

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
A/3, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR - 751 023
TEL. : (Off.) 2301213, 2302432, 2302443, 2302452, 2302453
FAX : 0674-2302432. GRAM : PARYAVARAN, BHUBANESWAR
Email : mef@ori.nlc.in

118
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय,
पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
ए/3, चन्द्रशेखरपुर, भुवनेश्वर - 751 023
तार - पर्यावरण, भुवनेश्वर

No.5-ORA196/2014-BHU

07.04.2014

SPEED POST

To

Shri H.C. Chaudhary,
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Diversion of 360.90 ha of forest land including 8.65 ha of forest land for safety zone in Suleipat Iron Ore Mines of Sri B.C. Dagara in villages Ukam, Langalsila, Murumdihi and Bhitarmada Hill under Rairangpur Forest Division in Bamanghaty Sub-division under Mayurbhanj district, Odisha during 1st RML period.

Ref: Ministry's letter No. 8-47/2005-FC (Pt.), dated 14th March, 2014.

Sir,


With reference to the subject cited as above, I am directed to inform you that the site inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by the undersigned on 27.03.2014. The site inspection report along with the relevant enclosures is attached herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

27/04/2014

COE



(SUMAN MOHAPATRA)
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (C)

Recommendation of Additional PCCF (Central) for diversion 360.90 ha of forest land including 8.65 ha of forest land for safety zone in Suleipat Iron Ore Mines of Sri B.C. Dagara in villages Ukam, Langalsila, Murumdihi and Bhitarmada Hill under Rairangpur Forest Division in Bamanghaty Sub-division under Mayurbhanj district, Odisha during 1st RML period.

As per the direction of the Ministry, the site inspection has been conducted and the following points may be considered along with the report of the CF (Central) for the approval:

Surrender of Virgin forest areas proposed:

The User agency has proposed to surrender 187.01 ha (100.14 ha forest land and 86.87 ha non-forest land) out of its mining lease during the current renewal of lease. Most of the areas (both forest & non-forest) proposed for surrender are having fairly dense pole crop of Sal. In the event of acceptance of the said surrender proposal by the authority, the necessary documents along with the transfer and acceptance of land by the mining and the forest department may also be procured and kept safely for future reference.

Preserving the regenerated forest patch:

A small patch of around 30 ha adjoining the western boundary of the leasehold is reported to be having good regeneration of pole crop and it appears that it has been kept undisturbed by the User agency for a long time. The status of the patch should continue as it is.

Greening of non mineralized zones: The user agency should prepare a plan for taking up plantation in the non mineralized zones and implement it. The top soil should be preserved in active form so as to use it for the greenery of the area as early as possible. They should incorporate vermi-composting/composting in their greening plan, so that sufficient nutrients are available to the seedlings during plantation.

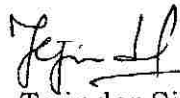
Preservation of soil: Top and sub soil in the yet to be mined out areas shall have to be stacked separately at earmarked places so as to conserve precious natural resource and ensure better stability of dumps. Qualities of top and sub soil (stored and used) should be separately recorded in a measurement book.

Reclamation: The land reclamation should be done in both stages i.e. technical and biological. The user agency should prepare a long term plan so that after the end of mining lease, the land so reclaimed can turn into a beautiful landscape or an ecotourism spot which will be important from aesthetic point of view.

CSR activity: The capacity building of the tribal is a major necessity for the development of the region. There has to be a great emphasis on education, health care, protection and up gradation of traditional agriculture, promotion of traditional crafts and local knowledge, preservation of local identity, improvement of the soil and water conservation mechanisms and great thrust on creating alternative source of income. While developing the area, there should be consultation with the local people and with expertise from the reputed institutions, both inside and outside the state. The user agency should develop an integrated system of health and education including the promotion of traditional healing system, within 5 km periphery of the mining lease, in collaboration with other project proponents. So, the user agency should prepare a long term plan for the socio-economic development of the area. The CSR activities undertaken by the project should be uploaded in their website with all the details.

Establishment of environmental laboratory: The user agency should establish a modernized environmental laboratory with adequate number of pollution monitoring and analysis equipments in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board for regular monitoring of the environmental status as well as taking remedial measures for maintaining better ecological balance.

With the above observations along with the field inspection report, this project is **recommended** for consideration for in-principle approval in the broken up as well as virgin forest areas along with working permission in the broken up area of the leasehold area.


