

**Sub: Diversion of 68.00 ha ( 49.34 ha non-forest land recorded as "Forest" as on 25th October, 1980 and 18.660 ha non-forest land having enough forest growth to be considered as "Forest") in line with the orders dated 12.12.1996 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of WP(C) No 202/1995) in respect of Unchabali (Mahaparbat) Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd. including 11.240 ha forest land located in the Safety Zone in village Unchabali & Balda under Barbil Tahasil within the jurisdiction of Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha.**

1. This is related to above subject proposal, for which Stage-II approval is under consideration in the Ministry.
2. State Government of Odisha vide their letter no. FC (Cons) 110/2016/6193/F&E dated 16.03.2018 submitted above subject proposal for prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which accorded Stage-I approval vide Ministry's letter dated 16.11.2020
3. Government of Odisha vide their letter no. 8926/9F (MG)- 11/2017 dated 21.03.2020 submitted compliance report of the conditions stipulated in Stage-I approval dated 16.11.2018.
4. After examination of the compliance report, the Ministry vide its letter dated 22.07.2020 requested the State Government to furnish clarifications on the observation made by the MoEF&CC.
5. Government of Odisha vide their letter no. 16500/9F(MG)-11/2017 dated 18.09.2020 submitted their reply in response to Ministry's letter dated 22.07.2020. Details are as under:

Point	Observation	Response of State Govt.
(i)	It is mentioned that FAC in its meeting held on 26.04.2018 recommended that "State Government shall clarify the reason for execution of lease over forest land in 2008 without prior approval of MoEF&CC, Government of India. State Government shall initiate action as per the provisions of MoEF&CC letter no 11-42/2017-FC dated 29.01.2018. The action taken report shall be submitted to MoEF&CC prior to consideration of the proposal". The response received was placed in FAC in its meeting held on 20.09.2018 and the FAC observed that the reply of the State Government is not satisfactory. In its reply State Government had not clarified the circumstances under which lease over 18.660 ha of deemed forest land was executed without approval under the provisions of FCA 1980 in 2008. Further, FAC on 20.09.2018 recommended the proposal with specific conditions which includes condition no.(iii) as stated below:	<p>In this regard, PCCF(FD &amp; Nodal Officer, FCA), Govt. of Odisha informed that the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that at the time of execution of lease deed on 09.06.2008, the status of land included within the ML area was entirely non-forest as per Hal settlement record and hence there was no violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 committed at the time of execution of the lease deed. Further, the Dy. Director of Mines, Joda vide his Letter No. 6370/Mines dated 26.12.2017 also reported to the DFO, Keonjhar division that mining operation had not been undertaken in the mining lease since the date of execution of lease deed i.e. from 09.06.2008. Since, no work has been carried out till date, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has not been contravened.</p> <p>The RCCF, Rourkela Circle has further reported that, in accordance with the guideline No. 8-78/1996-FC (pt.) dated 10.03.2015 read with F. No. 8-78/1996-FC (pt.) dated 09.03.2016 of MoEF &amp; CC, Govt. of India, OMC has verified the status of the land schedule of the ML area, as on dated 25.10.1980 (Sabik record) by Tahsildar, Barbil vide Letter No.2958 dated 23.06.2010 of Tahsildar, Barbil. It was observed that 49.340 ha of non-forest land was found to be of Forest and the balance 18.66 ha was recorded as "un-surveyed" but having enough forest growth to be treated as "forest" as per</p>

