

SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF SEEKING APPROVAL OF MOEF&CC UNDER SECTION 2(III) OF FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980 OVER 350.50 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR KODILABAD IRON & MANGANESE ORE MINES OF M/S RUNGTA MINES LIMITED IN SARANDA FOREST DIVISION OF WEST SINGHBHUM DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 29.12.2016 in the presence of representative of Rungta Mines ltd Sri H.Mazumdar, Director and others.

The State Government of Jharkhand vide their letter No.Van Bhumi-30/2016-5715 dated 21.12.2016 forwarded seven applications of different proponents which includes M/s Rungta Mines Limited seeking approval of MoEF&CC under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over 350.5 ha of forest land for Kodilabad Iron & Manganese Ore Mines in Saranda Forest Division of West Singhbhum District of Jharkhand.

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

The legal status of the forest land is Reserved Forest.

2. Vegetation:

The area has thick Forest Cover on a hilly terrain with rugged topography and is prone to erosion. The density of vegetation in dense areas appears to be 0.8 while in less dense areas it is around 0.6 to 0.7. The area comprises of Tropical moist deciduous Peninsular Sal Forest and largely classified as Eco class-1.

3. Wildlife:

In the recommendation of Nodal Officer dated 15.12.2016, it is mentioned that the proposed forest is part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve. Wild boar, wild bear, barking deer, giant squirrel, porcupine, etc have been reported in the area.

4. 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:

No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act has been reported in this case.

5. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

As reported, proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park. Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere/Tiger Reserve.

6. Whether the forest land proposed for lease is located within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the protected notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:

Not Reported.

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

PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer letter dated 15.12.2016 (as uploaded on website): Not Recommended.

PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer letter dated 19.12.2016: Not Recommended as the proposed area falls under the Conservation Zone.

PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer letter dated 22.12.2016: Submitted that appropriate decision may be taken by the GoI.


State Govt. letter dated 21.12.2016: Recommended.

8. Recommendations of Addl PCCF (Central):

Annexed separately.

9. Any other information relating to the project:

- The proposed lease area is situated within Kodalibad RF, the nearest village being usarya which is deep (around 12 km) inside forest from Chota Nagara and is connected by Forest Road passing through Sonapi & Hatnaburu.
- The proposed area occupies the top of a fairly high hill known as Dirsumburi Hill.
- The area is virgin, rich in flora and fauna and ecologically very sensitive
- The entire area is the Catchment area of Koina River which is Perennial in nature. It has two perennial tributaries 'Koina Gora' & 'Sarako'. These tributaries are in term fed by 'nallas' which are seasonal in nature. However, the sub tributary of Koina Gora namely 'Ambabai Gora' in perennial and lies around 2 km beyond the south-west corner of the lease area.
- The proposed lease area comprising compartments of Kodlibad Reserve Forest is adjacent to the proposed mining lease area of M/S Electrosteel Casting Ltd. Forest Compartment no. 3,4 & 5 are common to both proposed lease areas.
- 0.24 ha. of additional Forest land (Reserve Forest) is needed for laying of road meant for transportation of iron ore under the proposed mining project in the lease area.
- As per para 14 of Part-II of application under section 2(iii), the site inspection report of Nodal Officer is not available in Ministry's website. However, the recommendation of Nodal Officer dated 15.12.2016 has been uploaded.

 21.12.17

(K.K.Tiwary)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ADDL. PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)

The instant proposal is for seeking approval of MoEF&CC under Section 2(iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over of 350.5 ha of forest land for Kodilabad Iron & Manganese Ore Mines of M/s Rungta Mines Limited in Saranda Forest Division of West Singhbhum District of Jharkhand.

On perusal of records and Site Inspection Report of CF the following observations are made:

- The legal status of the forest land is Reserved Forests.
- The density of vegetation has been reported to be 0.7 in the para 4(i) of Part-II of the form. The area has thick forest cover on a hilly terrain.
- The PCCF-cum-Executive Director, Jharkhand has not specifically recommended the proposal vide his recommendation dated 15.12.2016 and has stated that keeping in view the Carrying Capacity report and the Integrated Wildlife Management Plan prepared for the area under consideration, the MoEFCC, GoI may take appropriate decision in this regard.
- Subsequently, the PCCF-cum-Executive Director, Jharkhand vide his letter No. 1124 dated 19.12.2016 has not recommended the proposal. However, vide his letter No. 1129 dated 21.12.2016, PCCF has stated that the appropriate decision may be taken by the GoI.
- As per Decision Support System of the Ministry, the Forest Cover information is as follows:

Forest Cover	Area (ha.)
VDF (canopy density 70% & above)	113
MDF (canopy density 40-70 %)	148
Open Forest (canopy density 10-40 %)	90
Non Forest	00
Total Area	351

It may be seen that in the proposed lease area of 350.5 ha, major area is under the category of Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) and Very Dense Forest (VDF). The issue of opening of mining activities in such virgin forest areas need to be taken up very cautiously. In light of the above facts, site inspection report of CF (C) and the observations of PCCF-cum-Executive Director (Nodal Officer) dated 15.12.2016, 19.12.2016 and 21.12.2016, decision in this proposal may be taken.

A.N. Sharan
3.1.2017
(A.N. Sharan)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.