone over 3.442 Ha. of forest land submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹2,11,98,400/-. The scheme will be implemented by the User Agency at the project cost in a phased manner. The scheme is enclosed as Annexure-21. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at SI No.18 of Annexure-1.

(d) The State Government and the User Agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;

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Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.19 of Annexure-1**.

Condition No.16:- *No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the User Agency will follow the top soil management plan;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Top soil management submitted by the User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹65,39,200/- vide Memo No. 3398 dt.31.07.2024. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-22**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at **SI No.20 of Annexure-1**.

Condition No.17:- *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 before Stage-II approval;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for de-siltation of the village tank and other water bodies located within 5 Km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,63,18,000/- vide Memo No.4048 dt.30.08.2024. The UA has identified 2 nos. of pond in village Badaputuli and Sargigarh under Bonai Forest Division for de-siltation. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-23**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at **SI No.21 of Annexure-1**.

Condition No.18:- *The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.22 of Annexure-1**.

Condition No.19:- *Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at SI No.23 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.20:- *The User Agency shall undertake that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up at project cost.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will take up afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area at project cost which is enclosed at SI No.24 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.21:- *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.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at SI No.25 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.22:- *A site-specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF (Wildlife) for the protection and conservation of wildlife of the area. A copy of approved Plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of Stage-I approval. Entire cost of implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA of the State;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and the same has been approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide his Memo No.757 dt.19.01.2023 with a financial out of ₹549.33 Lakhs (Bonai Division-₹378.68 Lakhs + Keonjhar Division-170.65 Lakhs). Accordingly, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹5,49,33,000/- towards the cost of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 05.04.2024 as per Challan dated 04.03.2024 vide UTR No.SBINR52024040514197176. The copy of the approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan and payment details are enclosed as Annexure-24 Series.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed at SI No.26 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.23:- *State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, along with compliance of Stage-I approval, as prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;*

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Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported the Collector, Sundargarh has issued certificate under Forest Right Act, 2006 for the entire forest land over 112.621 ha. vide his Letter No.1326/ITDA (FRA) dt.04.05.2023 which is enclosed as **Annexure-25.**

Condition No.24:- *The User Agency shall undertake that User Agency and the State Forest Department shall create and maintain from funds to be provided by the User Agency alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project as per the plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden Odisha. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for creation and maintenance of alternative habitat/home for avifauna has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Odisha vide his Memo No.7404 dt.3.7.2024 with financial outlay of ₹ 14,52,000/- and the user agency has deposited the said amount through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 18.07.2024 vide UTR No.SBIN524200921212. The copy of the scheme and payment details are enclosed as **Annexure-26.**

Condition No.25:- *The User Agency shall undertake that the project authority needs to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, stabilizing retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.27 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.26:- *The User Agency shall undertake that plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred under afforestation on the OB dumps and fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.28 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.27:- *The User Agency shall undertake that prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will take all precaution measures to prevent fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area which is enclosed at **SI No.29 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.28:- *The User Agency shall undertake that the angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will undertake that the angle of repose in OB dumps shall maintained to ensure stability and safety which is enclosed at SI No.30 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.29:- *The User Agency shall undertake that vetiver grass can be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that vetiver grass shall be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump which is enclosed at SI No.31 of Annexure-1..

Condition No.30:- *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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at SI No.32 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.31: *The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, 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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at SI No.33 of Annexure-1.

Condition No.32: *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 time to time and the Rules framed there-under;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the period of diversion of forest land under this proposal will be co-terminus with the period of the mining lease as amended vide the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment

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Act, 2015 and the Rules framed there under i.e. 50 years from the date of execution of Mining Lease.

Condition No.33: *The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Environmental clearance has been granted by the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India vide No. EC23B001OR185677 dt.26.05.2023. The copy of the Environmental Clearance is enclosed as **Annexure-27.**

Condition No.34: *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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.34 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.35: *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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, has been 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, by the User Agency. The details of forest pillars alongwith GPS co-ordinates etc are furnished with due countersignature of the DFO, Bonai Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-28.**

Condition No.36: *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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.35 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.37: *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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.36 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.38: *No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused, which is enclosed at **SI No.37 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.39: *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; and*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.38 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.40: *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.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.39 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.41: *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.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.40 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.42: *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;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed at **SI No.41 of Annexure-1.**

Condition No.43: *The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they shall upload the compliance report on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>), which is enclosed at **SI No.42 of Annexure-1.**

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In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval of Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd for non-forestry use of 112.621 ha. of forest land (including 1.808 ha. earmarked as Safety Zone) in village Baldihi under Koira Tehsil and Koira Range of Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, within the Block area of 139.223 ha. of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block by M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd.

Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 19378 / Dt. 17.09.2025

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), GoI, MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action with reference to Letter F.No.8-31/2022-FC dated 21.12.2023 of Scientist-D, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

16/9/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 19379 / Dt. 17.09.2025

Copy alongwith one set of Stage-I compliance forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to Letter F. No. 8-31/2022-FC dated 21.12.2023 of Scientist-D, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set

16/9/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 19380 / Dt. 17.09.2025

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.4546 dated 03.09.2025.

16/9/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 19381 / Dt. 17.09.2025

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Bonai Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.4547 dated 03.09.2025 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

16/9/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 19382 / Dt. 17.09.2025

Copy forwarded to M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd, Village-Thelkoloi, PO-Lapanga, Dist-Sambalpur-768212 for information.

16/9/2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)