



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India/ भारत सरकार  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
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No. 5-ORA263/2015-BHU

14.03.2016

**SPEED POST**

To

Shri H.C. Chaudhary,  
Director (ROHQ),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha for safety zone (excluding 95.60 ha. of pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467 ha of forest land being proposed for diversion in a separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari ML) within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining Lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore mining in Daitari Mining lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar district, Odisha, of M/s OMC Ltd. during Mining lease period as extended under the amended provision of MMDR Act.

Ref: Ministry's letter No. 8-28/2015-FC, dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

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 within the period from 05.11.2015 to 06.11.2015. The site inspection report along with the relevant enclosures is attached herewith for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

(SUMAN MOHAPATRA)  
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (C)

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADDL. PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL), MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR.**

I endorse the site inspection report of CF (Central) for the proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha for safety zone (excluding 95.60 ha. of pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467 ha of forest land being proposed for diversion in a separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari Mining lease) within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining Lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore mining in Daitari Mining lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar district, Odisha, of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. during Mining lease period as extended under the amended provision of MMDR Act and accordingly **recommend it** for consideration.

  
11/3/2016  
**(Dr. Tejinder Singh)**  
**Addl. PCCF (Central)**

SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION OF BALANCE FOREST LAND OF 746.3325 HA INCLUDING 11.8305 HA FOR SAFETY ZONE (EXCLUDING 95.60 HA OF PRE-1980 BROKEN UP FOREST LAND ALREADY DIVERTED AND 4.467 HA OF FOREST LAND BEING PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION IN A SEPARATE PROPOSAL FOR MINING INFRASTRUCTURE OF DAITARI MINING LEASE) WITHIN TOTAL FOREST LAND OF 846.3995 HA LOCATED WITHIN APPROVED MINING LEASE AREA OF 1018.3085 HA FOR IRON ORE MINING IN DAITARI MINING LEASE IN CUTTACK FOREST DIVISION OF JAJPUR DISTRICT AND KEONJHAR (WL) DIVISION OF KEONJHAR DISTRICT, ODISHA OF M/S OMC LTD. DURING MINING LEASE PERIOD AS EXTENDED UNDER THE AMENDED PROVISION OF MMDR ACT (OMSFCEP NO. FP/OR/MIN/9112/2015).

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by me from 05.11.2015 to 06.11.2015 along with Sri Sangram Behera, Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur, Sri Sudarshan Behera, Divisional Forest Officer, Cuttack Forest Division and Shri D.K. Pattanaik, Sr. Manager (Geology, F&E), M/s OMC and Sri S.S. Barik, Regional Manager, Daitari, M/s. OMC Ltd.

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

Keonjhar WL Division : Reserve Forest & Gramya Jungle.  
Cuttack Forest Division : Daitari DPF.

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

The purpose-wise break-up of the total land of 746.3325 ha is furnished below:

*(A) Area coming within Keonjhar Wildlife Division in Keonjhar district:*

Item wise break up of Forest land proposed for diversion.	Item	Forest area in (ha)			
		Rebana RF	Daitari PF	Gramya Jungle	Total
Mining		383.1188	Nil	18.5965	401.7153
Dumping		16.0229	Nil	34.5754	50.5983
Magazine Safety zone	& its	91.9608	Nil	Nil	91.9608
Safety zone		8.2554	Nil	0.5361	8.7915
<b>Total</b>		<b>499.3579</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>53.7080</b>	<b>553.0659</b>

*(B) Area coming within Cuttack Forest Division in Jajpur district.*

Item wise break up of Forest land proposed for diversion.	Item	Forest area in (ha)			
		Rebana RF	Daitari PF	Gramya Jungle	Total
Mining		Nil	190.2276	Nil	190.2276
Safety zone		Nil	3.0390	Nil	3.0390
<b>Total</b>		<b>Nil</b>	<b>193.2666</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>193.2666</b>

