



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



Telephone: 0674 - 2301213, 2301248, 2302452, 2302453. E-mail: [roez.bsr-mef@nic.in](mailto:roez.bsr-mef@nic.in)

No.5-ORA078/2008-BHU

01.03.2024

सेवा में,

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

**विषय : Site inspection report on "Transfer of approval of 134.618 ha forest land from already diverted forest land of 168.232 ha for establishment of an integrated steel plant by M/s Jindal Steel and Power Limited to M/s Jindal Steel Odisha Limited in Angul Forest Division, Angul, Odisha.**

महाशय,

उपरोक्त विषय के संबंध में मुझे सूचित करने का निर्देश हुआ है कि यह परियोजना का दिनांक 16.02.2024 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।

संलग्न : उपरोक्त

भवदीय,  
**पद्मा साठान्ती**

(डॉ पद्मा महांती)  
उप वन महानिरीक्षक (केन्द्रीय)

**Site inspection report on “Transfer of approval of 134.618 ha forest land from already diverted forest land of 168.232 ha for establishment of an integrated steel plant by M/s Jindal Steel and Power Limited to M/s Jindal Steel Odisha Limited in Angul Forest Division, Angul, Odisha**

The undersigned had monitored the project on 16.02.2024 accompanied by the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division, and officials of the user agency were present.

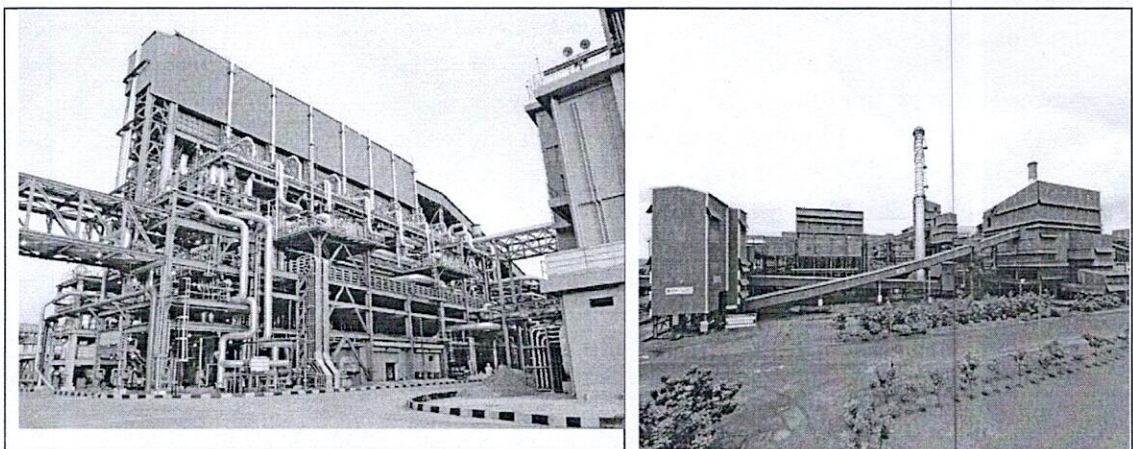
The Ministry vide letter No.8-75/2008-FC (Vol.) dated 27.12.2023 has sought following information:

- i. Whether the re-diversion of 2.405 ha of forest land granted approval by the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar on 17.03.2022 also included in the proposal for transfer of approval or otherwise.**

The re-diversion of 2.405 ha of forest land was granted approval by the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar on 17.03.2022. This is not included in the proposal for transfer of approval. 2.405 ha is within the balance area of 33.624 ha proposed to be retained by the original user agency, M/s Jindal Steel and Power Limited. During site inspection, it was noticed that construction of infrastructure has already been done in the 33.624 ha of already diverted forest land to M/s Jindal Steel and Power Limited.

- ii. Comments on the likely use of the balance area of 33.624 ha proposed to be retained by the original user and efficacy of retention of the area by the user agency may be provided by the Regional Office of the Ministry, based on their site visit of the area.**

As reported by the user agency and verified on field the balance area of 33.624 ha proposed to be retained by the original user for steel plant. The following structures were seen to be constructed i.e. integrated steel complex and water pipeline.



