

SPEED POST



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
ए ३, चंद्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur
भुवनेश्वर - ७५१ ०२३ / Bhubaneswar - 751 023



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No.5-ORA615/2023-BHU

13.03.2024

सेवा में,

अपर वन माहनिदेशक
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु पारिवर्तन मंत्रालय,
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन,
जोरबाग रोड, अलीगंज,
नई दिल्ली - 110003

विषय : Site inspection of proposal for seeking prior approval of the central government under section 2 (ii) of the forest (conservation) act, 1980 in favour of m/s tata steel ltd for non forestry use of 303.066 ha of forest land including 66.126 ha of non forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 involved in the mining lease area over 464.00 ha within bamebari iron and manganese mines in keonjhar district.

महाशय,

उपरोक्त विषय के संबंध में मुझे सूचित करने का निर्देश हुआ है कि यह परियोजना का दिनांक 11.01.2024 को आधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा स्थल निरीक्षण और अनुश्रवण किया गया। इस परियोजना से संबंधी स्थल निरीक्षण और अनुश्रवण रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु संलग्न कर भेज जा रहा है।

भवदीय,

पद्म माहान्ती

(डॉ पद्मा माहान्ती)

उप वन महानिरीक्षक (केन्द्रीय)

संलग्न : उपरोक्त

प्रेषित / Despatcher

दिनांक / Dated..... 13/3/24

कृ. तं. वं. मं.

का/प्र

SITE INSPECTION OF PROPOSAL FOR SEEKING PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTION 2 (II) OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980 IN FAVOUR OF M/S TATA STEEL LTD FOR NON FORESTRY USE OF 303.066 HA OF FOREST LAND INCLUDING 66.126 HA OF NON FOREST LAND RECORDED AS FOREST AS ON 25.10.1980 INVOLVED IN THE MINING LEASE AREA OVER 464.00 HA WITHIN BAMEBARI IRON AND MANGANESE MINES IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned 11.01.2024 along with RCCF, Rourkela and officials of Keonjhar Forest Division and officials of the user agency.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

As reported by the Government of Odisha, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, the details of forest land proposed for diversion are furnished below:

Name of mining block	RF (in ha)	Khesera Forest (in ha)	DLC (in ha)	Sabik Forest (in ha)	Total Forest area (in ha)
Bamebari	0	0	23.045	59.015	82.060
Joribar	0	0.249	49.694	6.041	55.984
Boneikela	115.308	48.644	0	1.070	165.022
	115.308	48.893	72.739	66.126	303.066

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.

As reported by the Government of Odisha, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, the purpose wise break up of 303.066 ha of forest land including 66.126 ha of non forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Pattern of utilization	Broken up non forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Virgin non forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Total non forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 (in ha)	Total virgin forest land (RF, KF & DLC) in ha	Total forest land (RF, KF, DLC and Sabik forest land) (in ha)	Non forest land (in ha)	Grand total in (ha)
1.	Mining (quarry, float ore)	2,390	7,842	10,232	127,911	138,143	1,370	139,513
2.	Storing mineral/ore	5,000	2,313	7,313	26,523	33,836	1,813	35,649
3.	Dumping of OB	8,554	4,730	13,284	51,371	64,655	2,322	66,977
4.	Storing tools and	0,319	2,540	2,859	2,071	4,930	0,651	5,581

	machinery							
5.	Construction of building (including magazine)	3.242	0.000	3.242	0	3.242	0.000	3.242
6.	Township/colony	19.465	0.000	19.465	0	19.465	5.057	24.522
7.	Road/conv./corridor/ power transmission/water pipeline, etc.	3.453	1.974	5.427	3.839	9.266	0.000	9.266
8.	Safety zone	0.476	2.161	2.637	22.128	24.765	0.560	25.325
9.	Green belt	0.000	1.667	1.667	0.000	1.667	0.000	1.667
10	Safety zone involved in approved plan	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.097	3.097	0.000	3.097
	Total	42.899	23.227	66.126	236.94	303.066	11.773	314.839

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

As reported in Point No.2 above.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

As reported by the user agency, the total cost of the project is Rs.43.66 crores.

5. Wildlife:

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division wild animal such as Bear, Barking Deer, Hyena, Porcupine, etc. are noticed.