	<p>" State Government shall initiate action as per the provisions of MoEF &amp; CC letter No. 11-42/2017-FC dated 29.01.2018. The action taken report shall be submitted to MoEF &amp; CC prior to Stage-II approval ".</p> <p>Now the State Govt in compliance to this condition informed that no violation has been committed by the user agency under FC Act so far and no action is required to be initiated against any official/ User Agency. Hence, the above compliance towards condition no. (iii) of Stage-I approval in keeping view the recommendation of FAC on 20.09.2018 is not acceptable. State Govt. is requested to clarify how the above act on part of user agency and officials is not in contravention of provisions of FCA,1980.</p>	<p>the report by State Government vide letter No.10F (Cons.) 110/2016-12492/F&amp;E dated 08.07.2016 (<b>Copy enclosed as Annexure-II: (Pg. 1940-1941/C)</b>)</p> <p>Further, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the lease was executed in favour of OMC (A State Owned PSU) basing on the HAL settlement land record which was non-forest then, and instruction to verify the land records as on 25.10.1980 came up only on 10.03.2015 i.e. much after the execution of lease deed. Moreover, no physical activities were taken up by M/s OMC Ltd inside the mine premises as on date.</p>
(ii)	<p>In compliance to condition No.(v) regarding Regional Wildlife Management Plan and Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, Rs 55,76,000/-(Part of 6,94,28,000/-) @82,000/-per ha. over 68.00 ha has been deposited towards proportionate cost for implementation of Regional Wildlife Management Plan.</p> <p>With regard to Site -Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWCL), PCCF(WL) &amp; CWLW, Odisha has approved a plan/scheme for a total financial outlay of Rs. 3,20,42,400/- on 04.09.2019 and out of which, the user agency has deposited part amount of Rs.2,57,45,280/- (Part deposit of Rs. Rs 3,03,22,480/-) for SSWLCP .</p> <p>Thus, the remaining part of Rs.62,97,120 (Rs.32042400-25745280) for approved SSWCL has not been deposited in CAMPA account. The same needs to deposit in CAMPA account.</p>	<p>In this regard, PCCF(FD &amp; Nodal Officer, FCA), Govt. of Odisha informed that the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been approved by the PCCF (WL) &amp; CWLW, Odisha for the following two activities:-</p> <p>Activities to be implemented by DFO, Keonjhar in the buffer zone – Rs. 2,57,45,280/- Activities to be executed by OMC inside the ML area (Core zone) – Rs. 62,97,120/-</p> <p>In the approval letter, PCCF (WL) &amp; CWLW, Odisha has instructed to deposit Rs. 2,57,45,280/- towards various activities to be executed by DFO, Keonjhar in the project impact area and OMC to spend Rs. 62,97,120/- to implement various activities within the ML area. Accordingly, OMC has deposited Rs. 2,57,45,280/- (out of total approved amount of Rs.3,20,42,400/-) in CAMPA on dated 20.01.2020 and has submitted an undertaking to spend <b>Rs.62,97,120/-</b> towards implementation of the approved prescriptions within the mining lease area. Hence the amount of Rs 62, 97,120/- may not be required to be deposited in CAMPA account.</p>
(iii)	<p>With regard to condition no.(xi) of stage-I approval for depositing of 25% of CA cost will be deposited extra by the user agency for soil</p>	<p>In this regard, PCCF(FD &amp; Nodal Officer, FCA), Govt. of Odisha informed that the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the following two nos. of</p>

	<p>and moisture conservation (SMC) activities on the CA land, the activities of R s. 67,60,525/- as given in compliance has been proposed to be implemented. Keeping in view of activities proposed in SMC activities, the State Govt. has not proposed any plan/scheme for mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream[para(a) of condition no.(xvii) of Stage-I approval] and also planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease [para(b) of condition no.(xvii) of Stage-I approval],which needs suitable justification.</p>	<p>approved schemes have been submitted in the Stage- I compliance report.</p> <p><b>Condition No. xvii (a ):</b> Scheme on appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream.</p> <p><b>Condition No. xvii (b ):</b> Scheme on planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds.</p> <p>The above two schemes have been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela with no additional cost as the same components have already been included in the scheme technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela in compliance to Condition No.2 (ix) with a total financial outlay of <b>Rs 21,07,300/-</b> for construction of loose boulder check dam over 500 mtr and the work to be executed by OMC inside the mining lease area. OMC has also submitted an undertaking to take appropriate steps as per the prescriptions of approved soil and moisture conservation plan to control soil erosion in the applied area at the approved financial outlay.</p>
(iv)	<p>In response to condition no.(viii) of Stage-I approval, it is observed that the revised environmental clearance for production of 1 MTPA has not yet been obtained. The present status and reasons of pendency may be provided.</p>	<p>In this regard, PCCF(FD &amp; Nodal Officer, FCA), Govt. of Odisha informed that the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that M/s OMC Ltd. has intimated vide Letter No. 9193 dated 04.08.2020 (<b>Copy enclosed as Annexure-IV (Pg. 1943-1945/C)</b>) to the DFO, Keonjhar division that the proposal to obtain EC for enhancement of Iron Ore Production of 1 MTPA has been discussed in SEAC meeting held on 15.02.2020 and the Committee sought information/ documents on nine points which is taking some time to comply due to present Covid situation. The DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that M/s OMC Ltd. is taking expeditious steps to resolve the issues and submit the compliance within August, 2020 to get the EC for 1MTPA.</p>