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**Table-C**

**(Area in Ha)**

Sl. No.	Purpose	Keonjhar (Wildlife) Division				Cuttack Division			Total Forest	Non Forest	Grand Total	
		Diverted (Rebena RF)	Now Proposed for diversion		Remarks	Total	Diverted (Daitari PF)	Now proposed (Daitari PF)				Total
			Rebena RF	V.F								
1	Mining	27.064	383.1188	18.5965	4.4670 ha out of the ML area has been proposed for diversion separately	428.7793	34.566	190.2276	224.7936	653.5729	171.90 (including 0.272 ha private land) in village Talapada in Keonjhar district.	653.5729
2	Dumping	4.22	16.0229	34.5754		54.8183	1.28	-	1.28	56.0983		56.1283
3	Ore stacking & processing	13.50	-	-		13.50	0.50	-	0.50	14.00		14.00
4	Camp office, workshop etc.	5.50	-	-		5.50	-	-	-	5.50		5.50
5	Construction of road	8.97	-	-		8.97	-	-	-	8.97		8.97
6	Magazine & its safety zone		91.9608			91.9608				91.9608		91.9608
	Total	59.254	491.1025	53.1719		603.5284	36.346	190.2276	226.5736	830.102		830.102
7	Safety zone		8.2554	0.5361		8.7915		3.0390	3.0390	11.8305		11.8305
	Grand Total	59.254	499.3579	53.7080	4.4670	612.3199 + 4.467 = 616.7869	36.346	193.2666	229.6126	841.9325 + 4.467 = 846.3995	171.909	841.9325 + 4.467 + 171.909 = 1018.3085

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

As reported in Point No.2 above.

4. **Total cost of the project at present rates:**

The total cost of this project is Rs. 198.78 Crores.

5. **Wildlife:**

Forest area proposed for diversion is a known habitat of various wild animals including Schedule I species like Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes* etc. Other wildlife animals found in the area are Mouse deer (*Trangulus meminna*), Ratel (*Mellivora capensis*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Jackal (*Canis aureus linnaeus*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muniyak*), Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), King Cobra (*Ophiophagos hannah*), Russel's viper (*Vipera ruselli*), Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*), Indian soft-shelled turtle (*Lissemys pzinctata punctata*), Large Bengal monitor lizard (*Varamts bengalensis*) etc. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar(WL) division and RCCF, Rourkela, the area was supporting Royal Bengal Tigers in the past. The last confirmed presence of Tigers in this area was in the year 1997.

It has been further reported that National Tiger Conservation Authority has proposed a Tiger corridor interlinking Similipal Tiger Reserve & Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha for long term Tiger/ Wildlife conservation in the country. Field verification of the proposed corridor is going on. The area proposed for forest diversion for this infrastructure project comes within the proposed Tiger corridor.

Similarly, a part of Daitari PF coming within Cuttack Forest Division is included in this mining lease. The area is having dry deciduous forest land dominated by Sal species. Density of vegetation is reported to be 0.6. Wildlife species such as Migratory Elephant, spotted deer, wild boar, fox, Barking Deer, Common Languor, Jackal, Sloth Bear, Hyena, Squirrel, Mongoose, Ratel, Hare, Pangolin, Peacock, Red Jungle fowl, Porcupine, Ringed dove, parrot, Koel, Indian wild lizard, King cobra, Python etc. are found in the area.

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

The State Government has suggested the following two plans:

(a) **Regional Wildlife Management Plan:**

Though the area does not form a part of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Elephant Corridor, due care is to be taken for conservation of wildlife. For this purpose, user agency is required to proportionately



contribute towards implementation Regional Wildlife Management Plan revised rate of Rs.43,000/- per hectare over the mining lease area of 1018.3085 ha. The user agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of Regional Wildlife Management Plan.

