



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
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No.5-ORA508/2022-BHU

22nd April, 2022

To

The Addl. Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Permission under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for grant of lease over 112.621 ha of forest land in village Baldihi of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block allotted to M/s Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd. under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District.

Ref: Ministry's letter No.8-03/2022-FC dated 22.03.2022.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am to inform that the site inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by Smt. Padma Mahanti, DIGF (C) of this office on 13.04.2022. The site inspection report along with recommendation of the undersigned is attached for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As state above.

A.T. Mishra
22/4/22

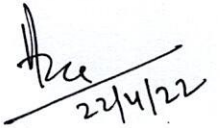
(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

RECOMMENDATION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)

The proposed site was inspected by Smt. Padma Mahanti, DIGF (C) along with DFO and representative of User Agency.

I endorse the site inspection report of Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C) for permission under Section 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for grant of lease over 112.621 ha of forest land within total mining lease area of 139.223 ha in village Baldihi of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore Block allotted to M/s Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd. under Bonai Forest Division.

Since, mining of Iron ore is site specific activity, so granting approval under Section 2 (iii) of FC Act, 1980 may be considered. However, the project authority has to submit detail proposal under Section 2 (ii) of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forestry activity.


22/4/22

(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)

24/4/22

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF PROPOSAL FOR PERMISSION UNDER SECTION-2 (iii) OF FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980 FOR GRANT OF LEASE OVER 112.621 HA OF FOREST LAND IN VILLAGE BALDIHI OF NETRABANDHA PAHAR IRON ORE BLOCK ALLOTTED TO M/S BHUSAN POWER AND STEEL LIMITED UNDER BONAI FOREST DIVISION OF SUNDARGARH DISTRICT.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 13.04.2022 along with Shri N. Sanath Kumar, DFO, Bonai, Shri B.R.K. Padhi, VP & Head Operation, Sri B.M. Dalgade, General Manager, Sri Smruti K Mishra, Deputy General Manager, Sri Pratap Kishor Tandia, Sr. Manager, Mines, Sri Dhananjay Kumar, Sr. Manager Mines, Sri Jiten Kumar Sahoo, Manager (Geology) and other officials from Forest Department and User agency.

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

The legal status of forest land is as follows:

PRF	48.346 ha
Revenue Forest	19.532 ha
DLC	44.743 ha
Total	112.621 ha

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

Sl. No.	Name of the Forest Division	Name of the Village/ Tahasil	Total Forest land required for the project in ha						Non-forest land involved in the project in ha		Total non-forest land in ha	Grand Total area in ha (9+12)
			RF	PRF	Rev. Forest	DLC Forest	Any other Forest	Total Forest (4 to 8)	Govt. land	Pvt. Land		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Bonai	Baldihi/ Koira	0	48.346	19.532	44.743	0	112.621	13.994	12.608	26.602	139.223

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

No.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

The total cost of the project is reported to be 5000 Lakhs.

5. **Wildlife:**

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, fauna such as *Presbytes entellus* (Hanuman Langur), *Macaca multta multta* (Rhesus Macaque), *Funambulus penanti* (Squirrel), *Felis chaus* (Jungle Cat), *Herpestes spp* (Mongoose), *Lepus nigricollis* (Hare), *Vulpes bengalensis* (Fox), *Bandicota bengalensis* (Indian Mole), *Rattus rattus arboreus* (Rat) etc. and different types of reptiles and avifauna have recorded from the applied area. Elephant movement also noticed in the applied area occasionally which was revealed by the locals during site inspection.

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

The DFO, Bonai Forest Division in Site Inspection Report has reported that the applied area is not involved with any eco-sensitive zone/ National Park/Sanctuary. It is, however, an area with occasional elephant movement. The vegetation types observed during site inspection reveal that this would support a varied population of small mammals as well.

6. **Vegetation:**

The density of vegetation is reported to be 0.5 (Eco Value Class-I). It is observed to be mixed forest with Sal dominates.

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

Not applicable at this stage.

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

Not applicable at this stage.

(b) **Important species:**

Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa*), Bahada (*Terminalia bellirica*), Char (*Buchanania lanjan*), Jamu (*Syzygium cumini*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), Sidha (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), Kurum (*Adina cordifolia*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*) etc. are major species among flora observed during site inspection.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

N.A. at this stage.

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm

N.A. at this stage.

7. Background note on the proposal:

As reported, M/s Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (hereinafter be known as BPSL) is a leading manufacturer of flat and long products and have state-of-the-art plants at Chandigarh, Derabassi, Kolkata and Odisha in India. The Company has successfully implemented and commissioned a green field integrated steel plant with the present capacity of 2.3 Million Tonnes which is being enhanced to 3.4 Million Tonnes of Steel and Captive Power Plant in Odisha with HR Coil making facility - First in Private Sector in the State of Odisha.