**6. From the examination of the above, the following was observed:**

- i. The State Govt. has given the justification for execution of lease, in compliance to condition no.(iii) of in-principle approval which imposed as specific condition on the recommendation of FAC.
- ii. With regard to query of deposit of part fund for Site -Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWCL) in CAMPA account, it is clarified that the activities of remaining part of Rs. 62,97,120/- , which is not deposited in CAMPA account, shall be executed by OMC inside the ML area .
- iii. The schemes on appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream and scheme on planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds have

been technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela with no additional cost as the same components have already been included in the scheme technically approved by RCCF, Rourkela in compliance to Condition No.2 (ix) with a total financial outlay of Rs 21,07,300/- for construction of loose boulder check dam over 500 mtr and the work to be executed by OMC inside the mining lease area.

- iv. The revised environmental clearance for production of 1 MTPA is under consideration and M/s OMC Ltd. is taking expeditious steps to resolve the issues.
7. The issue of execution of Lease over forest area without approval under the provisions of FCA 1980 was discussed in the Ministry and it was decided to hold a VC with Nodal Officer, Odisha and representative of user agency to discuss the issue. Accordingly, a VC was held on 13.10.2020 and it was informed that the lease over 68.00 ha was executed in 2008, considering the entire area as non forest land. At present the total area is unbroken and no mining activity has been carried out over the said land. It was in year 2015 when the Sabik land record issue was raised and clarified by MoEF&CC and only after that the area of 18.66 ha was identified to as forest as it had enough forest growth to be considered as deemed forest. The user agency and State Government also clarified that the time series images on google for the year 2010 clearly reveals that the area of 18.66 ha was degraded in year 2010. As reported by Nodal Officer and user agency there is no change in land use since 2008. It was again reiterated and clarified in VC by the State that there is no violation of any provisions of FCA, 1980.
8. Further, it was decided in the Ministry to request the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar to carry out site inspection of area and Ministry vide its letter dated 02.11.2020 requested the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar to carry out site inspection of area and submit present status to the Ministry.
9. Now, Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar submitted Field Inspection Report (Status Report) through email in response to Ministry's letter dated 02.11.2020, which is reproduced as below:

<b>i.</b>	<b>Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion.</b>		
	Non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980; 49.339 ha. Non- forest land having forest growth considered as "treated forest" 18.660 ha. Total : 68.00 ha.		
<b>ii.</b>	<b>Item – wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion (in ha)</b>		
	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Land use pattern applied under FC Act, 1980 in ha.</b>
	<b>1</b>	Mining	44.954
	<b>2</b>	Dumping of over burden	2.166
	<b>3</b>	Infrastructure for site services and weight bridge	5.205
	<b>4</b>	Mineral rejects	3.250
	<b>5</b>	Road	0.110
	<b>6</b>	Nala	1.075
		Sub-Total	56.760
	<b>7</b>	Safety Zone	11.240
			68.00
<b>iii.</b>	<b>Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:</b>		
	No.		
<b>iv.</b>	<b>Total cost of the project at present rates:</b>		
	The total cost of project comes to 23 crores.		
<b>v.</b>	<b>Wild life:</b>		

