



5-ORA553/2023-BHU

6th April, 2023

To

The Addl. Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. for non-forestry use of 83.602 ha of forest land including 2.529 ha of Safety Zone for Iron Ore mining in Chandiposhi Block of Koira Tahasil under Bonai Forest Division of District Sundargarh, Odisha.

Ref: Ministry's letter No.8-01/2023-FC dated 02.02.2023.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am to inform that the site inspection of the above mentioned project site was carried out by the undersigned along with DFO, Bonai and representative of user agency. The site inspection report is attached herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As state above.

Yours faithfully,


6/4/23
(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION 83.602 HA OF FOREST LAND INCLUDING 2.529 HA OF SAFETY ZONE IN CHANDIPOSHI IRON ORE BLOCK OF M/S RUNGTA MINES LTD. IN KOIRA TAHASIL OF BONAI FOREST DIVISION OF SUNDARGARH DISTRICT.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 18.03.2023 along with DFO, Bonai Forest Division and representative of user agency.

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

The total area of the mining lease is 131.580 Ha. Out of this total lease area total forest area is 83.602 ha. As reported by DFO, Bonai, legal status of the forest land is as below:

Sl.No.	Legal Status	Forest Area (in Ha)
1.	Revenue Forest	26.387
2.	DLC Forest	57.215
Total		83.602

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion vis-à-vis Mining Plan.

Sl. No.	Purpose of utilization	Proposed			As per Mining Plan (Conceptual) (in Ha)
		Forest Area (in Ha)	Non-Forest land (in Ha)	Grand Total (in Ha)	
1.	Mining (including Mobile Crushing and Screening Unit, Temporary Stack Yard)	66.941	18.622	85.563	121.520
2.	Mine Road	1.967	2.733	4.700	
3.	Infrastructure (Office, Rest Shelter, Weigh Bridge, Workshop etc.)	0.018	1.112	1.130	
4.	Ore Processing Site	4.536	2.495	7.031	
5.	Mineral Stack Yard	5.687	2.795	8.482	
Sub-Total		79.149	27.757	106.906	121.520
6.	Overburden Dump	0	4.050	4.050	4.050
7.	Safety zone along ML boundary	2.529	0.970	3.499	6.010
8.	Green Belt (50m along the Nala & 10m along the Village Road)	1.924	9.081	11.005	
Sub-Total		4.453	10.051	14.504	6.010
9.	Area not to be used (Nala, Village Road, Private land etc.)	0	6.120	6.120	
Grand Total		83.602	47.978	131.580	131.580

1. All the proposed activities from 1 to 6 are as per the Mining Plan.
2. Area not be used has been indicated as 6.120 ha. The suitable areas may be developed into green belt through plantation.

3. Green belt of 50 meter width along the nalla and 10 meter width along with village road constituting 11.005 ha is not provisioned in the Mining Plan. Though in the mining plan there is provision of safety zone for 6.010 Ha in the mining plan but this difference is because of extra safety zone has been proposed alongside nala and road.

Photo copy of the Conceptual Plan is annexed as **Annexure-I**.

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

Total 1.130 Ha of land has been provisioned for Infrastructure (Office, Rest Shelter, Weigh Bridge, Workshop etc.), out of which 0.018 Ha forest land will be used for this.

4. **Total cost of the project at present rates:**

The total cost of the project is reported to be Rs.15200 Lakhs.

5. **Wildlife:**

As per Site Inspection Report of DFO, Bonai Forest Division Circle, wild animals like Elephant, Wild boar, Langur, Indian Hare, Indian Palm Squirrel, Jungle Cat, Rat and different types of snakes and birds have been recorded from the applied area. As reported by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

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

The proposed forest area comprises of Revenue forest land and DLC forest land.

The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that the applied area does not form a part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna in the forest area proposed for diversion. It was also reported that the proposed site for the project does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any protected area.

The DFO, Bonai has reported that the distance of the project from the nearest Protected Area (Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary) is 80.460 Km. and the project site is 11.53 Km from the nearest Karo-Karampada Elephant corridor.

