



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. **18578** /9F (MG) – 66/2021
 Dated, Bhubaneswar the **12th** September' 2024

To

The Assistant 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(ii) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar & Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Bhusan Steel Ltd) (Online Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/49169/2020):- Stage-I Compliance regarding.

Ref:- F.No. 8-13/2022-FC dated 22.12.2023 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, I wish to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi vide their Letter F.No. 8-13/2022-FC dated 22.12.2023 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, FC Division, New Delhi have raised 42 (Forty Two) No. of observations in the Stage-I approved. The point wise compliance based on the reports of DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

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

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that the legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged which is enclosed as **Sl. No.1 of Annexure-I.**

236

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 an extent of 42.608 ha of Non-Forest Govt. land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified in village Jaladihi under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District. Further, an area of 44.002 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Balabhadrapur RF under Keonjhar Range of Keonjhar Forest Division which have been approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), O/o the PCCF, Odisha with financial outlays of ₹3,92,64,000/- and ₹3,69,34,500/- respectively. The User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹15,96,15,300/- through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) which includes the cost of CA amounting to ₹ 3,92,64,000/- and the cost of Additional CA amounting to ₹3,69,34,500/- and the approved cost of SSWLCP amounting to ₹8,34,16,800/- vide UTR No.HDFC520240306686033141 on 06.03.2024. The copy of payment details in this regard along with revised CA Scheme have been enclosed as **Annexure-2 series.**

- b. *The Govt. non-forest 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 the Non-forest Govt. land over 42.608 ha identified for compensatory afforestation in village Jaladihi under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar District has already been mutated and transferred in favour of the State Forest Environment & Climate Change Dept. and the Tahasildar, Banspal has issued RoR vide Khata No. 70/1 of Mouza- Jaladihi and submitted vide his letter No.507 dated 29.02.2024. The PF notification of the said land has been notified as 'Jaldihi Protected Forest' under Section-33 of the Odisha Forest Act, 1972 vide notification No.FE-DIV-FLD-0048-2022 (10F(Cons)23/2022) 16879/FE&CC of Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Odisha, FE & CC Department dated 03.09.2024. The copy of the RoR and the Notification are enclosed as **Annexure-3 Series.**

- 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 an extent of 42.608 ha of Non-Forest land has been identified in village Jaladihi under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar District for raising Compensatory Afforestation. Further, an area of 44.002 ha of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Balabhadrapur RF under Keonjhar Range of Keonjhar Forest Division.

The User Agency has completed the survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars on the identified CA land. Hence, it is not required to deposit the funds for the above purpose in advance. Further, in order to accommodate the balance seedlings, degraded forest land over 44.002 ha has been identified in Balabhadrapur RF under Keonjhar Range for Additional Compensatory Afforestation which has been demarcated in the field and RCC pillars have been posted. The aforesaid schemes include afforestation of indigenous species like; Jamun (*Syzigium cumini*), Kuruma (*Adina cordifolia*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Sisoo (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Gamhari (*Gmelina arborea*), Amla (*Embllica officinalis*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Panasa (*Artocarpus intigrifolia*) etc.

- d. *The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 42.608 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. The details of CA in 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 on receipt of funds from CAMPA, the compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 42.608 ha and over 44.002 ha degraded forest land to accommodate the balance seedlings, shall be raised by the DFO, Keonjhar Division at the approved cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage-II approval. The details of CA in NFL along with KML file is enclosed as **Annexure-4**.

- e. *Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times 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 3.573 ha. of degraded forest land measuring one and half times the forest area under safety zone has been identified in Nagaria PRF and accordingly a scheme for afforestation prepared by the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela vide his Memo No.1831 dt.30.04.2024 for Rs.52,87,500/-.

Further, as per demand raised by the DFO, Bonai Division the User Agency has paid a sum of Rs.57,55,500/- through e-portal vide UTR No.HDFCR52024050755078512 on 07.05.2024 which includes the cost of the scheme for 1.5 times Safety zone afforestation amounting to 52,87,500/- and the cost of the scheme for creation and maintenance of alternative habitat/ home for Avifauna amounting to Rs.4,68,000/-. A copy of the approved Scheme along with Toposheet No.F45N2 showing the identified area, GPS map and and payment particulars are enclosed as **Annexure-5 Series**.

- 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 and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.40) in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹20,06,100/- at the wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No.1591 dt.16.4.2024 (**Annexure-6**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-7**.