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, movement of wild elephant is seen within 5 km distance from the mining lease and the applied area for diversion falls under Elephant Habitat Zone-2 as per the book titled "Remote sensing application for characterization of elephant habitat and corridor in Odisha and part of Bihar (Jharkhand) during September, 1999.

6. Vegetation:

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that the density of vegetation is 0.6 and Eco Value Class-I.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, the total number of trees to be felled is 23111.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Removal of trees has impact on the general ecosystem in terms of loss of habitat to fauna, soil and moisture conservation, local climate, etc.

(b) Important species:

The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that the vegetation consists of Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sisoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Bija (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Kurum (*Adina cordifolia*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Jamu (*syzygium cumini*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Kasi (*Bridelia retusa*), Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), etc.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

The number of trees of girth below 60 cm. is 21140

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm

The number of trees of girth above 60 cm. is 1971.

7. Background note on the proposal:

As reported by the PCCF and HoFF, Odisha that Bamebari iron and manganese mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd was originally granted by the then Maharaja of Keonjhar estate over an area of 1150.550 ha comprising of three blocks namely Bamebari, Joribar and Boneikela under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar district for 30 years with effect from 01.04.1930 to 31.03.1960. The first renewal was granted by Mining and Geology Department, Government of Odisha over an area of 1150.550 ha for 20 years from 01.04.1960 to 31.03.1980. The 2nd renewal was granted by Mining and Geology Department, Government of Odisha over an area of 1150.550 ha for 20 years from 01.04.1980 to 31.03.2000. The user agency (M/s TISCO Ltd) has applied for 3rd renewal of mining lease on 05.01.1999 i.e. one year prior to expiry of mining lease for Bamebari iron and manganese mines over reduced area of 464.00 ha (Bamebari block-140.00 ha, Joribar-91.00 ha and Boneikela block-233.00 ha) for 20 years from 01.04.2000 confining villages Palasha (Ka), Kundaposi, Namira Bandhubeda, Jaribahal, Jajanga Boneikela, Thakurani RF and Siddhamatha RF. After amendment of MMDR Act, the State Government, Department of Steel and Mines, Odisha Bhubaneswar extended the period of mining lease as per provision of Section -8(A) of MMDR Act, 2015 up to 31.03.2030.

After execution of lease deed M/s Tata Steel Ltd has applied for surrender of relinquished area of 686.550 ha to the Collector and DM, Keonjhar.

The block wise details of original lease and reduced area in the renewal application is furnished below:

Block	Original	Applied RML over reduced area
Bamebari	364.620 ha	140.000 ha
Joribar	170.000 ha	91.000 ha
Baneikala	615.930 ha	233.000 ha
Total	1150.550 ha	464.000 ha

The said lease executed over 464.00 ha comprises Reserve Forest -170.157 ha, Khesera Forest 62.844 ha, DLC forest land 149.268 ha. Non forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980, 66.126 ha and non forest land 15.605 ha. The total forest land involved in the mining lease is 448.395 ha.

The diverted forest land over 145.329 ha involves 85.029 ha pre-1980 broken up forest land and 60.300 ha (RF-46.200 ha, KF-1.945 ha and DLC-12.155 ha) of virgin forest land.

The instant diversion proposal has been submitted over 303.066 ha i.e. 115.308 ha of Reserve Forest, 48.893 ha of Khesera forest, 72.739 ha of DLC forest land and 66.126 ha of non forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that an extent of 303.066 ha of forest land has been proposed for diversion, out of which an area of 27.862 ha is ear marked as safety zone. However, as per Para 7.9 (vi) of Chapter 7 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 29.12.2023 there is need for CA for the safety zone. Hence, the compensatory afforestation is required over 275.204 ha (303.066 ha – 27.862 ha) of non forest land. It was reported that 160.419 ha government non forest land in village Tamanga under Telkoi tahasil , 66.127 ha Asanabahali in Dhenkanal, 49 ha non forest land in village Sudanga under Banspal tahasil for raising compensatory afforestation has been identified.

Additional CA scheme over 240 ha of Degraded Forest land identified in Masanibila RF under Ghatagaon range.

DSS observation

- a. Shifting cultivation and Unmettled road are observed in Sudanga CA.
- b. Settlements and shifting cultivation are observed in Tamanga CA Patch-II.
- c. The proposed CA land patch falls under **Moderately Dense Forest, Open Forest, and Non Forest** category under FCM.