6. **Vegetation:**

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the canopy density of the forest growth is 0.5 and Eco-value Class-I.

- (a) **Total number of trees to be felled.**

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, total 19,013 Nos. (which includes 575 nos. of trees within Safety Zone area) trees have been enumerated over forest land involved in the project which may be required to be felled.

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

As there are large numbers of trees to be felled, it will affect the general ecosystem of the area.



Photographs of the proposed site for diversion.

(b) Important species:

As per Site Inspection Report of DFO, Bonai Forest Division, the existing vegetation of applied area is composed of Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Sidha (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), Kusum (*Schleicher aoleosa*), Bara (*Ficus bengalensis*), Harra (*Terminalia chebula*), Baheda (*Terminalia belerica*), Piar (*Buchanania lanjan*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Kend (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Mahua (*Madhuca indica*), Kumbhi (*Careya arborea*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*) etc.

7. **Background note on the proposal:**

As reported, by the State Govt., pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the Tender Document, the Govt. of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department issued Letter of Intent (LOI) bearing No.IV(B)SM-50/2021/8719/SM, Bhubaneswar dated 28.10.2021 for grant of Mining Lease for Chandiposhi Iron Ore Block over 131.580 ha for Iron Ore located at a distance of 8 Km to the east of Koira town, Koira Tahasil,

Sundargarh District to Rungta Mines Ltd. for a period of 50 (fifty) years. Out of 131.580 ha DGPS surveyed lease area, 83.602 ha area is of forest land (DLC Forest 57.215 ha + Revenue Forest 26.387 ha) and the remaining 47.978 ha is non-forest land. The validity of LoI is for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of its issuance i.e. from 28.10.2021, within which all the stipulated conditions are to be fulfilled and the Mining Lease deed to be executed between the Rungta Mines Ltd. and Govt. of Odisha. Mining Plan has been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, Bhubaneswar vide letter No.MP/A/19-ORI/BHU/2021-22 dated 24.11.2021. As per the Geological report provided by the Directorate of Mines, Steel & Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha, the net insitu iron ore resources of Chandiposhi Iron Ore Block is 47.07 million tones (Fe content between 55% to 45%). As per the Mining Plan, the mining operation will be fully mechanized opencast with development of benches of height up to 9m and width up to 20m. The conventional opencast method with utilization of excavator of capacity upto 4.2m³, dumpers of capacity upto 40 MT, rock-breakers, deep-hole drilling blasting will be adopted, During mining operation period from 2026-27 (27.10.2026 to 31.03.2027) to 2028-29, mining operation will be done in one quarry. The proposed mining area and other area of the lease is already proved mineralized at G2 level by 25 nos. of boreholes completed by GSI & MECL as per G.R. provided with the Tender Document.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

In lieu 83.602 ha of forest land (including 2.529 ha of Safety Zone) proposed for diversion, State Govt. has identified 83.602 ha of Govt. non-forest land in village Talabarada under Banspal Tahasil under BJP Range of Keonjhar Forest Division. The user agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation.

The CA Scheme has been prepared by the DFO, Keonjhar Division. The CA Scheme has provision of AR plantation @ 1600 plants per hectare over 32.00 Ha and AR plantation @ 1000 plants per hectare over 39.00 Ha. Thus, the scheme will accommodate plantation of 90,200 nos. of seedlings in total against the required 83,602 nos. The C.A. Scheme has also provision for SMC measure over 83.602 Ha.



Photographs of proposed C.A. site.

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

The land identified for compensatory afforestation has moderately dense as well as open forest. The open patches are suitable for plantation. So the DFO during inspection said that as the identified patch of land is in one patch and about 83.602 Ha. So, there will be no problem from management point of view. The open patches are covered with weeds and small bushes.

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

As per the report of the DFO, Keonjhar the site is reportedly free from encroachment and encumbrances.

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

It has been reported that the land for CA is not important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view.