The purpose wise break up of forest land as submitted by the user agency to be retained by the Jindal Steel and Power Limited is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Village	Forest land utilized for establishment of 6 MTPA steel plant (in ha)
1.	Sankerejang jungle	3.464
2.	Sankerejang	0.498
3.	Kaliakata jungle	3.022
4.	Jamunda jungle	21.695
		<b>Used for water pipeline (area in ha)</b>
5.	Bhaktipal	0.125
6.	Balangi	0.769
7.	Rutubhuin	0.332
8.	Bhagirathipur	0.255
9.	Khairnali	0.295
10.	Chadrabbil	0.433
11.	Dhobapal	0.283
12.	Chadrasekharapur	0.125
13.	Badahar	0.696
14.	Bhalugadia	0.109
15.	Kankarei	0.498
16.	Pirkhaman	0.251
17.	Kukunda	0.21
18.	Maradahariharpur	0.554
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33.614</b>

**iii. Whether, the proposed expansion of steel plant involves additional forest land or it is proposed within the area already approved for the purpose?**

The transfer of 134.618 ha of forest land is within the already diverted forest land of 168.232 ha for establishment of an integrated steel plant by M/s Jindal Steel and Power Ltd, the original project proponent to M/s Jindal Steel Odisha Limited in Angul Forest Division, Angul, Odisha. Thus, it does not involve additional forest land.

**Other observations:**

During site inspection the DFO, Angul has reported the following regarding exclusion of Revenue forest land from expansion of the proposed project. It was also seen during inspection that along with 134.618 ha of forest land, the project has acquired government and tenancy land for expansion.

- a) Most of the Revenue forest plots which are embedding within the non forest land (government land + tenancy land) proposed for the project, are left out of the proposal. A total of 52 revenue forest land patches will become inaccessible and fragmented bound by either JSPL boundary or private holdings after expansion of the project site, once the land is taken up for the project.
- b) Many of the private holdings will become inaccessible except through excluded revenue forest plots after expansion of the project.
- c) Land use change or erection of enclosures by the private land holdings by the individual landowners/tenants will create several choke points.

- d) Combined landscape of excluded forest land and excluded private plots will result into a channelized Boma like formation with boundary walls on both sides restricting free movement of wildlife. Wildlife is likely to come in closer proximity due to connectivity to the nearby notified and non-notified forests increasing depredation on the habitation and agricultural fields.
- e) A number of habitations with forest dependent communities are existing around Revenue forest plots. In view of the expansion of the project, biotic pressure is likely to increase on the excluded forest patches making their management and re-stocking difficult.

**Recommendation:**

Due to expansion of the instant project, the adverse impact will be there on wild animals in the area. The DFO, Angul may be asked to submit complete survey of the area (non forest + revenue forest land) that needs to be excluded from the area of expansion of the project (non forest land + forest land) so as to prevent the aforesaid conditionalities that will affect the wildlife and its habitat and is likely to increase human wildlife conflict in the region. A detailed survey report with joint inspection of the Forest Department, Revenue Department and the user agency needs to be carried out to ensure that enough (forest land + non forest land) delineated in the project is demarcated along with the 52 patches of revenue forest land so as to ensure connectivity and safe passage for wildlife with a concrete plan to ensure consolidation of the isolated 52 forest patches, which have been carved out/left out from the proposal, primarily to avoid inclusion of forest land in the proposal and which may result in fragmentation of the wildlife habitat and as reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, give rise to human wildlife conflict. This consolidated area needs to be secured at project cost and notified and handed over to Forest Department as a green cover in the highly fragmented mining landscape. The State Government needs to take active steps in ensuring the same. The report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division is enclosed herewith.

We may recommend the proposal with the aforesaid condition for consolidation of fragmented 52 patches of revenue forest land adjacent the proposed project expansion area by acquiring adjacent government land plus tenancy land and after obtaining a concrete report from the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division and State Government regarding the same.

*Padma Mahanti*

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (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)

**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.**

**PART-I**

1.	Name/purpose of the proposal	Diversion of 168.232 ha of forest land in Angul for establishment of an integrated steel complex by M/s Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.
2.	No. and date of Govt. of India's letter according permission	8-75/2008-FC dated 28.10.2010
3.	Area permitted to be diverted (in ha.)	168.232 ha
4.	District and Forest Division	Angul district and Angul Forest Division
5.	Area actually diverted (in ha.)	168.232 ha

**PART- II (DETAILS OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION)**

*During monitoring, it was observed that Compensatory Afforestation has been raised over 168.592 ha in three villages viz. Rugudipada, Talagarh and Kantamegha. The specires planted are Neem, Mai, Sissoo, Chakunda, Karanj, etc. The percentage of survival is reported to be 75 %. However, the plantation has not achieved desired growth. Lack of watchers/manpower to attend and look after the plantation site was stated as a reason for its lack of maintenance and up keep. These provisions need to be made available at the CA site at the earliest. Photograph of CA site is furnished below:*



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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable

**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 and maintained by the Forest Department on equivalent non forest land as proposed at the project cost.