Agricultural encroachment, unmettled road and pond over 1.54 ha and old plantation is observed.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that the land is suitable from plantation point of view.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that the land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances. The same was verified on field. Copy of the DSS report is enclosed herewith. From DSS analysis it is noticed that there is shifting cultivation and unmetalled road in Sudanga CA land, settlement and shifting cultivation is observed in Tamanga CA patch II.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

Not reported.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

66.127 ha land in Asanabahali, Kankadahad district of Dhenkanal-single patch
160.419 ha Tamanga-two patches
49 ha Sudanga-single patch
Additional CA : 240 ha in Masinabila – 2 patches

(e) Map with details:

Submitted.

(f) Total financial outlay:

The total financial outlay of CA scheme is Rs.9,17,88,000. Additional CA scheme over 240 ha of Degraded Forest land identified in Masanabila RF under Ghatagaon range with a financial outlay of Rs.10,48,71,300.

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

As per the report of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, the user agency has committed the following violation in the mining lease and the details are as follows and the same was verified on field:

- i. One old pit measuring an area of 0.84 ha is located within the DLC forest land proposed for diversion within the Joribar block of the Bamebari mining lease.
- ii. An area of 0.20 ha DLC forest area proposed for diversion has been encroached by dumping of materials by a crusher unit operated by the third party within Joribar block of the Bamebari mining lease.
- iii. One permanent shelter measuring an area of 0.03 ha is constructed in the DLC forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.
- iv. An old rehabilitated dump measuring an area 5.95 ha in DLC forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines is also existing.
- v. A portion of the mineral reject dump measuring an area of 0.35 ha in DLC forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.
- vi. Excavation for mining over an area of 0.74 ha (0.51 ha +0.23 ha) DLC forest land proposed for diversion of Joribar block of Bamebari mining lease.
- vii. Establishment of dump and construction of road measuring an area 0.69 ha (0.59 ha +0.10 ha) DLC Forest land proposed for diversion with Joribar block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.
- viii. Construction of road measuring an area of 0.42 ha (0.17 ha + 0.10 ha + 0.15 ha) DLC forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari mining lease.
- ix. Excavation for mining over an area of 0.11 ha Khesara forest land proposed for diversion of Joribar block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.
- x. Construction of road measuring an area 0.14 ha (0.11 ha +0.03 ha) is in the Khesara Forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar block of Bamebari mining lease.
- xi. One old habitation exists prior to 1995 (approximately 20 years old), based with Google time series map measuring an area of 1.65 ha is located in the DLC forest land proposed for diversion within the Bamebari block of the Bamebari mining lease.

Details of broken up Sabik Forest land prior to concept of Sabik Kisam land

- a. Construction of one old road measuring an area of 0.89 (0.84 ha +0.05 ha) is located in the Sabik Forest land proposed for diversion within the Joribar block of the Bamebari mining lease.
- b. Twenty numbers of old human habitation exists (approximately 20 years old) of 4.74 ha is located in the Sabik forest land proposed for diversion within the Joribar block of the Bamebari mining lease.
- c. Establishment of old dump (6.45 ha and construction of old road (1.23 ha) is in the Sabik forest land proposed for diversion within Bamebari Block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.
- d. Establishment of old dump (2.43 ha) is in the Sabik forest land proposed for diversion within Bamebari Block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.
- e. One old pit has been established measuring an area of 1.32 ha (now reclaimed) is located within the Sabik forest land proposed for diversion Bamebari Block of Bamebari iron and manganese mines.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

It was reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.

11. Reclamation plan:

It was reported that in consonance to the approved review mining plan, 2,900 number of samplings has been planted over an area of 1.20 ha for the block year 2020-21. The concurrent reclamation by back filling of exhausted quarry is being carried out since 1st April, 2010 as per the Mining Plan.

Details and financial allocation:

-

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

Not applicable.

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

13. Cost benefit ratio:

The cost benefit ratio comes to 1:2.26.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:

Recommended.

15. Recommendations of Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) (Central) along with detailed reasons:

Attached along with the report.

16. Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

The project is site specific.

17. Utility of the project:

The project may create employment opportunity directly and indirectly for people of that area.

Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:

Not reported.

18.

(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

Not reported.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

Not reported.

19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, Karokarampada elephant corridor is about 10 km from the project.