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

The land for raising compensatory afforestation has been identified in village Talabarada under Banspal Tahasil of BJP Range under Keonjhar Division comprising 83.602 Ha. in contiguous of 11 plots in one patch. The detailed land schedule is given below

Name of Tahasil	Name of village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kisam	Total Area (in Ha)	Area required for C.A. (in Ha)
Banspal	Talabarada	24 (AAA)	10 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	0.866
			11 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	7.627
			12 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	13.279
			13 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	1.830
			36 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	13.708
			40 (P)	Parbat-I	17.440	4.244
			41 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	5.372
			42 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	4.481
			43 (P)	Parbat-I	16.000	14.662
			45 (P)	Parbat-I	10.240	6.512
			68 (P)	Parbat-I	12.240	11.021
Total						83.602

(e) Map with details:

The DGPS map and SoI Toposheet indicating location of identified non-forest land for C.A. has been submitted by the State Govt.

(f) Total financial outlay:

The Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been prepared and submitted by DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division with provision for 10 years maintenance. The C.A. Scheme has provision of AR Plantation @ 1600 plants per hectare over 32.00 ha and AR Plantation @ 1000 plants per hectare over 39.00 ha. The scheme will accommodate plantation of 90,200 nos. of seedlings in total against the required 83,602 nos. The DFO, Keonjhar has also proposed SMC measure over 83.602 ha. The CA scheme has been technically approved by the PCCF (FD & NO FC Act) with financial outlay of Rs.4,03,43,900/- (Rupees four crore three lakh forty three thousand nine hundred) only.

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 reported by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, no violation has been committed by the user agency under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

During inspection the Range Forest Officer, Koira Range said that some of the local villagers have stacked collecting floated ore from in and around the area in about 2000 Sq. feet area, which is revenue forest land. The Range Forest Officer, Koira reported this to the Deputy Director of Mines, Koira. The Deputy Director of Mines, Koira has seized those unclaimed illegally raised iron ore of about 100 MT. The correspondences made are annexed as **Annexure-II**.

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

As per Site Inspection report of DFO, Bonai Forest Division, there are few houses located in the north-eastern side within the auctioned block. There will not be any mining and ancillary activity in that area and will not affect those people. Hence, no rehabilitation plan has been envisaged.

During inspection it was found that there are some households in the non-forest area but within the lease boundary. The user agency said that during the 1st five years of mining, no rehabilitation is required. However, the representative from the user agency present during inspection said that in future the villagers will be rehabilitated as per the State Govt. policy.

11. Reclamation plan:

The Mining Plan of Chandiposhi Iron Ore Block along with progressive mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Bhubaneswar vide letter No.MP/A-ORI/BHU/2021-22 dated 24.11.2021.

The phased reclamation plan and afforestation scheme of Chandiposhi Iron ore block as per approved Mining Plan has been submitted by the State Govt. Reclamation programme will be carried out as per approved plan. In conceptual period, total 125.460

ha will be reclaimed by back filling and bench plantation. Local indigenous plants of block type plantation has been proposed with fire line tracing and maintenance.

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

During inspection it was found that there is a nala running in the proposed area. It is very important to stabilize the bank to avoid siltation and flood. At the same time it is essential to ensure that no discharge from the mining site enters to the natural river and stream. A safety zone of 50 meter on both side of nala has been proposed and in this safety zone green belt should be developed.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

As reported by DFO, Bonai Forest Division, the total benefit of this proposal comes to Rs.1383.58 Crores. The total loss on forest including environmental loss comes to Rs.27.5496 Crores. Hence, the Cost Benefit ratio of the project is 1 : 50.22 (or 1 : 50).

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

The proposal for diversion has been duly recommended by PCCF.

15. Utility of the project:

As reported by the user agency, the project will generate employment for 50 persons directly which will be mostly local tribes. It will also create indirect employment for about 170 persons.

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

Not reported.

16.

(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:

As reported, there is no Archaeological/ Heritage/ Defence establishment or any other important monuments located in the area.

17. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

The DFO, Bonai has reported that the distance of the project from the nearest Protected Area (Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary) is 80.460 Km. and the project site is 11.53 Km from the nearest Karo-Karampada Elephant corridor.

18. Any other information relating to the project:

The State Government has recommended that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may kindly consider this proposal for diversion of 83.602 ha of forest land including 2.529 ha of Safety Zone in Chandiposhi Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd in Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha and convey their approval under Section-2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of the User Agency subject to the following stipulation.


- The User Agency shall pay the cost towards felling, logging and transportation charges of the enumerated trees due to be felled during the course of implementation of the mining project.
- Trees should be felled only when it is absolutely necessary and in a phased manner and under supervision of concerned DFO.
- Safety zone shall be maintained as such and in no circumstances be used for mining purpose.
- Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by CWLW, Odisha shall be implemented at project cost.
- The user agency shall pay towards cost of Regional Wildlife Management Plan for the entire ML area as per approved norm of State Govt.
- The user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance, Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from appropriate authorities.
- The user agency shall undertake demarcation of the lease area, forest area proposed for diversion and safety zone area on the ground at the project cost by erecting 4 feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS Co-ordinates.

19. Recommendations of Dy. Director General of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:

The proposed mining area of the lease is already proved mineralized at G2 level by prospecting through boreholes by GSI & MECL (as per the tender document). Mining is a site specific activity. The State Govt. has identified equal amount of non-forest land i.e. 83.602 Ha. The mining plan has been duly approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Bhubaneswar vide letter No.MP/A-ORI/BHU/2021-22 dated 24.11.2021. So the diversion of 83.602 Ha of forest land may be considered under the provision of FC Act, 1980 with all statutory conditions along with following observations:

1. Wild animals have been recorded in the applied area. So a Site Specific Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared and implemented at project cost.

2. An Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan specially addressing the movement of elephant in the entire Sundargarh and Keonjhar district comprising Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division may be prepared by the State Govt. to mitigate adverse impact of mining on the movement of elephant and other wildlife by proportional share from the lease holders.
3. Total 19013 trees (as per sample enumeration) have been enumerated for felling for this project. Trees should be felled when it is absolutely required to be removed. Efforts should be made to transplant trees wherever possible.
4. There are some households inside the mining lease area, the user agency should raise thick plantations as a green belt, to minimize air and sound pollution, around habitations near to their mine. As far as possible the user agency should address the livelihood of the villagers by providing direct/indirect employment and should regularly check their health issues and related treatment as long as they are not properly rehabilitated.
5. A nalla is passing through the mining lease area. The nalla should not be diverted so as retain its natural course of flow of water. It is very important to stabilize the bank to avoid siltation and flood. At the same time it is essential to ensure that no discharge from the mining site enters to the natural river and stream. A safety zone of 50 mter on both side of nala shall be maintained as green belt. There is a need for soil and moisture conservation measures in the rest catchment of this nala and the forest lands in and around the proposed site to ensure recharge of water.
6. As per the mining plan, no activities has been proposed in 6.120 ha of non-forest land. Fruit bearing trees may be raised in this 6.120 ha of land wherever possible.
7. Transportation of ore should be done as per the recommendation of NEERI.


6/4/23
(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

6.2.11: LAND USE OF LEASE AREA AT THE EXPIRY OF LEASE PERIOD (CONCEPTUAL STAGE)