*As reported in part II of this report.*

- iii. The non forest land identified for raising compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under Section-4 or PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, within a period of six months. The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation) shall report compliance in this regard.

*It was reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division that Kantamegha (314.32 acre) Protected Forest has been notified on 03.11.2010, Rugudiapada (28.52 acre) Protected Forest has been notified on 03.11.2010 and Talagarh Protected Forest (72.87 acre) has been notified on 03.11.2010. This was inspected during the site inspection.*

- iv. Additional amount of NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by State Government from the user agency.

*The user agency has submitted an undertaking in this regard.*

- v. The conservation plan approved by the PCCF for the landscape surrounding the project area and the steel plant site and inside the plant area shall be implemented at the project cost.

*It was reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division that Rs.3,64,85,078 has been deposited towards implementation of conservation plan.*

- vi. As per the submission of the user agency before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), the State Government shall ensure that no other forest land except the forest land being diverted in the instant proposal shall be diverted in favour of the said project.

*The compliance of the above condition may be looked into by the state government.*

- vii. The user agency shall take all measures to prevent pollution by effluents, particulate matters etc. at the project cost.

*The user agency has assured to comply with the condition. An undertaking in this regard has also been submitted by the user agency.*

- viii. No mining proposal for this integrated steel plant shall be considered for diversion of forest land in future.

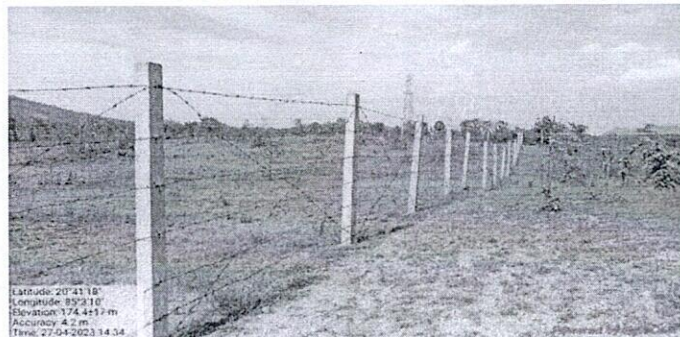
*The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.*

- ix. The Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R & R) plan for the project area shall be comprehensive and should be at least at par with the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 of the Government of India to take care of the livelihood of the local population.

*The user agency has assured to comply with the condition.*

- x. The forest in the southern boundary of the proposed area shall be fenced with 5 feet concrete wall barbed wire fencing over it to protect from heavy human pressure of surrounding areas.

*Photograph of barbed fence is furnished below:*



- xi. 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.*

- xii. The user agency shall make arrangement for free fuel supply of alternate fuel like coal, gas, etc. instead of firewood to labourers and the staff working on the project site so as to avoid any pressure on the adjacent forest areas.

*The user agency has reported that the condition is being complied with.*

- xiii. The project area shall be demarcated on the ground at the project, cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, with each pillar inscribed with the serial number forward and backward bearings and distance between two adjacent pillars.

*Photograph of boundary pillar is furnished below:*



- xiv. The user agency shall fell minimum number of trees in strict supervision of the State Forest Department.

*Reported to be complied with.*

- xv. The comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented at the user agency's cost.

*It was reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division that Rs.3,64,85,078 has been deposited towards implementation of conservation plan.*

- xvi. Any other condition that the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may impose from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests.

*No such condition has been imposed.*

- xvii. All other conditions under different rules, regulations and guidelines including those stipulated in the environmental clearance shall be complied with.

*Complied.*

**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:	Nil	
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:	<p><i>The Ministry has imposed additional condition vide letter No.8-75/2008-FC dated 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 that the State Government shall raise and maintain penal compensatory Afforestation over 11.21 ha of degraded forest land from the fund provided by the user agency.</i></p> <p><i>As reported by the DFO, Angul Forest Division, Rs.14,59,000 has been deposited by the user agency towards the cost of penal compensatory Afforestation over an area of 11.21 ha of degraded forest land identified in Paranga RF of Angul Range. Detailed information on the plantation may be submitted by the State Government. This was not available during monitoring of the project.</i></p> <p><i>A study should be conducted on the impact of the integrated steel plant on the flora and fauna of that area on the project's cost and mitigation measures should be taken up accordingly.</i></p>	

*Padma Mahanti*

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)  
DIGF (Central)