(Dr. Tejinder Singh) 7/7/2014
Addl. PCCF (Central)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION OF 360.90 HA OF FOREST LAND INCLUDING 8.65 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR SAFETY ZONE IN SULEIPAT IRON ORE MINES OF SRI B.C. DAGARA IN VILLAGES UKAM, LANGALSILA, MURUMDIHI AND BHITARMADA HILL UNDER RAIRANGPUR FOREST DIVISION IN BAMANGHATY SUB-DIVISION UNDER MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT, ODISHA DURING 1ST RML PERIOD.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by me on 27.03.2014 along with Shri A.K. Swain, DFO, Rairangpur, Sri B.K. Mohanty, Range Officer, Badampahad and representatives of Lessee.

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

The legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is as follows:

V.F. - 48.05 ha
R.F. - 312.85 ha
Total - 360.90 ha

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

The item-wise breakup of the total land required for this proposal is furnished below:

| Sl. No. | Pattern of Utilization | Forest Land | | | Non Forest Land | | | Grand Total (in ha) |
|---------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | | Broken | Virgin | Total | Broken | Virgin | Total | |
| I.(a) | Mining | 243.466 | 62.78 | 306.246 | 7.126 | 6.26 | 13.386 | 319.632 |
| (b) | Dumping | 8.000 | - | 8.000 | 4.220 | - | 4.220 | 12.220 |
| (c) | Construction of Building, Workshop, Power Station, etc. | - | - | - | 7.500 | - | 7.500 | 7.500 |
| (d) | Township/ housing colony/ hutting | - | - | - | 15.198 | - | 15.198 | 15.198 |
| (e) | Construction of Road / Ropeway / Railway line | 15.254 | - | 15.254 | 2.496 | - | 2.496 | 17.750 |
| (f) | Magazine | - | - | - | 0.500 | - | 0.500 | 0.500 |
| (g) | Plantation | 22.75 | - | 22.750 | - | - | - | 22.750 |
| | Sub-Total | 289.47 | 62.78 | 352.25 | 37.040 | 6.26 | 43.300 | 395.550 |
| II | Safety zone | 4.26 | 2.59 | 6.85 | 0.17 | 15.18 | 15.35 | 22.200 |
| III | Public Utility | - | 1.80 | 1.80 | - | 11.44 | 11.44 | 13.240 |
| | Total safety zone | 4.26 | 4.39 | 8.65 | 0.17 | 26.62 | 26.79 | 35.44 |
| | Area proposed for Diversion | 293.73 | 67.17 | 360.90 | 37.21 | 32.88 | 70.09 | 430.99 |
| IV | Area proposed to be surrendered | - | 100.14 | 100.14 | - | 86.87 | 86.87 | 187.01 |
| | Grand Total | 293.73 | 167.31 | 461.04 | 37.21 | 119.75 | 156.96 | 618.00 |

419

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

As stated at Point No.2 above.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

The total cost of this project is stated to be Rs.32.00 Crores.

5. Wildlife:

As reported, Wild animals such as Jungle fowl, Cuckoo, Common crow, little Egret, Snake, Jackal, Barking deer, Wild Pigs are found in the proposed applied area. No rare or endangered flora or fauna is noticed in this area.

The State Government has reported that the radial distance of Pillar No. 26 of this ML from the boundary of Similipal Sanctuary/ Tiger Reserve was found to be 07.55 km as per GIS domain. Hence the ML area is coming within 10 KM from the boundary of Similipal Sanctuary/Tiger Reserve. In absence of duly notified limits of Eco-sensitive Zone of the Similipal Sanctuary and keeping in view of the MoEF guidelines dt. 19.8.2010, the User Agency has applied for obtaining clearance from National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) in the required format. This proposal is under process to obtain wildlife clearance for the project from Standing Committee of NBWL. The Wildlife Conservation Plan to be approved by the NBWL in this context is to be implemented at project cost.

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

The State Government has reported that though the area does not form part of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Elephant Corridor, due care is to be taken for conservation of Wildlife available in the area. For this purpose the User Agency has to contribute towards implementation of Regional Wildlife Management Plan at revised rate @ Rs.43,000/- per hectare of leasehold area. The lessee has furnished an undertaking to bear the above cost of Wildlife Management Plan.

6. Vegetation:

As reported by the DFO, Rairangpur Division, the density of vegetation is less than 0.3, which was verified during inspection.

a) Total number of trees to be felled.