	<b>Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:</b>
	The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve and it does not come under any wildlife corridor. But, occasional movement of wild elephants is noticed in the area besides other wildlife animals. The applied site falls under elephant habitat zone-2 as mentioned by ORSAC, Bhubaneswar.
<b>vi.</b>	<b>Vegetation:</b>
	As reported, the applied area for diversion is situated adjacent to Baitarani RF. Eco-Value Class has been treated as “Eco-value Class-I” based on proximate location – Baitarani RF and canopy density has been considered at par with Baitarani RF and kept at 0.5.
<b>a</b>	<b>Total number of trees to be felled</b>
	As reported by the State Government, 1,872 nos. of tree of different floral species above 30 cm girth comprising of 415 nos. of sound trees, 1457 nos. of unsound trees and 4764 nos. of poles below 30 cm girth have been enumerated.
	<b>Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:</b>
	Soil erosion is likely to increase following felling of trees in the undulating topography.
<b>b</b>	<b>Important species:</b>
	Unchabali mining lease having non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 and non-forest land having forest growth considered as “deemed forest”, is located in proximity of Baitarani reserve Forest in Keonjhar district. The forest area has been treated under Eco-value Class-I category. The geological formation of this area is quite suitable for growth of Sal. Sal constitutes around 70 to 75% of the top canopy. The middle storey is un-conspicuous. The principal associates of Sal includes <i>Terminalia alata</i> , <i>Lagerstroemia perviflora</i> , <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> , <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> , <i>Syzygium cumini</i> , <i>Mangifera indica</i> , <i>Scheichera oleosa</i> , <i>Adina cordifolia</i> , <i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> , <i>Bombax ceiba</i> , <i>Bridelia retusa</i> , <i>Madhuca indica</i> . The middle story is representaed by <i>Syzygium cumini</i> , <i>Ougeinia ougenensis</i> , <i>Careya arborea</i> , <i>Treema oriendalis</i> , <i>Embllica officinalis</i> , <i>Cassia fistula</i> etc. the shrubs and undergrowth are characterized by <i>indigfera pulchella</i> , <i>ardisia solanacea</i> , <i>Flemingia chhappar</i> , <i>Helicteres ixora</i> and <i>Clerodendron viscosum</i> etc. the prevailing climbers include <i>Bauhinia vahlii</i> , <i>Combretum decandrum</i> and <i>Butia parviflora</i> . The grasses over the forest floor include <i>Chrysopogon aciculatus</i> , <i>Imperata cylindrical</i> , <i>Dicanthiurn carricosum</i> , <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> etc.
	<b>Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.</b>
	Around 1278 nos. of less than 60 cm trees
	<b>Number of trees of girth above 60 cm</b>
	Around 594 nos of greater than 60 cm trees
<b>vii.</b>	<b>Background note on the proposal:</b>
	As reported by the State Government, the Unchabali ( Mahaparbat) Iron Ore Mines of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) Ltd. over 68.00 ha was earlier having non-forest land entirely during grant/execution of Mining lease. The ML is located in village Unchabali and Balda of Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar district, Odisha. This iron ore mining lease was granted in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation ( M/s OMC Ltd.), a State Government Undertaking, vide proceedings of the Govt. of Odisha in erstwhile Mining and Geology Department bearing No. III (A) SM.5/99-6327 dated 11.06.2003. The lease deed was executed on dated 09.06.2008 for a period of 20 years with validity up to 09.06.2028. The ML area located within jurisdiction of Champua Forest Range of Keonjhar forest division in Keonjhar district., finds place within the Latitude of 21° 52 42.54” N to 21° 53’23.54” N and Longitude of 85°25’ 5.66”E to 85°25’36.49”E on Survey of India Topo sheet No. F 45 N 5. The area exhibits an undulating topography with varying elevations form 525.00 m to 608.50 m above Mean Sea Level (AMSL). Although the total mining lease hold area over 68.0 ha was not – forest land having Kisan Parbat-II entirely, yet pursuant to the issue of guidelines bearing F No. 8-78/1996-FC(pt) dt. 10.03.2015 read with F No. 8-78/1996-FC (pt) dt. 09.03.2016 by