20. Any other information relating to the project:

- i. Trees shall be felled only when it is absolutely necessary.
- ii. The user agency shall submit FRA certificate under FRA, 2006
- iii. Penalty as per the provisions of the FC Act may be imposed for the violation committed by the user agency

Other information sought by the Ministry's letter No.8-35/2022-FC dated 6th November, 2023:

1. Connectivity of the proposed mining area

As reported by the Government of Odisha, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, the details of forest land proposed for diversion are furnished below:

Name of mining block	RF (in ha)	Khesera Forest (in ha)	DLC (in ha)	Sabik Forest (in ha)	Total Forest area (in ha)
Bamebari	0	0	23.045	59.015	82.060
Joribar	0	0.249	49.694	6.041	55.984
Boneikela	115.308	48.644	0	1.070	165.022
	115.308	48.893	72.739	66.126	303.066

Boneikala (which has 236.94 ha (303.066 ha-66.126ha) and 64.655 in the earlier diverted area) which could not be assessed during the site inspection as it was informed that it would take 3 hours in forest route and there is no connecting road. However, from the DSS analysis there appears to be a road up to this mining block and 2 structures were seen inside the proposed forest patch. During site inspection, it was intimated that this site also is not properly explored. Here connectivity has not been established. So, it could not be assessed.

Joribahal block has 12 violations reported by the Divisional Forest Officer. These were cross checked in field. The violations are attributed to a kuchha road to the mining area and an OB dump which is almost stabilized with vegetation and certain mined out areas. This block has road connectivity.

In Bamberi mining block, the mining is going on in the earlier diverted area is almost exhausted and only about one ha is left to be worked out as informed by the user agency. It is now in reclamation phase as intimated by the user agency and accompanying Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela. The same was also observed in the field.

2. Density on ground

The DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division has reported that the density of vegetation is 0.6 and Eco Value Class-I. The applied area is situated partly in Thakurani and Sidhamatha Reserve Forest. Bonaikela is still fairly undisturbed and has good vegetation, whereas the other 2 blocks are disturbed due to ongoing mining activity. This was also observed during site inspection.

3. Crop composition

The prevailing vegetation is categorized under the group 3C/C2e(iii) Peninsular Valley Sal.

The existing vegetation consists of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and its associates. As per tree enumeration the vegetation consists of Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sisoo (*Dalbergia sisoo*), Bija (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Kurum (*Adina cordifolia*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Jamu (*Syzygium cumini*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Kasi (*Bridelia retusa*) Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), etc.

4. Impact of mining on the watershed on the surrounding area

Mining will have impact on the watershed of the area.

5. Impact of the mining on the elephant dispersal/habitat

The Keonjhar Division is already having elephant movement and human wildlife conflict is rampant in the district due to highly disturbed habitat and heavy mining activity. On the day of inspection too elephant movement was noticed near Boneikela proposed mining block. Hence, mining activity will have impact over the elephant habitat.

DSS observation

i*. **Bonaikela Block:** Artificial structures (22° 2'43.82"N/ 85°25'0.26"E) is present in Khesra Forest Plot No.17 in Bonaikela Block ML area.

- ii*. **Joribar Block:** FC violation is observed in Khesra Forest Patch-14, DLC Forest, Patch-10,11 and illegal OBD-1 (21°55'54.97"N/ 85°24'33.30"E) is present in DLC Forest, Patch-9, illegal OBD-2(21°55'59.90"N/ 85°24'32.32"E) in DLC Forest, Patch-6 and illegal mining (21°56'6.16"N/ 85°24'43.00"E) in DLC Forest, Patch-6 is observed in Jaribahal Block ML area.
- iii*. **Bambebari Block:** FC violation is observed in Sabik Forest (21°54'21.01"N/ 85°25'33.54"E) area and illegal OBD (21°54'26.45"N/ 85°25'28.47"E) is present in DLC Forest, Patch-9 in Bambebari Block ML.

Recommendation:

1. Boneikala block 165.022 ha proposed for diversion should not be handed over for mining activity, since it is still not explored and there is no connectivity up to the proposed mining site. The violation observed in the DSS over this block has to be reported and action taken.
2. The violations in Joribar block need to be assessed and suitable steps to be taken under penalty provisions and under 3A and 3 B of FC Act.
3. In Bambebari Block the violation has to be addressed as per rules. Reclamation of the mined out area to be done with indigenous species and handed back to the Forest Department for further management.
4. The CA land to be made free from encroachment and maintained with adequate staff deployment and maintenance for at least 10 years.
5. State Government has to take action against all violation in all these blocks as per rule and submit an action taken report.

Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (Central)

Recommendation of Deputy Director General of Forests (Central):

I agree with the site inspection report of Dr. Padma Mahanti, DIGF (Central). The proposal is recommended with the aforesaid condition and other usual standard conditions.

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)
Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)

No.5-ORA615/2023-BHU

7th March, 2024

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & CC Deptt.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar – 751 001.

Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (ii) of FC Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. for non-forestry use of 303.066 ha of forest land including 66.126 ha of non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 involved in the mining lease area over 464.00 ha within Bamebari Iron & Manganese Mines in Keonjhar District, Odisha.

Ref: Ministry's order No.8-35/2022-FC dated 06.11.2023.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the site inspection of the above proposal was conducted by the Regional Office on 11.01.2024. During site inspection the following violation has been observed over the proposed forest land in the Jaribar & Bamebari block of Bamebari Iron & Manganese Mines.

Joribar Block:

- i) One old pit measuring an area of 0.84 is located within the DLC forest land.
- ii) An area of 0.20 ha DLC forest area proposed for diversion has been encroached by dumping materials by a crusher unit operated by the third party.
- iii) One permanent shelter measuring an area of 0.03 ha is constructed in the DLC forest land.
- iv) An old rehabilitated dump measuring an area of 5.95 ha in DLC forest land.
- v) A portion of the mineral reject dump measuring an area of 0.35 ha in DLC forest land.
- vi) Excavation for mining over an area of 0.74 ha (0.51 ha + 0.23 ha) DLC forest land.
- vii) Establishment of dump and construction of road measuring an area of 0.69 ha (0.59 ha + 0.10 ha) DLC forest land.
- viii) Construction of road measuring an area of 0.42 ha (0.17 ha + 0.10 ha + 0.15 ha) DLC forest land.
- ix) Excavation for mining over an area of 0.11 ha Khesara forest land.
- x) Construction of road measuring an area of 0.14 ha (0.11 ha + 0.03 ha) in the Khesara forest land.
- xi) Construction of one old road measuring an area of 0.89 ha (0.84 ha + 0.05 ha) located in the Sabik Forest land.
- xii) Twenty number of old human habitation exists (approximately 20 years old) over 4.74 ha is located in the Sabik forest land.

Contd...2

Bamebari Block:

- i) One old habitation exists prior to 1995 (approximately 20 years old), based with Google time series map measuring an area of 1.65 ha is located within DLC forest land.
- ii) Establishment of old dump (6.54 ha and construction of old road (1.23 ha) is in the Sabik Forest land.
- iii) Establishment of old dump (2.43 ha) is in the Sabik forest land.
- iv) One old pit has been established measuring an area of 1.32 ha (now reclaimed) is located within the Sabik forest.

It is therefore requested to submit a detail report on violation and action taken report to this office for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for kind information and necessary action.

Padma Mahanti

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

O/C

MONITORING OF THE ACTION ON STIPULATED CONDITIONS IN CASE OF PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE GOVT. OF INDIA UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.

The project was monitored by the undersigned on 11.01.2024 accompanied by the RCCF, Rourkela Forest Division and officials of the Keonjhar Forest Division, and officials of the user agency were present.

PART-I

1.	Name/purpose of the proposal	Diversion of 145.329 ha forest land in village Bamebari, Jaribahal etc. in Keonjhar Forest /division for iron and manganese ore mining in favour of M/s TISCO Limited in Odisha
2.	No. and date of Govt. of India's letter according permission.	Ministry's letter No.8-72/2004-FC dated 25 th January, 2007
3.	Area permitted to be diverted (in ha.)	145.329 ha
4.	District and Forest Division	Keonjhar District, Keonjhar Forest Division
5.	Area actually diverted (in ha.)	145.329 ha

PART- II (DETAILS OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION)

It was reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division that an amount of Rs.23,50,000 has been deposited for raising compensatory Afforestation over 60.30 ha (non forest government land of 40.660 ha at village Tiriba and non forest government land of 19.640 ha in Rugudikasada, under Banspal Tahsil in Keonjhar).

PART- III (PLANTING OF DWARF TREES IN CASE OF TRANSMISSION LINE)

Not applicable.