Tree enumeration over 352.25 ha of forest land applied for mining and allied purposes was reported to be taken up and 47,405 nos. of trees were enumerated. However a separate enumeration of trees has not been done in the virgin area applied for diversion.



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

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

b) Important species:

Tree Species which are commonly noticed in this area are Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Bija (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Char (*Buchanania lanzan*), Koim, Gambhar (*Gmelina arborea*), Karada (*Cleintanthus collinus*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*) etc. Sal is the predominant species.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

The number of trees of girth below 60 cm is 42807.

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

The number of trees of girth above 60 cm is 4598.

7. Background note on the proposal:

As reported by the State Government, the applied mining lease area was originally held by M/s TISCO Ltd. for 43 years i.e. from the year 1919 to 1962. Subsequently, on relinquishment of the leasehold area by M/s TISCO Ltd, it was granted in favour of Sri Bajaranglal Padia, Rairangpur by the State Government on 25.10.1975 for a period of thirty (30) years. The original lease period expired on 24.10.2005 over 618.00ha. During the original lease period, the lease was transferred from Sri Bajaranglal Padia to Sri B.C. Dagara by way of a transfer lease deed executed on 10.10.1984 without prior approval of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. The present lessee has filed renewal application on 18.10.2004 for 1st Renewal of the Mining lease for the entire 618.00 ha which is one year before the expiry of the original lease period. At present, the lease is under deemed extension under provision of 24A(6) of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. It is further revealed from the report of Director of Mines, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide his letter dated 13.7.2011 that the original mining lease over 618.000 hectares executed on 25.10.1975 for a period of 30 years in favour of Sri Bajrang Lal Padia for Iron Ore was registered on 25.5.1976. Later on this lease was transferred in favour of Sri B.C.Dagara on 10.10.84 for the balance period of the lease under Rule 37 of MCR, 1960.

421

It has been reported by Pr. CCF, Odisha that as per the original lease records and Sabik settlement, the extent of forest land in the mining lease was 376.900 ha. The settlement operations in Mayurbhanj District were held after 25.10.1980. After the Hal settlement some of the Government land has been changed to forest land. The total forest land as per Hal settlement is 461.04 ha. Thus there is an increase of 84.14 ha of forest land. The detailed land schedule of this lease during 1st RML period has been duly certified by the Mining Officer, Baripada, Tehsildar, Kusumi and DFO, Rairangpur Forest Division. Although the lessee has applied for 1st RML for the entire ML area of 618.00ha, yet the lessee in their letter dt. 21.5.2010 addressed to Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Steel & Mines Department has requested to process the 1st RML application for an area of 430.99ha and to remove/delete the balance area of 187.01 ha for the lease indicating this area to be non-mineralized. Based on the approved Mining Scheme, the Mining Officer, Baripada Circle has certified that occurrence of iron ore has been established over the entire forest land of 360.90 ha within the applied reduced RML area. Thus out of 618.00 ha applied for diversion during filing of 1st RML application that includes 461.04 ha of forest land and 156.96ha of non-forest land, the lessee has later on approached the Steel & Mines Department to retain 430.99 ha which includes 360.90 ha of forest land and 70.09 ha of non-forest land only. The area to be surrendered includes 100.14 ha of forest land and remaining 86.87 ha of non-forest land. It has been reported that an area of 330.94 ha of land has been broken up in this lease during operation of mines which includes 293.73 ha of forest land broken up prior to 1980. Out of 37.21 ha of non-forest land broken up in this lease, 22.268 ha of land has been broken up prior to 1980 and the balance non-forest land of 14.942 ha has been broken up after 1980. The instant forest diversion proposal is for the entire 360.90 ha. of forest land existing in the lease area within the retained area of 430.99 ha during 1st RML period which includes 8.65 ha of forest land coming within the safety zone for different purpose of the lease. In this proposal, apart from 293.73 ha of pre-1980 broken forest land, an area of 67.17 ha of virgin forest land is also proposed to be broken up in course of mining during 1st RML period. 360.90 ha of forest land proposed for diversion includes RF land of 312.85 ha and 48.05 ha of Village forest. The 1st RML period starts with effect from 25.10.2005 till the period for which the same will be granted.