**(b) Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan :**

Due care has to be taken for conservation and protection of Wildlife. PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha has approved the Combined Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan prepared by M/s OMC Ltd. for Daitari Mining project and Daitari Extension area at a financial out lay of Rs 1798.70 lakhs. Out of this amount, an amount of Rs 1518.35 lakh is to be spent by DFOs of Keonjhar (WL) Division and Cuttack Forest Division for implementation of approved components of Plan in Project impact area and Rs. 280.35 lakh is to be spent by M/s OMC Ltd in project area coming within the jurisdiction of Cuttack and Keonjhar (WL) Division as per approved components of the Plan., The financial breakup of the amount is given as under:

<b>1. For activities to be implemented in Project area:</b>	
a. By M/s OMC Ltd in Keonjhar WL Division	Rs. 211.26 lakh
b. By M/s OMC Ltd in Cuttack Division	Rs. 69.09 Lakh
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>Rs. 280.35 Lakhs</b>
<b>For activities to be implemented at project impact area:</b>	
a. By DFO, Keonjhar WL Division	Rs. 1092.83 Lakh
b. By DFO, Cuttack Division	Rs. 425.52 Lakh
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>Rs. 1518.35 Lakh</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs. 1798.70 Lakh</b>

The user agency has already deposited an amount of Rs 15, 18, 35,000/- in to Ad-hoc CAMPA Account in Corporation Bank, Lodhi Road, New Delhi through RTGS mode on 24.3.2014.

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agement Plan of the area

## 6. Vegetation:

Average density of vegetation appears to be about 0.8 in Keonjhar WL Division and 0.6 in Cuttack Forest division.

### (a) **Total number of trees to be felled.**

As reported by the State Government, in the area proposed for diversion under this project in Keonjhar (WL) Division, sample enumeration has been taken up over 38 plots of 2 ha each, where 22793 no. of trees has been reported to be existing. By extrapolating this figure over 553.0659 ha of forest land of this lease coming within Keonjhar (WL) Division, 1,65,869 no. of trees are assessed to be existing over the forest land proposed to be used in this mining project.

Similarly in the area proposed for diversion under this project in Cuttack Forest Division, sample enumeration has been taken up over 22 plots of 2 ha. each, where 16095 no. of trees has been reported to be existing. By extrapolating this figure over 193.2666 of forest land of this lease coming within Cuttack Division, 70,697 no. of trees are assessed to be existing over the forest land proposed to be used in this mining project.

The impact of felling of such large number of trees can be minimized by taking up tree felling in phased manner strictly as and when required.

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

As there is a large number of trees to be felled, it will naturally adversely affect the general eco-system in the area.

### (b) **Important species:**

The type of forest found in the area is 3 C/C<sub>2e</sub> Moist. Peninsular Valley Sal, 5B/C<sub>2</sub> Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests, E4 Lateritic Semi Evergreen Forest and 5B/C<sub>10</sub> Dry Peninsular Sal Forests. As reported by RCCF, Rourkela in his site inspection report, tree Species which are commonly noticed in this area are *Sal (Shorea robusta)*, *Piasal (Pterocarpus marsupium)*, *Gambhar (Gmelina arborea)*, *Kangara (Xylia xylocarpa)* *Asan (Terminalia tomentosa)*, *Jamun (Syzygium cumini)*, *Kurum (Adina cordifolia)*, *Dhaura (Anogeissus latifolia)*, *Mango (Mangifera indica)*, *Pansa (Artocarpus heterophyllus)*, *Siris (Albizia lebbek)*, *Kasi (Bridelia retusa)*, *Neem (Azadirachta indica)*, *Kendu (Diospyros melanoxylon)* etc., *Sal (Shorea robusta)* being the predominant species.

### **Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.**

The No. of trees of girth below 60 cm in Cuttack division is 41189 and in Keonjhar WL division is 99013.

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## Number of trees of girth above 60 cm

The No. of trees of girth above 60 cm in Cuttack division is 29508 and in Keonjhar WL division is 66856.