PART - IV (RECLAMATION OF THE AREA WORKED UNDER MINING/ QUARRYING)

As reported by the user agency, the concurrent reclamation is being done by back filling of exhausted quarry. It was also observed during monitoring that plantation has been carried out over the dumps.

PART- V (CONDITIONS STIPULATED BY THE GOVT. OF INDIA OTHER THAN MENTIONED ABOVE)

The status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval letter is furnished below:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

Complied.

- ii. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over equivalent non forest land in lieu fresh forest land being diverted i.e. 60.30 ha and shall be maintained at the at the project cost.

It was reported by Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division that an amount of Rs.23,50,000 has been deposited for raising compensatory Afforestation over 60.30 ha.

- iii. The non forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation shall be declared as Reserved Forest/Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or relevant State Act. The Nodal Officer shall submit compliance within six months in this regard.

It was reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division that 40.660 ha of Tiriba has been notified as "Tiriba Protected Forest" vide Government of Odisha letter No.16662/FE&CC dated 07.08.2023. 19.640 ha of Ragudikasda has been declared as Protected Forest (copy of Notification is attached as Annexure-I).

- iv. The mining lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be coterminous with the current lease granted under MMRD Act, 1957.

It was reported by the user agency that the approval under FC Act is extended till 31.03.2030.

- v. The State Government shall deposit all above mentioned funds, if not done already with the Ad hoc body of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning (CAMPA) in Account No.CA1585 of Corporation Bank (A Government of India Enterprises), Block-11, Ground Floor, CGO Complex, Phase-1, Lodhi road, New Delhi – 110003 as per the instructions communicated vide letter No.5-2/2006-FC dated 20.05.2006.

The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.

- vi. RCC pillars of 4 feet height shall be erected to demarcate the area by the user agency at the project cost and will be marked with forward and back bearings.

The condition has been complied with.

- vii. The user agency shall raise, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area and will also raise and maintain the plantation over an area one and half times in extent of the safety zone at the project cost.

The condition has been complied with.

- viii. The concurrent reclamation plan shall be executed by the user agency from the very first year and an annual report shall be sent to the Nodal Officer and the RCCF, Bhubaneswar. If it is found from the annual report that the concurrent reclamation plan is not being adhered to by the user agency, the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, the annual programme is completed for that year.

As reported by the user agency, the concurrent reclamation is being done by back filling of exhausted quarry. It was also observed during monitoring that plantation has been carried out over the dumps.

- ix. The top soil shall be protected at the project cost.

It was reported by the user agency during monitoring that top soil generated has been utilized for plantation and dumps and care is being taken for preservation of top soil.

- x. The wildlife Management Plan for the area shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department at project cost.

It was reported by the user agency that Rs.45,05,554 and Rs.47,74,446 (the differential amount towards Wildlife Management Plan) has been deposited towards Wildlife Management Plan.

- xi. The user agency shall implement a conservation plan as per the guidelines of the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State and the project cost.

The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.

- xii. Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department and at the cost of the project.

The condition was reported to be complied with.

- xiii. No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.

The condition was reported to be complied with.

- xiv. All necessary measures should be taken by the user agency to protect environment.

During monitoring, it was observed that the user agency has adopted necessary measures to protect environment like waste management system, creation of retaining wall, garland drain, sprinkling of water on haul road and development of green belt.

- xv. Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers at the project cost after purchase from the State Forest Department/Forest Development Corporation.

It was reported by the user agency that they are providing free electricity to the employees residing in the camp area for cooking purpose.

- xvi. The user agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available wildlife.

The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.

- xvii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.

- xviii. The forest land thus diverted shall be non transferable. Whenever the forest land is not required, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department under intimation to this Ministry.

The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.

PART - VI (CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE STATE GOVT. IN ADDITION TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA'S CONDITIONS AND OTHER STEPS TAKEN TO PRESERVE FOREST, WILDLIFE AND PREVENT SOIL EROSION ETC.