	<p>MoEF&amp;CC, Govt. of India, status of the land involved in the mining lease as on 25.10.1980 was provided by the Tahasildar, Barbil. As reported by PCCF, Odisha, the ML area has 49.340 ha of non-forest land in village Unchabali recorded as Forest land as on 25.10.1980 and 18.660 ha of non-forest land in village Balda which stands un-surveyed as on 25.10.1980. The un-surveyed non-forest land in village Balda, having enough forest growth, has been considered as “forest” as per orders of Hon’ble Supreme Court dt. 12.12.1996 in WP(C) 202/1995. Thus the mining lease granted/executed over 68.00 ha, involves 49.34 ha of non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1980 and 18.660 ha of non-forest land having enough forest growth considered as “forest”.</p> <p>As reported by DDM, Joda in his letter No. 6370 dt. 26.12.2017 to DFO, Keonjhar above leasehold area was also earlier held by OMC Ltd. Within their ML area over 686.73 ha for iron ore in village Balda, Unchabali etc which had been executed on 6.8.1963 for a period of 20 years. Later OMC Ltd. Had surrendered the said area which has been accepted by Government w.e.f. 1.9.1982. thereafter the area was thrown open for re-grant of the area. It has also been reported by the DDM, Joda that during this period, OMC had only undertaken prospecting operation through drilling of a no. of trial pits but no mining operation was undertaken by OMC Ltd. During the period.</p> <p>It is further reported by the DDM, Joda that excavation done previously by M/s Essel Mining &amp; Industries Ltd had crossed the Southern boundary of existing Unchabali Mining lease of OMC Ltd at CC1 lease line. This broken up area in the ML area over 68 ha. is to an extent of 1.923 ha. In view of issue of guidelines bearing F No.8-78/1996-FC (pt) dt. 10.03.2015 read with F No. 8-78/1996-FC (pt) dt. 09.03.2016 by MoEF &amp; CC, Govt. of India, the user agency i.e. OMC Ltd. has applied for diversion of 68 ha of forest land in this lease under section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.</p> <p>This Unchabali (Mahaparbati)iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd. falls under the physiographic – Joda Barbil plateau extending from Chamakpur to the border of Singhbhum of Jharkhand in north and border of Bonai in the west. This region is an southward extension of Singhbhum rocks. This group rocks comprising trap, tuffites, shale, quartzite, phyllite, banded Haematite Jasper (BHJ) and Banded Haemetite Quartzite (BHQ) form high hill ranges with narrow deep valley. This region is characterized by massive deposit of iron and manganese ore associated with BHJ and shales. The iron ore precipitates are in the form of oxide, carbonates, silicates and sulphides. The most characteristics feature of the iron ore i.e. haematite is its availability in the form of massive beds, pockets and large lensoid soil bodies. Hard massive, Laminated, Lateritoid &amp; Blue dust are the major form of ore located in this physiographic zone.</p> <p>The most characteristic feature of associated manganese ore is its occurrence in form of pocket, lenses in the shales of the iron ore group. It is also seen extensively as residual deposit. Manganese ore deposits are mostly confined to the Singhbhum – Bonai belt of Keonjhar district associated with BIF of Iron ore group. The ore minerals are chiefly pyrolusite and psilomelane. The important manganese deposits of the district are located at Roida, Sidhamaht, Bhadrasahi, Guruda, Joda, Harmath-Guali and Bamebari. The mineable reserve of Iron ore established so far is 239 million ton of +55% Fe grade.</p> <p>Scheme of mining with Progressive Mines Closure Plan pertaining to Unchabali Iron ore mining lease has been approved by IBM in letter No. MS/FM/13-ORI/BHU/2014-15 dt. 13.02.2015. the mining lease area contains a total mineable reserve of 10.630 million tonnes of Iron Ore. Considering the annual production capacity of the mine is 1.0 Million ton or iron ore, the estimated life period of the mine is 11 years.</p>
<b>viii.</b>	<b>Compensatory afforestation:</b>
	As reported by the State Government, 65.591 ha of non-forest Government land has been identified for compensatory afforestation against 56.76 ha. Of forest land proposed for diversion for mining and other allied activities (excluding safety zone of 11.24 ha.) within

