



No.5-ORC496/2022-BHU

27th May, 2025

To

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

Sub:- Diversion of 16.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.).

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No. 10F(Cons)106/2021-22929/FE&CC dated 28.12.2021, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 16.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.), was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 18.01.2022, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 25.01.2022, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.8793/9F (Misc.)-32/2021 dated 21.04.2025 and uploading of the compliance report by State Govt. in *Parivesh* web portal on 22.05.2025, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 16.463 ha of forest land (12.649 ha in Keonjhar Division and 3.814 ha in Bonai Division) for laying of 20" dia dual pipelines (slurry and water), Power and communication cables from Kalamang Ghoraburuni-Sagasahi Block, Koira Tahasil, Sundargarh District to Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District by M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.), subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land.

- The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006 as applicable.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that NPV of the above proposal has been realized from user agency as per Ministry's direction from time to time.

- iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA/Addl. CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency.
- v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars. each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency.

- i) The State Govt. shall ensure that the legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall raise compensatory afforestation over 16.466 ha of non-forest land identified in Plot No.502 & 503(P) of Khata No.67 (AAA) of village Podadihi of Banspal Tahasil under Keonjhar District within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.
- iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall raise Addl. Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 40.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Kalapat RF under Telkoi Range of Keonjhar Forest Division within two years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency.
- iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the species to be planted in the CA/Addl. CA scheme shall be of native species (same species felled as far as possible) avoiding Teak and exotic species. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
- v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- vi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the slurry, water, power and communication cables shall be laid minimum 1.0 meter below the ground with 1 mtr width and after lying down of the pipeline the ground will be levelled as proposed by the State Govt.
- vii) The State Govt. shall ensure that laying of pipeline should be done simultaneously with digging of trench.
- viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall take adequate safety measures for accidental leakage of slurry, water, power and communication cable pipelines.
- ix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall implement intensive Soil & Moisture Conservation measures along both sides of the proposed pipeline corridor passing through forest area at project cost.
- x) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xiii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any

tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.

- xiv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- xvi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xvii) The State Govt. shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- xviii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xx) The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- xxi) Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.
- xxii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxiii) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Authorized Signatory, M/s Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd., (Formerly Essar Steel India Ltd.) Udayabata, Paradip, Jagatsinghpur-754142, Odisha.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)