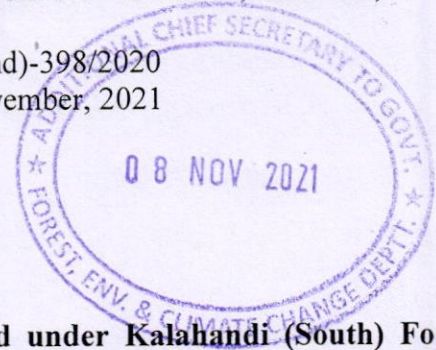




22721/FE/2021

08/11/21

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ODISHA,
BHUBANESWARNo. 18792
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the/9F(Ind)-398/2020
08 November, 2021

To

The Deputy Director General of Forests (C),
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, IRO,
A/3, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 15.265 ha of Forest land under Kalahandi (South) Forest Division for expansion of existing Red Mud Pond at village Rengopali in Lanjigarh Tahasil of Kalahandi District in the State of Odisha by Vedanta in favour of M/s IDCO, Bhubaneswar

Sir,

In inviting reference to F&E Department Memo No.10F(Cons)44/2021-18702/F&E dated 26.10.2021 and F. No.5-ORC469/2021-BHU dated 26.10.2021 of Government of India, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar on the above mentioned subject, the following observations raised by Government of India are furnished below:-

Observation No. a:- A report to be sought from the State Forest Department on the representation received from Ministry of Lanjigarh factory Anchal Vikash Samiti within 15 days. If no response is received within the stipulated time, it will be deemed that, the State Govt. has nothing to say in this representation.

In compliance to the above, it is to inform that a detailed report under representation received from Lanjigarh Factory Anchal Vikash Samiti has already been submitted to MoEF & CC, GoI, IRO, Bhubaneswar vide this office letter No. 18528 dated 02.11.2021. However, a photo copy of the above report is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

Observation No. d:- The user agency shall submit a technical report as to whether the proposed site polluting the first level aquifers within 15 days.

In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Bhawanipatna has intimated vide his Memo No. 5560 dated 03.11.2021 that the user agency has submitted a detailed technical report vide his letter No. VL/Land/ 2021 dated 02.11.2021 evidencing fact that, the proposed site is not polluting the first level aquifers duly prepared by IIT, Bhubaneswar, which is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

In view of the above, it is requested to accord Stage-I approval for the above project under section-2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl: **Annexure-I to II**

Yours faithfully

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. ActKSP
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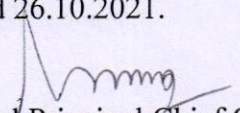
Memo No.

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/Dt.

08-11-2021

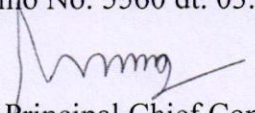
Copy along with its enclosures forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government in Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for kind information with reference to that Department Memo No. 0F(Cons)44/2021-18702/F&E dated 26.10.2021.


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

Memo No.

/Dt.

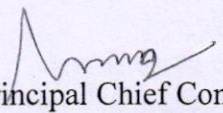
Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Bhawanipatna Circle for information & necessary action with reference to his office memo No. 5560 dt. 03.11.2021.


Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act

Memo No.

/Dt.

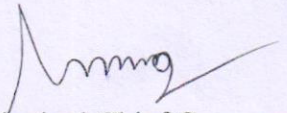
Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division for information & necessary action with reference to memo No.5561 dt.03.11.2021 of RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle.


Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to Sri Nabal Kishore Sharma (Head- Legal, Land & External Affairs, Vedanta Lanjigarh) for information & necessary action with reference to memo No.5563 dt.03.11.2021 of RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle.


Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act

Dy 22395/FE/2021
05.11.2021



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ODISHA,
BHUBANESWAR

No.
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the

/9F(Ind)-398/2020
November, 2021

To

The Deputy Director General of Forests (C),
MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, IRO,
A/3, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Construction of Red Mud Pond without legal, environmental RR Policy compliance at Rengopalli village, Lanjigarh, Kalahandi by Vedanta Ltd.

Ref: Memo No.18328/FE&CC dt.16.10.2021 of Spl. Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Department.