Further, the User Agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to implement the Scheme which are enclosed as **Sl. No.2 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.1 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

- 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 an amount of ₹98,16,000/- being 25% of CA cost of Rs.3,92,64,000/- towards Soil and Moisture Conservation activities in the proposed CA area has been deposited by the User Agency through e-portal on 20.03.2024 in the CAF. The User Agency has paid a sum of ₹1,93,91,413/- which includes the aforesaid cost of ₹98,16,000/- towards 25% of CA cost and the cost of Regional Wildlife Management Plan amounting to ₹95,75,413/- vide UTR No.HDFCR52024032090432858 dated 20.03.2024. The copies of payment details are enclosed as **Annexure-7A series**.

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 User Agency has deposited ₹6,12,13,636/- (₹3,72,81,587/- for Bonai Forest Division + ₹2,39,32,049/- for Keonjhar Division) towards NPV for the entire forest area of 42.608 ha. @ ₹14,36,670/- per ha vide UTR No.HDFCR52022041260657683 dated 12.04.2022 through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) as per Challan dated 6.4.2022. The copy of payment details are enclosed as **Annexure-8**.

- 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which is enclosed at **Sl. No.3 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.2 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

4. *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 intimated in his compliance that transportation will be done as per the guidelines provided in CSIR - NEERI recommendation. Kalamang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Mines falls under the SoTM-3, hence 70% of material shall be transported through public siding and 30% of material can be transported directly to the destination. Undertakings have been furnished by the User Agency duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to that effect which is enclosed at **Sl. No.4 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.3 of Annexure-1A** respectively. Further, they have also intimated that the company is proposing to transport Iron through 221 km slurry pipeline with its upstream facility located at Kalamang lease.

5. *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.*

222

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the User Agency has intimated in his compliance that transportation plan has been prepared considering minimum transportation through road to have minimum impact in the landscape. There is a proposal for transportation of ore through slurry pipeline in future. Undertakings have been furnished by the User Agency duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to that effect which are enclosed at **Sl. No.5 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.3 of Annexure-1A respectively**. Further they have also intimated that the company is proposing to transport iron through 221 km slurry pipeline with its upstream facility located at Kalamang lease. The project is likely to get commissioned in next 3-4 years-time.

6. *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.*
 - e) *One Representative from NEERI.*
 - f) *One expert in Geology.*
 - g) *Two other experts nominated by MoEF & CC.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to comply with all the recommendations to be given as per Oversight Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the DDGF (Central) RO Bhubaneswar which are enclosed at **Sl. No.6 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.4 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

7. *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, an amount of ₹ 95,75,413/- (92.875 ha. X Rs.1,03,100/-) was demanded vide their Letter No.2560 dt.11.03.2024 and 2302 dt.14.3.2024 respectively towards the cost of Regional Wildlife Management Plan (Bonai- Rs.78,57,973 + Keonjhar-Rs.17,17,440/-).

The User Agency has paid a sum of Rs.1,93,91,413/- on 20.03.2024 through e-Portal in Orissa CAMPA Account which includes a sum of Rs.95,75,413/- towards the cost of RWLMP and a sum of Rs.98,16,000/- towards 25% of the CA cost for Soil & Moisture Conservation activities in the proposed CA area. The payment details are **already enclosed as Annexure-7A Series above**. Further, as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, subsequent to enhancement of the rate of Regional Wildlife Management Plan to Rs.1,31,800/- per ha the Project Proponent has deposited Rs.26,65,518/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Five Thousand Five Hundred and Eighteen) only vide UTR No.SBIN524213583306 dated 31.07.2024 in Orissa CAMPA Account towards the differential amount of Regional Wildlife Management Plan in respect of Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division as per demand letter issued vide letter No.6188/6F-(Mg), dated 23.07.2024 of DFO, Bonai Division (for an amount of Rs.21,87,428/) and letter No.5858/6F/Mining dated 25.07.2024 of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division (for an amount of Rs.4,78,090/- respectively).

8. *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 the demand was raised by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division vide his Letter No.3792 dt.8.5.2024 (**Annexure-9**) to deposit the proportionate cost for an amount ₹2,38,668/- towards 50% of the total cost of consultancy in respect of Kalamang West (Northern Part) 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”**.

Further, the User Agency has deposited ₹2,38,668/- towards 50% of the total cost of consultancy to be borne by the lessee in respect of Kalamang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Mines of Tata Steel BSL Ltd. in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal on 17.5.2024 through RTGS with reference No.4008025794 (**Annexure-10**).

Again, the User Agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to that effect which are enclosed at **Sl. No.8 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.6 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

9. *Soil and moisture conservation measures shall be undertaken in and around 10 KM radius of the mining lease areas at project cost.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Soil and Moisture Conservation measuring in around 10 km radius of mining lease areas submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela

230
vide his Memo No.1828 dt.30.05.2024 for ₹2,01,48,600/-. A copy of the approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-11**.