	ML area of 68 ha. In village Kerapai under Thuamul Rampur tahasil of Kalahandi District. The compensatory afforestation area has been jointly verified by the Forest and Revenue officials and has been found to be free from encroachment and encumbrances and suitable for bald hill plantation over 61.6396 ha and ANR plantation over 3.9514 ha. The DFO, Kalahand (South) division has prepared a site specific Compensatory Afforestation scheme to raise bald hill plantation in block mode (1600 plant per ha.) over 61.6396 ha and ANR without gap plantation over 3.9514 ha (600 plant per ha.)@ current wage rate of Rs. 200/- per manday. The species selected for planting are Neem, Karang, Amla, Harida, Bahada, Mango, Arjun, Teak, Sissoo, Char, Mahul etc. it also includes provision of barbed wire fencing over 3.906 KM. the CA scheme has been technically approved by the Addl. PCCF (Forest Division) and Nodal Officer, FC Act with a total financial forecast of Rs. 2,00,37,300/- including maintenance cost of 10 years. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to pay the cost of raising Compensatory Afforestation.
<b>a</b>	<b>Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:</b>
	As reported by the State Government, the CA area has been jointly verified by the Forest and revenue officials and has been found to be free from encroachment and encumbrances and suitable for bald bill plantation over 61.6396 ha and ANR plantation over 3.9514 ha.
<b>b</b>	<b>Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:</b>
	As reported, the land for compensatory afforestation has been found to be free from encroachment and encumbrances.
<b>c</b>	<b>Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:</b>
	No Archaeological monument or protected defence establishment is located inside the applied area.
<b>d</b>	<b>Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:</b>
	As reported by the State Government 65.591 ha of non-forest Government land has been identified for Compensation afforestation against 56.76 ha of forest land propose for diversion for mining and other allied activities (excluding safety zone of 11.24 ha) within ML area 68 ha in village Kerapai under Thuamul Rampur Tehasil of Kalahandi district. The compensatory afforestation area hasbeen jointly verified by the Forest and Revenue officials and has been found to be free from encroachment and encumbrances and suitable for bald hill plantation over 61.6396 ha and ANR plantation over 3.9514 ha.
<b>e</b>	<b>Map with details:</b>
	Maps have been provided with the proposal.
<b>f</b>	<b>Total financial outlay:</b>
	The CA Scheme has been technically approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) with a total financial forecast of Rs. 2,00,37,300/- including maintenance cost of 10 years.
<b>ix.</b>	<b>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:</b>
	Although the DFO, in his site inspection report has indicated that 1.923 ha of land has been broken up which includes 0.208 ha in the safety zone of the mining lease treating the land as non-forest land, yet the DDM, Joda has reported that excavation done previously by M/s Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. Had crossed the Southern boundary of existing Unchabali Mining lease of OMC Ltd at CC1 lease line. This broken up area in the ML area over 68 ha is to an extent of 1.923 ha. Hence OMC Ltd does not have any role in breaking of the land in this mining lease. No other field violation has been reported by the DFO, Keonjhar.
<b>x.</b>	<b>Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:</b>
	The project does not involve displacement of any human habitation.
<b>xi.</b>	<b>Reclamation Plan:</b>

	As reported, reclamation will be carried out as per the approved Mining Plan by IBM.
	<b>Details and financial allocation.</b> -----
<b>xii.</b>	<b>Details on catchment and command area under the project:</b>
	NA
	<b>Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:</b>
	NA
<b>xiii.</b>	<b>Cost benefit ratio:</b>
	The cost benefit ratio comes to 1:137.15.
<b>xiv.</b>	<b>Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:</b>
	Recommended by PCCF, Odisha/State Government.
<b>xv.</b>	<b>Recommendations of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons;</b>
	<b>Recommendation of DDGF (C)</b> The case of division of 68.0 ha of forest land for Unchabali (Mahaparbat) Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited was conducted by DIGF (C) of this office on 1.12.2020. She has submitted report on 02.02.2021. After correction, the report is submitted as follows: Land Use Pattern and item-wise breakup has been submitted in details by the inspection officer. The reclamation plan, Para-II page No. 5 does not contain details of reclamation plan. The same is submitted as an enclosure. With regard to changes in vegetation density, DIGF (C) has submitted the details of the density as per time series data. The field inspection carried out is also enclosed for perusal and necessary action. The case is recommendation for diversion.
<b>xvi.</b>	<b>Conservator of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:</b>
	NA
<b>xvii.</b>	<b>Utility of the Project:</b>
	<b>Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the Project:</b>
	As reported by the agency, the project will generate direct and indirect employment for more than 134 and 670 local tribal people respectively.
<b>xviii.</b>	
<b>a</b>	<b>Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:</b>
	No, the land being diverted has no socio-cultural/religious value, as reported.
<b>b</b>	<b>Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:</b>
	No, there is absence of any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests in the areas proposed for diversion, as reported.
<b>c</b>	<b>Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:</b>
<b>xix.</b>	<b>Situation with respect to any Protected Area:</b> The proposed lease area does not fall within any Natijonal Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/Tiger Reserve.
<b>xx.</b>	<b>Any other information relating to the project:</b>
	The Ministry vide letter No. 8-21/2018-FC, dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020 has directed to inspect diversion of 68.00 ha of forest land (49.34 ha of non-forest land recorded as "Forest" as on 25 <sup>th</sup> October, 1980 and 18.660 ha of non-forest land having enough forest growth to be considered as "Forest" in line with the orders dated 12.12.1996 of Hon,ble Supreme Court of WP(C) No. 202/1995) in respect of Unchabali (Mohaparbat) Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd. Including 11.240 ha of forest land located in the safety zone in village Unchabali and Balda under Barbil Tahasil within the Jurisdiction of Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District, Odisha.