Sir,

In inviting reference to Govt. in FE&CC Department letter cited above on the captioned subject, the detailed action taken report furnished by the RCCF, Bhawanipatna circle vide his memo No. 5409 dated 27.10.2021(copy enclosed) is furnished below:-

The petitioner Mr. Sadananda Naik, President, Lanjigarh Factory Anchal Vikash Samiti, Lanjigarh, Odisha vide his representation dated 10.01.2021 had raised concerns on issues relating to Environmental Pollution, Rehabilitation and Resettlement and also on the matter of FRA etc.. for construction of Red Mud Pond in Rengopalli village.

In regards to the issues relating the pollution, Vedanta Ltd. Lanjigarh has clarified that the initial 1 MTPA Alumina Refinery project including the existing Red-Mud Pond has been set up after obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC) from Ministry of Environment & Forest, New Delhi vide its letter dated 18th October 2004, Subsequently said EC has been amended for expansion of Alumina Refinery from 1 to 4 MTPA vide letter dated 20th November 2015 and from 4MTPA to 6 MTPA dated 6th August 2021 respectively. Expansion of Red Mud Pond proposed at village Rengopali is part also part of above Amended Environment clearance.(copy of EC enclosed).

Regarding Compensation, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction & Resettlement Gram Sabha under PESA act for acquisition of land at village Rengopali by IDCO in favour of Vedanta Ltd has been conducted on 15th March 2012, wherein villagers had agreed for land acquisition for establishment of industry by M/s. Vedanta Ltd and consequent relocation of villagers to R & R colony. In regards to expansion of Red Mud Pond (RMP) and other ancillary facilities of Alumina Refinery, IDCO is acquiring entire land of village Rengopali through Govt. of Odisha involving Dist Administration in favour of Vedanta Ltd. All 123 Displaced Families of the said village shall be relocated to their respective new houses to be built up at new R&R colony at Kendubardi, Jagannathpur. Other benefits

of displacement and relocation were also discussed in pursuant to R & R policy 2006 in the RPDAC meeting held on dated 09.08.2019 at Conference hall of the Kalahandi Sidtrict in the Chairperson as the RDC (Southern Division) Berhampur. (Copy of Grama Sabha resolution on 15.03.2012 under PESA and RPDAC proceeding on 09.08.2019 are enclosed).

Regarding submission of Forest Right Act (FRA) certificate for the diversion of 15.265 Ha. of Revenue Forest land at village Rengopali under Lanjigarh Tahasil of Kalahandi District, an undertaking has been submitted in the Forest Diversion Proposal in response to the requisition by IDCO for issue of FRA certificate before the Collector Kalahandi District vide their letter dated 27.12.2019.

On 09.04.2021 a field enquiry was conducted by ACF of Kalahandi (S) Division into allegation of Non Forestry use of Revenue Forest land of village Rengopali over 15.265 ha by Vedanta Ltd applied for diversion through IDCO. During that inquiry it was revealed that 3 (three) nos of trees i.e. 2 nos of Mahul and 1 (one) no. Pipal tree over plot No. 387 of area was missing out of 306 nos, of trees enumerated earlier over 15.265 ha of Revenue Forest land, and a show-cause notice has been issued vide Memo No. 2184 dated 21.04.2021 of the DFO, Kalahandi (S) Division to the Legal head, Land and External Affairs Vedanta Ltd. to furnish a reply with warning not to undertake any non-forestry activities henceforth without approval.

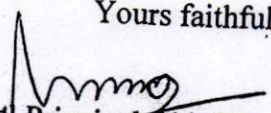
In response to notice, the authorities of Vedanta Ltd. vide their letter No. VL/LAN/LEGAL/2021/ 04 dated 26.04.2021 has intimated that no non-forest activities have been taken up in Revenue Forest land proposed for diversion and they apprehended the missing of trees might be the job of nearby villagers as locals do move in that plots and on nearby areas.

During, inquiry of the DFO, Kalahandi (S) Division on 22.10.2021 it was revealed that the situation stands as such as was at the time of inquiry held by ACF of Kalahandi (S) Division on 09.04.2021.

This is for favour of information and kind necessary action of the Government of India, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar for further action at their end.

Encl: As above

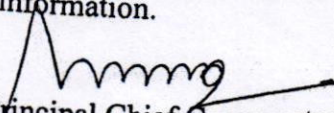
Yours faithfully


Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act

Memo No. 18529

/Dt. 02.11.2021

Copy along with its enclosures forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government in Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department for kind information.


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