### 7. Background note on the proposal:

Originally the mining lease was granted over an area of 7 Sq. Miles in Talpada (Daitari) for iron ore mining in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation by the erstwhile Mining and Geology Department of State Government vide Proceedings No. III (G) M — 1/ 65-2272 MG dated 16.03.1965. Accordingly the Mining lease was executed on 27. 01.1966 for a period of 30 years. Thus the original lease period expired on 26.1.1996. Surface rights were granted in favour of OMC Ltd, by the Collector, Cuttack vide his letter dt. 17.11.1966. The 1<sup>st</sup> renewal application was filed by the user agency on 21.01.1995 over an area of 1812.99 ha of Daitari iron ore Mining lease for a period of 20 years more than one year prior to expiry of original lease period. While the application for 1<sup>st</sup> RML was under consideration, the user agency decided to surrender part of the Mining lease retaining only 190.20 ha of forest land and accordingly they submitted revised RML application on 22.5.1997 over 190.20 ha for a period of 20 years. During this period, the user agency had also filed a forest diversion proposal for 95.60 ha of pre-1980 broken-up forest land only thereby excluding 94.60 ha of forest land which is prohibited and protected for safety zone. Government of India, MoEF vide their letter F.No. 8-164/1997-FC dt. 27.1.2005 accorded final forest clearance to this diversion of 95.60 ha which was consisting of 59.254 ha in Rebana RF in Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar district and 36.346 ha of Daitari PF of Cuttack division of Jajpur district. While the application for 1<sup>st</sup> RML was yet to be disposed by the State Government, the user agency, considering the market demand and requirement of more area for exploitation, requested the State Government in Steel & Mines Department vide their representation dt. 9.2.2006 to consider their case for 1<sup>st</sup> RML over entire leasehold area of 1812.99 ha. Accordingly, the scheme of Mining along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan in respect of Daitari iron ore mines was approved by IBM vide their letter No.314(3)2012-MCCM(CZ)/MS-52/223 dt. 12.7.2013. Subsequently based on the report of Geological Survey of India, the user agency decided to surrender 794.6815 ha of land in this lease citing it to be non-ore bearing area and accordingly represented before the Steel & Mines Department vide their letter dt. 9.1.2012 to retain 1018.3085 ha land only. The State Government vide their order No. 6450 dt. 15.7.2015 have extended the validity period of this mining lease over 1018.3085 ha up to 31.3.2020. The surrendered area of 794.6815 ha of land is entirely within Daitari PF of Cuttack Forest division of Jajpur district.

Similarly the retained area of 1018.3085 ha in this lease, which is valid till 31.3.2020, consists of 846.3995 ha of forest land (i.e. 616.7869 ha of forest land in Keonjhar (WL) division of Keonjhar district (53.708 ha of village forest in

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Talapada village and 563.0789 ha of Rebana RF) and 229.6126 ha of Daitari PF of Cuttack Forest division of Jajpur district), 171.637 ha of Government non-forest land and 0.272 ha of Tenanted land in Talapada village of Keonjhar district. Out of 846.3995 ha of forest land in Daitari Iron ore Mining lease, 95.60 ha of pre-1980 broken up forest land has already been diverted by MoEF, GoI vide their letter F.No. 8-164/1997-FC dt. 27.1.2005 in course of 1<sup>st</sup> RML, the validity of which has got extended up to 31.3.2020 as per MoEF&CC guidelines bearing F.No. 11-51/2015-FC dt. 1.4.2015. Besides, an area of 4.467 ha of forest land in Rebana RF of Daitari Mining lease has been proposed for diversion separately within a total area of 106.016 ha for the proposed mechanized facilities to be set up for facilitation of mining in Daitari Iron ore Mines. Hence the instant forest diversion proposal has been filed/processed for the reduced forest area of 746.3325 ha for Daitari mines out of total forest land of 846.3995 ha as per provision of MoEF&CC guidelines bearing F.No.11-51/2015-FC dt. 1.5.2015.