Despite such a progress in end use industry, BPSL was lacking an iron ore mine of its own. So when the Auction of Iron ore Blocks came in Odisha, BPSL joins the fray and was successful in becoming the successful bidder on the auction held on 19.05.2017 for Netrabandh Pahar Block for Iron Ore. Though this Block is not earmarked for captive use, a substantial quantity of the product from this block will be consumed in the Integrated Steel Plant of BPSL, situated at Tholkoloi in Jharsuguda.

The mining lease of Netrabandh Pahar Block Iron Ore Mines in Baldihi village, under Koira Tahasil of Sundargarh district of 139 ha has been e-auctioned in favour of Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd on 19.05.2017 and the letter of intent (LoI) has issued to Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd by Govt. of Odisha, Department of Steel and Mines on 24.06.2017 for 50 years. The Govt. of Odisha, Department of Steel & Mines further modified the letter of intent vide letter No.6285/SM dated 27.07.2017 by revising area of allotment as 139.223 ha instead of 139 ha. During verification of the land schedule allotted for the said mining lease area, it is found that total area of 139.223 ha consists of Forest land of 112.621 ha (PRF 48.346 ha, Revenue Forest 19.532 ha, DLC 44.743 ha) 13.994 ha Non Forest Govt. land and 12.608 ha Tenanted land. Further, the State Government in Steel & Mines Department allowed extension of the validity of the letter of intent (LoI) for another period of two years with effect from on 24.06.2020 vide letter No.6350/SM dated 27.07.2020.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

As reported, the Compensatory Afforestation is not required for this proposal at this Stage.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

- (c) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**

Not applicable.

- (d) **Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

Not applicable.

- (e) **Map with details:**

Not applicable.

- (f) **Total financial outlay:**

Not applicable at this stage.

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:**

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division and RCCF, no violation has been reported under FC, Act 1980. During site inspection also, no violation was observed.

10. **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not :**

As per report of the DFO, Bonai Forest Division, the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.

11. **Reclamation plan:**

The approved Mining plan along with progressive mining closure plan over an area 139.223 ha of M/s Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd. has been submitted.

Details and financial allocation:

Financial Assurance Plan (Ha), countersigned by IBM, has been 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:

As reported, the Cost-Benefit analysis is not required for this proposal at this stage.

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:

Enclosed 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:

N.A.

17. Utility of the project:

The project will reportedly generate employment for about 237 persons directly. In addition 1200 people will be benefited indirectly.

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

Not reported.

18. (a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

As reported, there is no Archeological/Heritage/Defence establishment or any other monuments located in the area.

(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 eco-system:

The DFO, Bonai Forest Division has reported that there is no Archeological / Heritage / Defence establishment or any other important monuments located in the area.

19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

The nearest Elephant Corridor is Karo-Karampada, which is at a distance of 13.31 kms and Similipal Wildlife sanctuary which is at a distance of 79.50 kms approximately.

20. Any other information relating to the project:

- During the site inspection, the Boundary pillars and safety zone pillars have been found to be erected and are intact.
- As reported, Non-forest Revenue land measuring 110.813 ha under Biramitrapur Tehsil suitable for raising C.A. in lieu of forest land to be diverted in respect of Netrabandha Pahar Iron Ore block of M/s Bhushan Power & Steel has been identified.
- This is a project for consideration under Section 2 (iii) of the FC Act. Hence felling of trees, detailed land use plan, effect of removal of trees has not been considered during the site inspection.
- The proposal is for mining of iron-ore which is a site specific activity. Hence, may be considered for approval under Section 2(iii) of the F(C) Act.
- When the permission is granted under Section 2 (iii) of the FC Act, it shall be only for execution of lease deed and not for undertaking any mining activity for which the User agency has to apply under Section 2(ii) of the F(C) Act subsequently.

Padma Mahanti

**(PADMA MAHANTI)
DIGF (CENTRAL)**





Latitude: 21°52'54"N
Longitude: 85°17'20"E
Elevation: 700.41±13 m
Accuracy: 9.6 m
Time: 04-13-2022 12:55



Latitude: 21°52'47"
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Altitude: 658.4±85 m
Accuracy: 5.7 m
Time: 04/13/2022 12:49 PM



Latitude: 21°52'47"
Longitude: 85°17'12"
Elevation: 716.41±100 m
Accuracy: 6.4 m
Time: 04/13/2022 12:43 PM

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