Nil

PART - VII (MONITORING)

1.	Whether any committee has been formed for monitoring of the action on conditions stipulated:	No
2.	If no, give reasons. If yes give:	Not known
3.	Details of the committee Reports of the Monitoring committee if any.	Nil

PART - VIII

1.	Abstract reports of inspection of Forest Officers, if any:	
2.	Remarks of the DDGF (Central) in regard to progress of the action on stipulated conditions:	
3.	Effect of the project on forest and Wildlife:	<i>The mining projects effect on the health of forest and wildlife due to fragmentation of the forest, needs proper scientific study and the finding needs to be incorporated into management solutions at the project cost.</i>

Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (Central)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION

No.FE-DIV-FLD-0067-2023- 16669/FE&CC, Date 07.08.23
10F-(Cons)-119/2016

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section-33 of the Odisha Forest Act, 1972 (Odisha Act 14 of 1972), the State Government do hereby declare that the following land situated in Village-Rugudikasada under Telkoi (now Banspal) Tahasil in the District of Keonjhar mutated and transferred in favour of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for the purpose of raising Compensatory Afforestation thereon against the approved diversion of 145.329 ha. of forest land in village-Bamebari, Jaribahal etc. in Keonjhar Forest Division for Iron and Manganese Ore mining in favour of M/s TISCO Limited in Odisha vide order No. F. No.8-72/2004-FC, dt.25.01.2007 of Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests (FC Division), New Delhi under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the limits of which are specified below and the area of which is 19.640 ha (48.531 acres), shall be 'Protected Forests' with effect from the date of issue of the Notification and shall be known as "Rugudikasada Protected Forest".

Forest Block:

Name of the Protected Forest	:	Rugudikasada Protected Forest
Area in Ha	:	Patch-I Patch-II Total
Area in acres	:	18.170 1.470 19.640
Name of the Village	:	Rugudikasada
Name of the Police Station	:	Kanjipani
Name of the Tahasil	:	Banspal
Name of the Sub-Division	:	Keonjhar (Sadar)
Name of the District	:	Keonjhar

Land Schedule:

Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam	Total area in Ha.	Boundary Description				Patch
					North	South	East	West	
Rugudikasada	103/33	104	Patharabani	14.480	Plot No. 102, 103, 105 & 109	Plot No. 316	Plot No. 121/635	Plot No. 10	I
		120/635	Parbat-II	3.690	Plot No. 116, 117, 118,	Plot No. 316	Plot No. 121/634	Plot No. 104	

				119 & 120					
		121/ 636		1.470	Plot No. 121	Plot No. 316	Plot No. 126	Plot No. 121/ 634	II
Total				19.640 ha or 48.531 ac					

By Order of the Governor

(Satyabrata Sahu)

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

By e-mail: deputydirectorpp@rediffmail.com

Memo No. 16670 /FE&CC, Date 07.08.23

Copy with soft copy forwarded to the Director of Printing, Stationery and Publication, Odisha Cuttack for publication in an extra-ordinary issue of the Odisha Gazette and supply 10 copies of printed notification each to Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department/ Director of Land Records and Surveys, Odisha, Cuttack/ Collector, Keonjhar/ Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar (T) Forest Division/ Tahasildar-Banspal Tahasil, Dist.- Keonjhar.

2. The Notification is statutory and may be assigned SRO number.

d. 5/8/2023
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 16671 /FE&CC, Date 07.08.23

Copy forwarded to the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (F.C. Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003/ Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-23 for information and necessary action.

d. 5/8/2023
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 16672 /FE&CC, Date 07.08.23

Copy forwarded to the R&DM Department/ Steel & Mines Department/ Director of Land Records and Surveys, Odisha, Cuttack/ R.D.C. (N.D.) Sambalpur/ Collector, Keonjhar/ Tahasildar, Banspal Tahasil, Dist.-Keonjhar for information and necessary action.

d. 5/8/2023
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

- 2 -

Memo No. 16673 /FE&CC, Date 07.08.23

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha/
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO) FC Act, O/o the PCCF, Odisha w.r.t. his
letter No.12917, dt.27.06.2023/ Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle/
Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar (T) Forest Division for information and necessary
action.

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OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 16674 /FE&CC, Date 07.08.23

Copy forwarded to the Head State Portal, IT Centre, Odisha Secretariat,
Bhubaneswar/ OE (IT) Section, FE&CC Department w.r.t. this Department letter
No.21646/F&E Dt. 22.11.2016/ 5 spare copies for G.F. for information and necessary
action.

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OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 16675 /FE&CC, Date 07.08.23

Copy forwarded to M/s Tata Steel Ltd., 273, Bhouma Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar-
1 for information and necessary action.

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OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government