It has been reported that the user agency has carried out mining activity in non-forest area till 01.10.2009 after the expiry of lease on 24.10.2005. During the 1st RML period, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India vide their letter F.No. 8-47-2005-FC dated 09.12.2011 had accorded Temporary Working Permission for iron ore mining over 293.73 ha pre-1980 broken up forest land in this lease for a period of one year, which was followed by their order vide F.No. 8-47/2005-FC dt. 22.11.2012 allowing them to undertake mining over the broken up forest land for not more than three months. This was valid till 21.2.2013.

422

The details of the land under revised RML area over 430.99 hectares as follows:

| Sl.No. | Category of Land | RML Area (in Hectares) | | | | |
|--------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| | | Broken Pre 1980 | Broken Past 1980 | Broken Total | Virgin Area | Total |
| 1. | R.F. | 249.43 | - | 249.43 | 63.42 | 312.85 |
| 2. | V.F. | 44.3 | - | 44.3 | 3.75 | 48.05 |
| 3. | Non-Forest | 22.268 | 14.942 | 37.21 | 32.88 | 70.09 |
| | Total | 315.998 | 14.942 | 330.94 | 100.05 | 430.99 |

The assessment of land use (broken up) was made jointly by the forest, mining and revenue officials. The lessee operated the mine in non-forest area after expiry of lease on 24.10.2005 as per the directions of the Mining Officer, Baripada as reported by DFO, Rairangpur. The mining operations were suspended in the mine from 01.10.2009 as per the direction of the Mining Officer, Baripada.

The lessee applicant have also filed an Interlocutory Application bearing No. 3692 of 2013 arising out of WP(C) No. 202/1995 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Apex Court vide their order dt. 10.2.2014 have disposed the case with the direction as follows:

"Considering the recommendation made by the Central Empowered Committee, We direct the Forest Department of the State of Odisha to take a decision within four weeks on the proposal submitted by the applicant Birat Chandra Dagara seeking approval under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of 360.90 ha of forest land including 8.65ha of forest land for safety zone, for the 1st RML of Suleipat Iron ore Mining Lease of the applicant.

We further direct that in case the State of Odisha recommends the proposal, the Ministry of Environment and Forests will decide within a period of four weeks of the receipt of the proposal to grant approval on the proposal for grant of approval under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and in case it grants in-principle approval, it must also take a decision to grant temporary working permission in accordance with the applicable guidelines within the said period of four weeks to the applicant. In the meanwhile, this Court considers it appropriate to grant temporary working permission."

In view of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of granting of TWP pending Stage-I approval of MoEF and subsequent observation of Advocate on Record in this regard, the State Forest Department vide their letter No. 4150, dated 1.3.2014 have instructed the DFO, Rairangpur Forest Division to allow the lessee to undertake mining activities over legally broken up forest land of the lease subject to availability of all other statutory clearances till such period MoEF grants in-principle approval to the Forest diversion proposal along with working permission under para 4.18 of the FC Act guidelines.



420

The lease area has been delineated in Topo Sheet No.73 J/4 and bounded by latitude 22° 08' to 22° 09' 16" N and longitude 86° 12' 28" to 86° 14' 17" E. This proposed RML area is not part of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/Tiger Reserve. There is no archaeological monument, heritage site or defence establishment within the applied area. The Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve & Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Baripada vide his Memo no.3106, dated 26.7.2012 has reported the factual position of location of the project area in Survey of India Topo-sheet indicating the proximity of the lease to the boundary of Similipal Sanctuary and Similipal Tiger Reserve. The map has been authenticated by DFO, Rairangpur, Mining Officer, Baripada and Sr. Surveyor, Baripada Circle in presence of the Lessee. Although, the shortest distance of the ML area reported by DFO, Rairangpur Forest Division from boundary of Similipal Tiger Reserve/Sanctuary to be 10.409 kms, yet on further examination of the matter at the level of RCCF, Baripada, the Mining lease pillar No. 26 of Suleipat Iron ore mines having geo co-ordinates 22° 07' 56.7" N and 86° 13' 20.2"E as mentioned in joint verification report was plotted in GIS domain maintained in the office of RCCF, Baripada and the radial distance of this point from the boundary of Similipal Sanctuary/ Tiger Reserve was found to be 07.55 km as per GIS domain. This lease also came under review of Hon'ble M.B. Shah Commission of inquiry. The observations of Shah Commission in respect of the above mine has been sent to the Secretary, MoEF, New Delhi vide this office letter No. 106-100/12/EPE, dated 19.10.2012.

It has also been reported that the Mining Lease area is situated within the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve as per Notification but outside the core area of the Elephant Reserve, as the core area of Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve is inside core area of Similipal Sanctuary. Thus mining lease is also situated within Similipal Biosphere Reserve.