The site inspection was carried out on 13.01.2021 and the following observations are recorded.

- The 68.0 ha of land proposed for mining lease of Unchabali Project has not been worked by OMC.
- The forest is moderately dense to open in the proposed lease area.
- 18.66 ha of land earlier recorded as non-forest but subsequently having enough forest growth to be considered as forest falls in the proposed mining lease area. This is covered with vegetation and can be classified as open to moderately dense forest as per DSS. Copy enclosed as Annexure 1. The time series map of the 68.00 ha and 18.8 ha is attached for years 2009, 2012 & 2014 as Annexure 2. Photographs of the proposed mining area during site inspection are also attached as Annexure 3. From the available time series maps, it is seen that in the year 2009, this area has open to moderately dense forest which has subsequently increased to moderately dense (MDF) forest to open forest in the year 2014 and moderately dense forest to open forest in year, 2019. the DSS time series from year 2009 to 2012 shows increase in canopy density from open to MDF. The Change in the time series are depicted in the following table:

Year 2009 (in ha.)	Year 2012 (in ha.)	Year 2014 (in ha.)
OF- 23.65	MDF- 46.08	MDF- 25.93
MDF- 23.40	OF- 16.06	OF- 23.19
NF- 21.05	NF- 5.96	NF- 18.98
<b>68.10</b>	<b>68.10</b>	<b>68.10</b>
(Source: DSS Time Series Result)		

- The FCM report obtained from FSI for 68.8 ha and 18.66 ha shows no variance in forest cover from 2010-11 to 2017-18. This is in the 1:50,000 scale, copy enclosed as Annexure 4. Micro level change in vegetation cover may not be possible from 1:50,000 scale. This could have been possible with large scale mapping of 1:4,000 scale. The FSI report of the 18.66 ha shows an area of 13.59 ha as open forest and 8.24 ha shows an area of 13.59 ha as moderately dense forest (years 2017-18), copy enclosed as Annexure 4.
- The safety zone plantation of 7.5 mtrs around the mining lease area has been undertaken by the user agency. It has been predominantly planted with Teak. However, the Teak was not found to be of desirable growth. This area is basically having lateritic soil and is a natural region for Sal. The plantation status of the safety zone has to be evaluated & monitored by the local DFO and wherever Teak has not thrived well, it can be replace with bamboo species or species indigenous to the area with intensive planting technique so as to ensure a green belt along the boundary of the entire mining area of 68.00 ha.
- The CA plantation can be raised with indigenous species like Sal and associates of Sal with undergrowth, shrubs and grasses, indigenous to the area (as mentioned in point no. 6(b), page -2 of the report) with multi-canopy and multi-storey intensive planting techniques instead of Teak, Sisoo, Mahua, Karunja and other woody species, so as to result in a near natural forest with multiple storeys of indigenous species. The CA scheme can be revised.

10. DSS report details are as under:

**I. In case of land proposed for Diversion:**

- Proposed area for diversion of forest land falls on Kendujhar district of Odisha State.

- ii. Calculated area of Mining lease is found 68.09 ha.
- iii. No WLS/NP/Tiger Reserve/Tiger Corridor situated within the 10KM radius of proposed area for diversion.
- iv. Proposed area for diversion classified as Not-inviolate area based on Decision Rule No. 1 & 2.
- v. Out of total Mining lease area, 26 ha. of land having the canopy density of Moderately dense forest, 23 ha. of land classified as open forest Category and 19 ha. of land as Non Forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2015) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2013-2014.
- vi. Forest Types details: 3c/2e(ii) Moist peninsular Low Level Sal Forest:16 ha., 3c/2e(iii) Moist peninsular valley Sal Forest: 30 ha and Non-Forest:22 ha.

## **II. In case of Compensatory Afforestation:**

- i. **Compensatory Afforestation:** CA land has been provided in two patches, one patch over Revenue Land having the area of 65.52 ha falls under Kalahandi District & one patch over Forest land having the area of 20.76 ha falls under Kendujhar district of Odisha State.
- ii. Total Area of proposed Compensatory afforestation land is found 86.28 ha (CA under Forest land is 20.76 Ha + CA under Revenue land is 65.52 Ha = Total 86.28 Ha of land is provided for CA.)
- iii. It is observed that the CA land proposed under Degraded forest land is having dense vegetation cover as depicted through High resolution satellite imagery

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