**8. Compensatory afforestation:**

Out of 746.3325 ha of forest land proposed for diversion under this project, Mining & allied activity is proposed to be taken up over 734.502 ha. 11.8305 ha of forest land has been earmarked as safety zone. As such, compensatory afforestation is required to be raised over 734.502 ha of non-forest land against this proposed diversion. As non-forest land of large extent is not available in Keonjhar/Jajpur district, an extent of 734.502ha of non-forest land has been identified in two patches i.e. 717.853 ha in village Tebhakalam and 16.649 ha in Barkaudi village, both under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi District in lieu of the virgin forest land of 734.502 ha excluding the safety zone area of 11.8305 ha proposed for diversion in the instant proposal.

The identified non-forest land is reported to be suitable for plantation in ANR mode. The Tahasildar has also furnished non-encroachment and non-encumbrance certificate for the identified non-forest land.

Similarly, 16.649 ha of non-forest land has also been identified in Barkaudi village under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandi district for compensatory afforestation purpose. The identified non-forest land is also reported to be suitable for plantation in ANR mode. The Tahasildar has also furnished non-encroachment and non-encumbrance certificate for the identified non-forest land.

The DFO, Kalahandi (South) has prepared two separate schemes for compensatory afforestation in ANR mode details of which are given below.  
(i) The scheme of Compensatory Afforestation over 717.853 ha of non-forest land in village Tebhakalam has been prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South) Division with provision of ANR plantation @ 200 Plants per ha. according to suitability of the site as per current wage rate of Rs. 200/- per manday, which has been technically approved by Addl. PCCF(Forest Diversion)& Nodal Officer, FC Act with a financial forecast of Rs. 5,61,53,500/-

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including maintenance cost of 10 years. The approved CA scheme has also provisions for Barbed wire fencing and Soil Conservation measures etc. Tree species to be planted under the scheme are *Teak (Tectona grandis)*, *Karanja (Pongamia pinnata)*, *Neem (Azadiracta indica)*, *Amla (Emblica officinalis)*, *Bahada (Terminalia belerica)*, *Mahul (Madhuca indica)*, *Sisoo (Dalbergia Sisoo)* etc. The user agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of the CA scheme.

(ii) Similarly another scheme of Compensatory Afforestation over 16.649 ha of non-forest land in village Barkaudi has also been prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South) Division with provision of ANR plantation @ 200 Plants per ha. according to suitability of the site as per current wage rate of Rs. 200/- per manday, which has been technically approved by Addl. PCCF (Forest Diversion) & Nodal Officer, FC Act with a financial forecast of Rs.1,70,59,500/- including maintenance cost of 10 years.

The approved C.A. scheme has also provisions for Barbed wire fencing and Soil Conservation measures etc. Tree species to be planted under the scheme are *Teak (Tectona grandis)*, *Karanja (Pongamia pinnata)*, *Neem (Azadiracta indica)*, *Amla (Emblica officinalis)*, *Bahada (Terininalia belerica)*, *Mahul (Madhuca indica)*, *Sisoo (Dalbergia Sisoo)* etc. The user agency has furnished an undertaking to bear the cost of the CA scheme.

C.A. sites could not be visited as they are quite far from the lease area. However, survival rate, status etc. can be monitored when C.A. is raised in the sites.

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

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South) Division has certified that the land identified for C.A is found suitable for plantation.

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

The Tahasildar, Thuamulrampur has certified that the land identified for C.A. is free from encroachment and encumbrances.

**(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:**

02 (two) patches.

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(e) **Map with details:**

Enclosed as Annexure-III.

(f) **Total financial outlay:**

As reported at Point No.8 above.

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:**

The State Government has reported that a big patch of Gramya Jungle was found to be without vegetative cover, which was abnormal considering the dense canopy of the adjacent forest. The area was adjacent to village Talapada. During field inspection by the DFO, Keonjhar (WL) Division, the area was verified in detail and approximately 28.67 ha of Gramya Jungle coming within the lease hold area was found to be under Podu/Jhum/Shifting cultivation.

During the site inspection by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle on 24.04.2015, the said patch of Gramya Jungle was also inspected and through local enquiry it was ascertained that the area was used for Podu cultivation by the adjoining villagers.

The said patch was also inspected by the undersigned. It is near Talapada village. It was verified that the area was used for podu cultivation. **Since the area comes within the mining lease, a suitable PCA may be imposed by the Ministry.**

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 user agency, DFO, Cuttack, DFO, Keonjhar (WL), RCCF, Rourkela and RCCF, Angul, this project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. The User agency informed during inspection that no mining activity will be carried out in the inhabited area as it is not ore bearing area.

11. **Reclamation plan:**

The user agency has furnished a Phased Reclamation Plan with afforestation scheme. The user agency has furnished an undertaking for reclamation of the mined out area as per plan approved by IBM. As of now, no reclamation has been started.

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**Details and financial allocation:**

Not submitted.

**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:**

The cost benefit analysis has been computed for both the Divisions i.e. Keonjhar (WL) Division & Cuttack Forest Division. The details of the Cost Benefit Analysis of the project duly reported by the DFOs concerned are given below:

**Keonjhar (Wildlife) Division:**

- (i) Total loss of this project = Rs. 242,83,76,919/-
- (ii) Total benefit of this project = Rs. 1875.3900 Crore
- (iii) Cost Benefit Ratio = Rs. 1875.3900 / 242.8376 = 1:7.72

**Cuttack Forest Division:**

- (i) Total loss of this project = Rs. 27.76 Crore
- (ii) Total benefit of this project = Rs. 17287.20 Crore
- (iii) Cost Benefit Ratio = Rs. 27.76 / 17287.20 = 1:622

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

Recommended by 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, this project will help in generating employment opportunity for 1064 persons. Besides, this being a large mining project should provide indirect livelihood opportunities to thousands of tribal population in this Maoist infested region.

**Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:**

Not reported separately.

**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:**

Not reported.

**(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique ecosystem:**

Not reported.

**19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**

The nearest Protected Area is Hadgarh WL sanctuary which is at a distance of about 45 km from the project site.

**20. Any other information relating to the project:**

- Demarcation of boundary pillars was not proper and complete though DGPS survey has been conducted and DGPS map has been submitted. The User agency was asked to complete the job within 10 days of inspection. The State Government was also asked to comply vide this office letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 (enclosed as Annexure-V). In response to the above letter, the State Government vide their letter dated 15.02.16 has informed that this condition has been complied (enclosed as Annexure-VI).
- Felling of trees at one go of the entire area proposed for diversion is not required as the mineral reserve in the broken area has not been exhausted and therefore only after complete extraction of iron ore from the broken area, user agency may be allowed to mine out in the mineral bearing area of the virgin forest and felling of trees may be permitted accordingly.

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- The User agency has been asked to produce joint verification certificate of surrendered area of 794.6815 ha within 10 days of inspection. The State Government was also asked to comply vide this office letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 (enclosed as Annexure-V). In response to the above letter, the State Government vide their letter dated 15.02.16 has informed that this condition has been complied (enclosed as Annexure-VI).
- Like other Greenfield projects in Keonjhar district, a study of environmental impact of mining may be conducted by NEERI or other reputed institute.
- Since the proposed tiger corridor passes through the mining lease, a suitable ameliorative/mitigative measures may be advised by Ministry regarding this.

The copies of DGPS map and Topo-sheets are enclosed as Annexure-I & II.

The Collector, Jajpur and Collector, Keonjhar have submitted the FRA Certificates (Annexure-IV-A & IV-B).



(SUMAN MOHAPATRA)  
CF (CENTRAL)