



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
CHANGE

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F. No. FC-III/CH-14/2016-NGP/1204

Dated: 5th January, 2017

To

Assistant Inspector General (FC),
Forest Conservation Division,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi.

Sub: Application of M/s Navbharat Fuse Company Limited, seeking approval of MoEF&CC under Section 2 (iii) of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 concerning over 220.00 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Bhanupartappur District, Uttar Bastar Kanker Tehsil, Bhanupartappur, and Chhattisgarh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. F-5-56/2016/10-2 dated 15.12.2016 on the above subjects seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Forest Conservation Division of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi's letter no. 8-66/2016 dated 20.12.2016 requesting the Regional Office (WCZ) of the MoEF&CC at Nagpur to carry out the site inspection of the areas in respect of above mentioned proposal and to inform that site inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by the undersigned on 4.01.2016. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed herewith.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'C'

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)**

The Government of Chhattisgarh in Rajnandgaon, Balod and Kanker District has executed 14 mining leases. Out of which 7 leases have been executed in the Kanker District and out of 7 leases only 3 are non-working while rest 4 are working. In addition to the above, 4 new mining leases have also been allotted by the State Government in the District, including the extant mining lease, which are in the advance stage of obtaining statutory clearance. The mining lease to the User Agency i.e. M/s Navbharat Fuse Company has been allotted by the State Government in the year 2009. The proposal of the User Agency for obtaining permission under Section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is still in nascent stage.

The detailed observations on the proposal have already been made in the inspection report. Given the fact that area proposed for mining lease is a pristine forest having fairly high density (upto 0.8), high landscape integrity value, biodiversity richness, the proposal does not deserve consideration and accordingly, not recommended for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Kanwarjit Singh
(Kanwarjit Singh)
Addl. PCCF (Central)
5/1/17

SITE INSPECTION REPORT BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE (WCZ) NAGPUR FOR PROPOSAL INVOLVING DIVERSION OF 220 HA OF FOREST LAND IN FAVOUR OF M/S NAVBHARAT FUSE COMPANY LIMITED FOR IRON ORE MINING IN RASULI VILLAGE IN EAST BHANUPRATAPPUR FOREST DIVISION IN KANKER DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH.

Name of the Inspecting Officer – Charan Jeet Singh, Scientist 'C', Regional Officer (WCZ), Nagpur

Site inspection the above mentioned proposal was carried out on 4.01.2017 with the officials of State Forest Department and representatives of the User Agency. The following Officers were present during the inspection:

Officers from the State Forest Department

- i. Sh. D. L. Dugga, Range Officer, Durg Kondal Range, East Bhanupratappur Forest Division
- ii. Sh. Puran Singh Bagel, Forester, Durg Kondal Range,
- iii. Sh. Om Prakash Agnihotri, Forest Gaurd, Durg Kondal Range,
- iv. Sh. Manoj Marbatte, Forest Gaurd, Durg Kondal Range,

Officers/Staff from the User Agency

Sh. Jagmohal Kalra,

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

Legal status of the land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forests. Entire land of the mining lease of the User Agency is forest land i.e. Reserved Forest land.

The proposed to be acquired under lease is composed of two compartments viz. 615 and 616 in Durg Kondal Range. An area of 126 ha of the lease falls in the compartment no. 616, which has been handed over to the Forest Development Corporation, while 94 ha falls in the compartment no. 615 under the control of State Forest Department.

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

- i. Mining and infrastructure – 21.60 ha.
- ii. Safety Zone - 5.10 ha
- iii. Area for further exploration- 70.00 ha
- iv. Area to be kept intact 123.00 ha
- Total – 220 ha

It may be noted that area proposed to be acquired for mining lease is located deep in dense forests. The details of approach road etc. could not be made available by the State Forest Department and the representative of the User Agency. From the above, it can be ascertained that the User Agency requires additional forest land, outside their mining lease, for approach road to get access to their mining lease.

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

Same as given under para 2 above.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates.

Total cost of project is Rs. 55.52 crores.