Mined Out area in the lease	Total Area Degraded			Non Degraded area	Total mined out area Reclaimed and Rehabilitated			Other Areas Reclaimed and Rehabilitated			
	Area under Dumps (in hect)	Area under the Tailing Dam	Area under utility services (in hect)		Mined out Area Reclaimed but not rehabilitated (in hect)	Mined out Area fully Reclaimed area (in hect)	Area under Water Reservoir considered Rehabilitated (in hect)	Stabilized Waste dump Rehabilitated (in hect)	Virgin area under Green Belt (in hect)	Rehabilitated Area under utility services (in hect)	Rehabilitated Area under Tailing dam (in hect)
121.52	4.05	0	*21.343 (Road-4.7 Ha., Office, Rest Shelter Weigh bridge etc.-1.13 Ha., Ore Processing -7.031 Ha., Ore stock Yard -8.482 Ha.)	** 5.85 Ha. (3.5 Ha. Safety zone and 2.35 Ha. vill. Road safety barrier)	0	121.52 Ha. which include reclaimed & nrehabilitated backfilled quarry, bench plantation and utility service area.	4.05	5.85 (3.5 Ha. Safety zone and 2.35 Ha. vill. Road safety barrier)	21.343	0	

* 21.343 Ha. area under utility services are all temporary features and all these features will come under active mining operation to mine out the total iron ore resource at the expiry of lease period.
 ** 5.85 Ha. (3.5 Ha. safety zone and 2.35 Ha. village road safety barrier) of safety zone will be covered by plantation.



Digitally signed by
Hirak Mazumder
Date: 2021.11.20
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BRAJ KISHORE JHA
Date: 2021.11.20
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Bal Bandhu
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Date: 2021.11.20
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ANNEXURE -II

OFFICE OF THE RANGE OFFICER, KOIRA RANGE

Letter No 247 Dt. 09.03.2023

To

The Deputy Director of Mines
Koira Circle, Koira .

Sub

Illegal raised iron ore materials in Chandiposhi Area- Regarding

Sir,

With reference to the above subject cited, I am to inform you that while we patrolling on dt. 09.03.2023 in the Chandiposhi Area of Ranisal Section we detected illegal raised iron ore materials 100 MT (Approximately). So you are requested you to kindly seized the above materials as soon as possible.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Yours Faithfully


09/03/23
Range Officer
Forest Range Officer
Koira Forest Range
Koira Range

To

The Deputy Director of Mines,
Koira Circle, Koira.

Sub: Submission of seizure list in Form-N

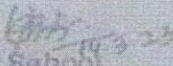
Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am to say that, we the Mining Squad Team proceeded to the theft prone areas i.e. Chandiposhi on Dated 14.03.2023 and detected 100,000 MT of iron ore (approximately) illegally raised and lying there. Nobody claimed for the same illegally raised iron ore. Then we seized the same with co-operation of our squad team, shifted the mineral and kept in the Saindipur Mines lease hold area of M/s National Enterprises for safe custody.


This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Encl: Form-N Seizure list.

Yours faithfully,


(U. Sahod)
AMO, Koira


(N. Mahab)
JMO, Koira


(A.C. Khatus)
Mining Officer, Koira

- 1. Name of Officer seizing the Property
- 2. Designation & address of the Officer
- 3. Details of Property seized
- 4. Place of seizure with date & Time
- 5. Description of each Property
- 6. Date under which Property is seized
- 7. Name & address of person from whom the property is seized
- 8. Name & address of any other claimant for the seized property
- 9. Details of seal given on the seized property
- 10. Name & address of person under whose custody the property has been kept
- 11. Signature of the Custodian
- 12. Approximate value of the seized property

Warrant of Arrest
 Chandigarh
 Chandigarh, 15/11/2013
 11 AM
 From one 103 million
 1000 of empty Canned
 under 2015
 No party claimed the
 property.
 No claimant

San Sacha Bahara
 Managerial Assistant
 San Sacha Bahara
 Managerial Assistant
 San Sacha Bahara
 Managerial Assistant

12 Remarks: During surprise visit to Chandigarh area
 by the special team consisting of Uday Shankar Sahas
 of Chandigarh
 of selected 103 million
 after seizure kept inside the warehouse of
 National Enterprises under
 custody of San Sacha Bahara
 Managerial Assistant

- 1. Uday Shankar Sahas (Sd/-)
- 2. Manoj Kumar Munda (Sd/-)
- 3. ... (Sd/-)

Signature of Officer Seizing the Property
 WITH DESIGNATION & ADDRESS
 15/11/23

Date: