



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

E-mail: nodal.pccfhoff@odisha.gov.in / nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No.

/9F (MG)- 380/2019

Dated, Bhubaneswar, the

December, 2024

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC Division)
Govt. of India, MoEF & CC
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 42.608 ha Forest land (16.658 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 25.950 ha in Bonai Foerst Division) within Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines in Keonjhar & Sundargarh District of Odisha, allotted to M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Bhusan Steel Ltd.): -reg

Ref: Letter No.8-13/2022-FC dated 27.10.2024 of GoI, MoEF & CC, FC Division, New Delhi

Sir,

In inviting a reference to aforementioned letter of GoI, MoEF & CC, FC Division, New Delhi cited above on the captioned subject, the point wise compliance based on the reports of the RCCF, Rourkela Circle and the DFO, Keonjhar/ Bonai Forest Divisions are furnished below:

Observation-(i):- As per condition No.5 of the Stage-I approval a holistic transportation plan is required to be prepared by the State Government aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The said plan has not been submitted. Further, the State shall also ensure that the said plan and the transportation of ore shall be as per the recommendation in the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI; Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyer belt, slurry pipeline, railways etc. Transportation of ore through road should be minimized in a time bound manner.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted the compliance vide their letter dated 15.11.2024 which is enclosed herewith for kind reference (**Copy enclosed**). It is ascertained from the above compliance that the user agency is planning to commence the mining activities from the above mine after receipt of all required clearances including FC approval.

It has also been stated that, the user agency will follow the recommendations of the CSIR-NEERI guidelines and the suggested ore transportation mode would be SOTM3; "SOTM3 i.e. production capacity between 1 and 3MTPA as the production capacity of Kalmang West (Northern Part) Iron Ore Mines of M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. is 2.95 MTPA: Minimum 70% by public railways

siding and maximum 30% by road direct to destination or by other public railways siding or above options".

In addition, the user agency has mentioned in their compliance that, they are going to lay down slurry pipeline for transportation of iron ore from source of ore to their Steel Plant located at Kalinganagar. They will have provision of grinding, conversion of slurry & slurry storage.

Further, the user agency has obtained consent to establish from State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) for transportation of ore through slurry pipelines vide letter No. 10382/IND-II-CTE-7006 dated 10.07.2024 of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). Furthermore, the user agency has submitted diversion proposal to obtain forest clearance for the forestland over 9.141 ha involved in the slurry Pipe line Project.

The user agency has also obtained all other requisite clearances for laying of slurry pipeline.

The user agency has also submitted that, commissioning of slurry pipeline project will eliminate the transportation of ore from road & railways. Till the time, the abovementioned Slurry Transportation project is not commissioned, the CSIR-NEERI guidelines shall be followed for transportation of iron ore from the mines to the Steel plants of the company. However, the user agency has also submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to implement the same vide **Sl. No.1 of Annexure-I Series.**

Observation-(ii):- With regards to conditions No.7 of Stage-I approval the Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The work shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site/ species specific wildlife sub plans/ prescriptions. However, the State has neither submitted the copy of the plan, nor it has been clarified whether the site / species specific wildlife sub plans / prescriptions have been included in the plan or not. The state shall do the needful and submit the plan accordingly along the details of funds deposited.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has made the payment of Rs.21,95,530/- (17,17,440/- + Rs.4,78,090/-) towards the cost for implementation of Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWMP) pertaining to Keonjhar Forest Division. The allotment under Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWMP) in respect of Keonjhar Division is not provided user agency wise. Hence, expenditure is incurred under the above head based on the receipt of allotment towards protection and conservation of wildlife.

Further, the User Agency has deposited the proportionate cost of Rs.1,00,45,401/- pertaining to Bonai Forest Division @Rs.1,31,800/- over 76.217 ha in CAMPA fund towards the implementation of Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan. An undertaking has been furnished by the User Agency duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to implement the recommendation of Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan, which is also enclosed at **Sl. No.2 of Annexure-I Series.**

Observation-(iii):- *With regards to condition No.8 of Stage-I approval, State Government has not submitted the copy of the approved Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for the entire landscape. The same needs to be submitted along with the detail of funds deposited.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal has been entrusted for preparation of Bio-Diversity Conservation Plan for the entire landscape of Netrabandh Pahar in respect of 5 mines, including Kalmang West (Northern Part) of Iron ore mines of M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. Accordingly, the user agency has paid the proportionate cost of i.e. Rs.2,38,668/- towards 50% of total cost for preparation of aforesaid Bio-diversity Conservation Plan. The demand letter & payment proof are enclosed herewith for reference as **Annexure-II Series**. The scientist of Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal have visited the site for above purpose. The preparation of Biodiversity Conservation Plan is under progress.

An undertaking furnished by the User Agency duly countersigned by the concerned DFOs to implement the recommendation of Biodiversity Conservation Plan is enclosed at **Sl. No.3 of Annexure-I Series**.

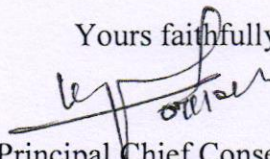
Observation-(iv):- *With regards to condition No.21 of Stage-I approval, State Government has not submitted the copy of approved Site Specific Conservation Plan. The same needs to be submitted.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan of Kalmang West (Northern Part) Iron ore mine was approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide Letter No.11356/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0170-2021 dated 30.10.2023 with a total financial outlay of Rs.8,34,16,800/- (Rs.607.2 lakh for Bonai Division + 226.968 lakh for Keonjhar Division). The user agency has deposited the approved cost of SSWCP Orissa CAMPA Account through RTGS vide UTR No.HDFCR52024030686033141 dated 06.03.2024. The approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan along with proof of payment is enclosed as **Annexure-III Series**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observation dated 27.10.2024 raised by the GoI, MoEF & CC, FC Division, New Delhi is sent herewith along with its enclosure for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: **As above**

Yours faithfully



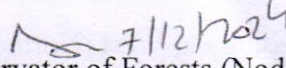
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No.

Date.

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Govt. of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for kind information & necessary action with reference to Letter No.8-13/2022-FC dated 27.10.2024 of GoI, MoEF & CC, FC Division, New Delhi.

Encl:-As above

 7/12/2024
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

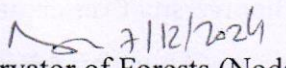
24859

Date.

09-12-2024

Copy forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, Kharavel Bhawan, Bhubaneswar for kind information & necessary action with reference to Letter No.8-13/2022-FC dated 27.10.2024 of GoI, MoEF & CC, FC Division, New Delhi.

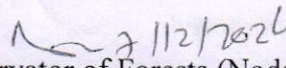
Encl:-As above

 7/12/2024
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

Date.

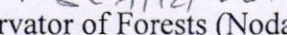
Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information & necessary action with reference to his Memo No.6019 dated 28.11.2024.

 7/12/2024
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

Date.

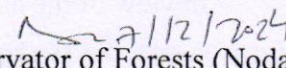
Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar / Bonai Forest Division for information & necessary action with reference to Memo No.6020 dated 28.11.2024 of the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle to their address.

 7/12/2024
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

Date.

Copy forwarded to the Authorized Signatory, M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. 273, Bhouma Nagar, Unit-IV, Bhubaneswar for information.

 7/12/2024
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

SS-1122-158