5. Wildlife

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



The forest land proposed for diversion is part of a stand-alone hill range running north to south. The representative of the State Forest Department informed that area does not have major wildlife. Important species reported in the area sloth bear, hyena, fox, deer, blue bull, jungle cat, common hare, etc. The overall landscape of the area indicates area proposed for lease constitutes the part of extension of Bailladilla mountain range i.e. connected to mountains range of Bailladilla in south and terminating in North near Dalli-Rajahara area. The extension of said mountain ranges runs over a distance of approximately more than 100 kms in Dantewada, Bijapur, Kanker, Balod and Rajnandgaon Districts of Chhattisgarh. Though the area proposed for diversion does not form the part of any wildlife corridor, Protected Area and Wildlife Sanctuary, yet the area has high landscape integrity value.

6. Vegetation:-

- i. Total number of trees to be felled. 90,000 (approx)
- ii. Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area.

Important species:- Some of the areas of the compartments is under bamboo (overlapping) the forest is mixed with *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Tectona grandis*, *Madhuca indica*, *Schleichera oleosa*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Diospyrus melanoxylon* and *Mitragyna parviflora* etc in top canopy, *Cleistanthus collinus*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Cassia fistula*, *Terminalia chebula* and *Buchanania latifolia* and bamboo etc. in middle canopy. Average Density of the area proposed for is approximately 0.7 to 0.8.

The representative of the State Forest Department have informed that during laying out of sample plots for enumeration of trees 400 trees per ha have been worked out in the area. Total number of trees in the lease area of 220 ha has been enumerated to be more than 90,000. Enumerated trees do not include trees having girth of 20 cm or below.

Removal of such a large number of trees over an area of 220 ha will certainly has adverse impact on the local environment. The area proposed under the lease forms the immediate catchment of local nallah, though stated to be seasonal catering to the water needs till winter season. Opening of the area and removal of the trees will also disturb the existing water regime of the area.

7. Background note on the proposal.

The mining lease of the User Agency is located at a distance of approximately 20 km from the Bhanuprappur near village Rasuli. The extant mining lease is among the 10 mining lease allotted by the State Government of Chhattisgarh to private companies in the year 2009. The extant mining lease was accorded on 1.07.2009. The User Agency has reported that they have moved a proposal in the year 2009 for grant of approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the proposal is currently pending with the DFO, East Bhanupratappur for want of identification of CA land.

It may also be mentioned that region has working and non-working mines. The details of the mining leases in the area given as under:

Details of the mining lease in the region

S. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Mining lease	Name of the User Agency	Area (ha)	Lease period	Status
1.	Rajnandgaon	Boriatibbu Mining lease	M/s Godavari Power and Ispat Limited	110.0	15.03.2010 to 14.03.2030	Working
2.		Dongarbor	M/s Sharda Energy Limited	80.710	15.05.2002 to 14.05.2032	Working
3.	Balod	Pandar Dalli and	M/s SAIL	220.420	28.04.2003 to	Working

		Rajhara Hill			27.04.2023	working
4.		Kondeksa, Jharan, Dalli Pandirdani	M/s SAIL	719.60	1.06.2003 to 31.05.2003	Working
5.		Dalli Forests	M/s SAIL	100.0	21.08.2003 to 20.8.2023	Working
6.		Mahamaya	M/s SAIL	1522.670	4.11.2001 to 3.11.2021	Working
7.	Narayanpur	Chhote Dongar	M/s Jayaswal Neco	192.250	21.06.2005 to 20.06.2035	Non-working
8.	Kanker	Barbaspur	M/s Jeevanlal Jain	17.930	14.03.1996 to 13.03.2016	Non-Working
9.		Metabodali	M/s Jayaswal Neco	25.0	17.01.2002 to 16.01.2022	Working
10.		Aari Dongri	M/s Godavari Power and Ispat Limited	138.960	30.09.2008 to 29.09.2058	Working
11.		Rowghat	M/s SAIL	2028.797	21.10.2009 to 20.10.2029	Non-working
12.		Kalwar	M/s SAIL	938.058	1.04.1975 to 31.03.2005	Non-working
13.		Hahaldi	M/s Bajrang Ispat Power Limited	75.0	21.1.2014 to 20.11.2044	Working
14.		Lion Dongri Barbaspur	M/s Jayaswal Neco Limited	14.40	16.10.2014 to 15.10.2044	Working