Further, the User Agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to that effect which are enclosed at **Sl. No.9 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.7 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

10. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs that the conditions stipulated in EC should be strictly implemented and monitored (Copy of undertakings to that effect duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division, are enclosed at **Sl. No.9(a) of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.8 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

11. 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 the User Agency has transferred / deposited all funds in CAMPA account only through online portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). The 12 point CAMPA format duly signed by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division and countersigned by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) are enclosed as **Annexure-12 Series**.

12. 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 KML files with details have been uploaded in E-green watch portal pertaining to both the DFOs, Bonai & Keonjhar Division.

13. 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;**

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 DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,34,28,300/- at the wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No.1591 dt.16.4.2024 (Copy

already enclosed as **Annexure-6**). A copy of the approved Scheme is **enclosed as Annexure-13**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted undertakings to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at **Sl. No.10 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.9 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

- 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 within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹34,12,000/- at the wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No.1591 dt.16.4.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-6**). A copy of the approved Scheme is **enclosed as Annexure-14**.

Further, the User Agency has furnished undertakings to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at **Sl. No.11 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.10 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

- 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 DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹93,60,200/- at the wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No.1591 dt.16.4.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-6**). The copy of approved Scheme is **enclosed as Annexure-15**.

Further, the User Agency has furnished undertakings to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at **Sl. No.12 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.11 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

- 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 DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹48,70,100/- at the

1228

wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No.1591 dt.16.4.2024 (Copy already enclosed as Annexure-6). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as Annexure-16.

Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at Sl. No.13 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.12 of Annexure-1A respectively.

14. 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 Scheme for Fencing, Protection and Regeneration of the Safety Zone over 3.942 ha. (Forest-2.382 ha. + Non-forest-1.59 ha) submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,98,33,600/- vide his Memo No.1594 dt.16.4.2024 (Annexure-17). In the said scheme, Barbed wire fencing has been proposed and 3 nos. of special watchers have also been proposed. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as Annexure-17A. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at Sl. No.14 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.13 of Annexure-1A respectively.

- 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that the boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by them which are enclosed at Sl. No.15 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.14 of Annexure-1A respectively.

- 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 the Safety Zone over 3.942 ha. (Forest-2.382 ha. + Non-forest-1.59 ha.) has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for

₹1,98,33,600/- vide his Memo No.1594 dt.16.4.2024. The copy of approved Scheme is **already enclosed as Annexure-17A.**

The Scheme will be implemented by the User Agency as per prescriptions of the approved Scheme. Undertaking to this effect duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division, are enclosed at **Sl. No.16 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.15 of Annexure-1A respectively.**

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

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the user agency has furnished undertaking duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms which are enclosed at **Sl. No.17 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.16 of Annexure-1A respectively.**

15. 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 DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela for ₹1,06,03,300/- at the wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No.1591 dt.16.4.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-6**). A copy of the approved Scheme is **enclosed as Annexure-18.** Further, the User Agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to implement the Scheme, duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at **Sl. No.18 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.17 of Annexure-1A respectively.**

16. 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 de-silting 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 de-silting 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 tanks 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 DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela for ₹80,55,700/- at the wage rate of ₹450.00 per MD vide his Memo No. 1591 dt.16.4.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-6**). A copy of the approved Scheme is **enclosed as**

226

Annexure-19 Series. Further, the User Agency has furnished undertakings to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at Sl. No.19 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.18 of Annexure-1A respectively.

17. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department which are enclosed at Sl. No.20 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.19 of Annexure-1A respectively.

18. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFOs which are enclosed at Sl. No.21 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.20 of Annexure-1A respectively.

19. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up at project cost which are enclosed at Sl. No.22 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.21 of Annexure-1A respectively.

20. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that they 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 which are enclosed at Sl. No.23 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.22 of Annexure-1A respectively.

21. 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, the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan in respect Kalamang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Mine has been approved by PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha vide his Memo No.11356 dt.30.10.2023 (**Annexure-20**) with a financial outlay of ₹834.168 lakhs (₹607.200 Lakh for Bonai Division & ₹226.968 Lakh for Keonjhar Division) for implementation of various interventions in the ZoI (Buffer zone).

Accordingly, as per demand raised by the DFO, Bonai & Keonjhar Division, the user Agency has deposited a sum of Rs.15,96,15,300/- through e-portal in Orissa CAMPA on 06.03.2024 which includes the cost of the aforesaid SSWLCP amounting to ₹8,34,16,800/-, cost of CA amounting to Rs.3,92,64,000/- and the cost of Addl. CA amounting to Rs.3,69,34,500/-. The copy of payment details in this regard have been submitted to the PCCF (FD & NO) FC Act, Bhubaneswar vide Memo No.5604 dt.01.07.2024 of the DFO, Bonai Division (Copy already attached as **Annexure-2 Series**).