Indian Bureau of Mines vide their letter No. 314(3)/2012MCCM(CZ)/MS-59 dated 14.6.2013 have approved the Mining Scheme with Progressive Mines Closure Plan for Suleipat Iron ore Mines for the period from 2013-14 to 2017-18. As indicated by the user agency, the lease area contains 14.619 million tones of mine-able reserve of Iron Ore and considering the proposed average annual targeted production of 0.6 Million tons of iron ore, the life of mine for iron ore would be about 25 years. The total cost of this project is Rs.32.00 Crores. In course of execution of the project, 520 people are likely to get direct employment and another 2000 persons shall get indirect employment opportunities. The project does not involve displacement of human habitation.



8. Compensatory afforestation:

It has been reported that verification of broken up forest land during the original mining lease period was taken up on 26.08.2010 by Senior Surveyor of Mining Office Baripada, Mining Officer, Baripada Circle, Baripada, Tehsildar, Kusumi, Badampahar; Additional Tahasildar, Rairangpur; Range Officer, Badampahar Range; Assistant Conservator of Forests, Rairangpur Forest Division and Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Division in presence of mining lessee. As per their report 293.73 ha of forest land is broken prior to 1980. Out of the 360.90 ha of Forest land applied for diversion during 1st RML period, 293.73 ha (289.47 ha+4.26 in safety zone) was broken prior to 25.10.1980 and balance 67.17 ha is virgin forest land. Out of this 67.17 ha of virgin forest land, 4.39 ha of forest land is part of safety zone (total safety zone 8.65ha.-4.26ha of broken up forest land in safety zone =4.39ha). Thus compensatory afforestation is required to be taken up in lieu of 62.78ha of virgin forest land proposed for diversion during 1st RML period as per Para 3.2 (viii) (d) of the FC Act, 1980. Accordingly 62.78 ha of Non-forest/degraded Revenue forest land i.e. 38.33 ha in village Dova and 24.45 ha in village Raliabeda under Kusumi Tahasil of Mayurbhanj District have been identified for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation against proposed diversion of virgin Forest Land of 62.78ha. The Land schedule of the Non-forest/degraded forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation details are given below:

Village-Dova, PS-Badampahar No.4, Tahasil-Rairangpur, Dist: Mayurbhanj

| Khata No. | Plot No. | Name of the Tenant | Nature of Land | Area for C.A. |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 491 | 6 | Abad Ajogya Anabadi | Jungle-2 (Mela) | 11.56 Acres |
| -do- | 20 | -do- | -do- | 0.76 Acres |
| -do- | 21 | -do- | -do- | 0.96 Acres |
| -do- | 22 | -do- | Patita | 2.62 Acres |
| -do- | 27 | -do- | Jungle-2 | 0.62 Acres |
| -do- | 309 | -do- | -do- | 65.00 Acres |
| -do- | 316 | -do- | -do- | 0.81 Acres |
| -do- | 365/P | -do- | -do- | 4.20 Acres |
| -do- | 174 | -do- | -do- | 6.90 Acres |
| -do- | 19/P | -do- | Dahi-I | 1.29 Acres |
| Total | | | | 94.72 Acres or 38.33 Hectares |

Village-Raliabeda, PS-Badampahar No.1, Tahasil-Rairangpur, Dist: Mayurbhanj

| Khata No. | Plot No. | Name of the Tenant | Nature of Land | Area for C.A. |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 122 | 10/1/P | Abad Ajogya Anabadi | Jungle-I | 20.83 Acres |
| -do- | 11/1/P | -do- | Jungle-II | 10.00 Acres |
| -do- | 66/P | -do- | -do- | 5.00 Acres |
| 120 | 62/P | -do- | Parbat-I | 23.00 Acres |
| 120 | 68 | -do- | Patharbani | 1.58 Acres |
| Total | | | | 60.41 Acres or 24.45 Hectares |

h

4/28

The degraded forest kism land has been identified for the purpose of compensatory afforestation keeping in view of guidelines prescribed by Government of India, MoEF vide their letter F.No. 5-1/2007-FC dt. 28.12.2007. As per prescription of the guidelines, the identified degraded forest land is required to be notified as Reserve Forest under Section-4 of Orissa Forest Act, 1972.