From the above, it can be ascertained that in District Kanker the State Government at present has executed mining leases for 7 mining leases, out of which only 3 are non-working while rest 4 are working. In addition to the above, 4 new mining leases have also been allotted by the State Government in the District. Out of the 4 new mining leases, mining leases allotted to M/s Pushp Steel Limited, M/s Monnet Ispat Limited, M/s Navbharat Fuse Company Limited and M/s Inds Energy Limited in East Bhanu Pratapur Forest Division are in the advance stage of obtaining statutory clearance.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

The representative from the User Agency has informed that process for identification of land for compensatory is under process. It was also informed by the User Agency that orange forest land is being identified for raising CA.

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.

No violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been reported.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Detail be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest.

No rehabilitation is involved in the proposal.

11. Reclamation Plan: Not applicable

i. Details and financial allocation. NA

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

13. Cost benefit ratio.

Not provided.

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

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh has recommended the proposal for grant of approval under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest Conservation) Act, 1980 without any specific conditons.

15. Recommendations of Regional Chief Conservator of Forests along with detail reasons.

Recommendations of the Addl. PCCF (Central) have been appended separately.

16. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land.

Comments of the Addl. PCCF (Central) have been amended separately.

17. Utility of the project. Numbers of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project.

It is informed that mineral reserve of 9.4 million tons of iron ore will be mined during the life of mine. It is informed during the inspection that iron ore will be used for captive use in the Sponge Iron Plant of the company located in Jagdalpur.

18. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural /religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in the areas proposed for diversion.

No as per information provided by the User Agency and the representative of the State Forest Department, the area is not important from the socio cultural/religious view point.

19. Situation w.r.t. any P.A.

It is indicated in the proposal, that land proposed for diversion is located beyond a distance of 10 km from the boundary of any PAs. It is indicated nearest Tiger Reserve is Indravati Tiger Reserve which is located at a distance of approximately 400 km from the project site.

20. Any other information relating to the project.

- i. The proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been submitted by the User Agency in the year 2009 and the currently, the proposal even after lapse of a period of 7 years is still in nascent stage. The User Agency has reported that due to the issue related to compensatory afforestation, the proposal could not be forwarded by the Divisional Office.
- ii. The Part-II of the Form-A mentioned the density of the area as 0.5. However, during the inspection, it was observed that maximum area of the lease falls in the category of very dense forest. The representatives of the Forest Department have also informed that density of area as high as 0.8 except very few patches which have density below 0.4.
- iii. The representative of the User Agency has informed that complete compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been submitted in accordance with the Advisory dated 5.07.2013. However, details of compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have not been made available by the User Agency.
- iv. The water sources in the area have been reported to be seasonal. It was observed that local nallah passing through the Rasuli village and small village ponds and hanpumps cater to the water requirement of the area. The local nallah, stated to be seasonal was observed to have scanty water flow during the inspection. The area proposed for mining leases forms the catchment of the said local nallah.

- v. Infrastructure of the area, viz. road network, does not appear to be adequate to cater to the infrastructural requirement for the transportation of million tonnes of iron ore proposed to be excavated from the leases allotted in the Kanker District.
- vi. The proposed for approval under Section – 2(iii) constitutes the part of Reserved Forest having forest cover. Maximum area of the lease has forest density between 0.7 to 0.8. Non- of the area of the lease was observed to be falling in the open forest category except smaller portion on the hill top where hard rock, mainly iron ore, is exposed surface.
- vii. The area proposed for the lease is a virgin pristine forest maintaining its landscape integrity. The overall landscape of the area indicates area proposed for lease constitutes the part of extension of Bailladilla mountain range i.e. connected to mountains range of Bailadilla in south and terminating in North around Dalli-Rajahara area.
- viii. Examination of the proposal using Decision Support Analysis, the area falls under the category of pristine forest as per Decision Rule 2. Two grids of 1 km x 1 Km size have score of attributes viz. Forest Cover, biodiversity richness and landscape integrity value, etc above 70.

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'C'