Further, regarding implementation of activities in the core zone, the User Agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division which are enclosed at **Sl. No.24 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.23 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

The copy of the payment particulars are enclosed as **Annexure-21**.

22. 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;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the Certificate under Forest Right Act, 2006 over 25.95 ha of forest land has been issued by the Collector, Sundargarh vide his Letter No.1327 dt.04.05.2023 (**Annexure-22**). Further, the Certificate under Forest Right Act, 2006 over 16.658 ha of forest land has been issued by the Collector, Keonjhar vide Letter No.2972 dt.28.11.2023 (**Annexure-23**). Thus, the User Agency has obtained Certificate for the entire forest area over 42.608 ha under Forest Right Act, 2006.

23. 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-

1224

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.4649 dated 24.04.2024 with a financial outlay of ₹ 4,68,000/-. A copy of approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-24.**

Further, the User Agency has deposited the above approved amount of ₹4,68,000/- through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 07.05.2024. The copy of payment details in this regard have further submitted to the PCCF (FD & NO) FC Act, Bhubaneswar vide Memo No.5604 dt.01.07.2024 of the DFO, Bonai Division (Copy already attached as **Annexure-2**).

24. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division 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 which are enclosed at **Sl. No.25 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.24 of Annexure-1A respectively.**

25. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division 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 which are enclosed at **Sl. No.26 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.25 of Annexure-1A respectively.**

26. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division for prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the

open pit area which are enclosed at Sl. No.27 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.26 of Annexure-1A respectively.

27. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that the angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety which are enclosed at Sl. No.28 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.27 of Annexure-1A respectively.

28. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division 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 which are enclosed at Sl. No.29 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.28 of Annexure-1A respectively.

29. 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: The RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to 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 (Copy of undertakings duly countersigned

1222
by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to that effect, are enclosed at Sl. No.30 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.29 of Annexure-1A respectively.

30. 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;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that they 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 which are enclosed at Sl. No.31 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.30 of Annexure-1A respectively.

31. 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 i.e. 50 years.

32. 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 SEIAA, Odisha vide File No. 55807/89-MINB1/06-2022, dated 18.10.2022 (Copy enclosed as Annexure-25).

33. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that 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 which are enclosed at Sl. No.32 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.31 of Annexure-1A respectively.

34. 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 Range Officer, Koira has intimated vide his Memo No.431 dt.05.06.2024 that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone has already been demarcated on the ground at the project cost by erecting 4 feet high RCC pillars. Each pillar is inscribed with serial number, DGPS co-ordinates, and distance from pillar to pillar. The list of boundary pillars co-ordinates with pillar to pillar distance is enclosed as **Annexure-26 Series**.

35. *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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division 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 specified in the proposal which are enclosed at **Sl. No.33 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.32 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

36. *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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division 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 which are enclosed at **Sl. No.34 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.33 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

37. *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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused which are enclosed at **Sl. No.35 of Annexure-1 and Sl. No.34 of Annexure-1A respectively**.

38. *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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division to abide by any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation,

1200
protection and development of forests & wildlife which are enclosed at **Sl. No.36 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.35 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

39. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that they shall abide 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 which are enclosed at **Sl. No.37 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.36 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

40. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para1.21 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para1.21 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 which are enclosed at **Sl. No.38 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.37 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

41. 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 furnished undertakings duly countersigned by both the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division that they 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 which are enclosed at **Sl. No.39 of Annexure-1** and **Sl. No.38 of Annexure-1A** respectively.

42. 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 compliance report has already been uploaded in the Parivesh Portal.

1219

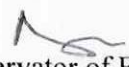
In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Forest Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar & Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Bhusan Steel Ltd) under Section 2 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

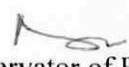

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 18579 /Dt. 12-09-2024
Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to F. No.8-13/2022-FC dated 22.12.2023 of the Scientist 'D', Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.



Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 18580 /Dt. 12-09-2024
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 F. No.8-13/2022-FC dated 22.12.2023 of the Scientist 'D', Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.


Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 18581 /Dt. 12-09-2024
Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.3913 dated 23.08.2024.


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)


Memo No. 18582 /Dt. 12-09-2024
Copy forwarded to the DFO, Bonai Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.3914 dated 23.08.2024 of the RCCF, Rourkela Circle to his address.


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

12/8


Memo No. 18583 /Dt. 12-09-2024

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.3915 dated 23.08.2024 of the RCCF, Rourkela Circle to his address.


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 18584 /Dt. 12-09-2024

Copy forwarded to the Authorized Signatory, M/s Tata Steel BSL Limited, 273, Bhouma Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)