The identified Compensatory afforestation sites are within administrative area of Rairangpur Forest division. The Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Forest Division has prepared a site specific compensatory afforestation scheme in Block Plantation mode pertaining to the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 85,82,500/- at current wage rate of Rs. 150/- per manday. This scheme has been technically approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion) & Nodal Officer, FC Act. Besides plantation, the scheme has provision for barbed wire fencing and maintenance cost for 6 years. *However, the maintenance of plantation, as per guidelines, should be for 7 - 10 years.* The species proposed for plantation includes Teak, Acacia, Chakunda, Karanja, Asan, Amla, Badi Baunsa, Australian teak, Gambhari etc. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of the scheme.

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

The Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Forest Division has certified that the land for C.A. is suitable from plantation and management point of view (Annexure-VI & VI (A)).

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

The Tahasildar / Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur has certified that the land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment and encumbrances. (Annexure-VI & VI(A)).

(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:

2 (two) Compact patches.

(e) Map with details:

Enclosed as Annexure III & III(A).



yrb

(f) Total financial outlay:

As reported by the DFO, Rairangpur division, the total financial outlay for C.A. scheme is Rs. 60,84,157/-.

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 State Government, the DFO, Rairangpur Division has reported in part-II of Form- A that without obtaining statutory clearance, the User Agency had carried out mining activities in Non-forest area as per direction of the Mining Officer, Baripada. Further, he reports that since 01.10.2009, the mining activity has been stopped. Appropriate penal measures may be imposed on the lessee by penal Compensatory Afforestation.

It is also reported by the State Government, the DFO, Rairangpur Division vide his letter dated 10/6/2011 has reported that there is no violation in the above lease under Forest Conservation Act 1980. No offence cases have been booked under Orissa Forest Act in this lease area. However transfer of mining lease and execution of transfer deed on 10.10.1984 without Prior approval of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India also amounts to violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Therefore appropriate penal measures on the user agency may be imposed. Ministry may take appropriate action in this regard.

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

As reported by the State Government, the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. Hence, no R&R Plan is required.

11. Reclamation plan:

The phased reclamation plan and afforestation scheme has been furnished. This plan includes reclamation of exhausted pits by back filling with mine waste materials, taking up block plantation over the stabilized dumps as well as vacant areas. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to execute this work.

Details and financial allocation:

Enclosed as Annexure V.

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

Not applicable.



Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

Not applicable.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

As reported by the State Government, the total benefit to the economy due to annual production of Iron ore comes to Rs.168.00 Crores, whereas the loss of environment including cost of NPV, CA cost etc is Rs. 30.28 Crores. So the Cost Benefit Ratio is 1: 5.54.

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

Recommended by the PCCF, Odisha / State Government.

15. Recommendations of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:

Appended separately.

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 mining project is site specific; hence alternative alignment is not possible.

17. Utility of the project:

As reported by the State Government, 520 people are likely to get direct employment and another 2000 persons shall get indirect employment opportunities in course of execution of the project.

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:

As reported by the DFO, Rairangpur, no rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna is found in the area.

(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 State Government, the radial distance of Pillar No. 26 of this ML from the boundary of Similipal Sanctuary/ Tiger Reserve was found to be 07.55 km as per GIS domain.

20. Any other information relating to the project:

A. Conservation of Virgin forest areas proposed for surrender:

The User agency has proposed to surrender 187.01 ha (100.14 ha forest land and 86.87 ha non-forest land) out of its mining lease during the current renewal of lease. Most of the areas (both forest & non-forest) proposed for surrender are having fairly dense pole crop of Sal. In the event of acceptance of the said surrender proposal by the authority, the necessary documents prior to the surrender may be procured and the User agency may also be directed to support the local forest protection committees in their efforts towards the conservation of the surrendered area.

B. Preserving the re-generated forest patches inside the broken up area:

During inspection, it is observed that out of the 293.73 ha broken up forest land around 30 ha broken up area towards the western side of the lease boundary adjoining the area proposed to be surrendered, is having fairly good regenerated pole crops, predominantly Sal. Since it has not yet been explored and hence not yet been proved to be a mineralised zone, the user agency has been advised to keep it intact. However in the event of extreme necessity, such regenerated areas may be utilised for mining towards the end of lease period.

C. DGPS map & Topo-sheet are enclosed as Annexures -I & II respectively.

D. FRA Certificate issued by Collector, Mayurbhanj is enclosed as (Annexure-IV).



(Suman Mohapatra)
Conservator of Forests (Central)

