



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE,  
AT/P.O. PANPOSH, ROURKELA-769004

Memo No. 3041 /3F(Misc)-810/2023

Date: 13.9.2023

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act),  
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 194.683 ha forest land in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) involved in total mining lease area of 358.258 ha of Guali Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd of Keonjhar District, Odisha-reg.

**X-sub: Submission of point wise compliance.**

Ref: Letter F. No.8-96/1996-FC (PT) dated 28.12.2022 by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India.

2. Memo No. 10262 Dtd.12.09.2023 of DFO, Keonjhar Division

With reference to the aforementioned Memos on the captioned subject, the DFO, Keonjhar Division vide his Memo No.10261 Dtd.12.09.2023 addressed to this office & copy endorsed to you in the next Memo of even date has submitted the compliance with the deficiencies observed by the MoEF & CC vide F No.8-96/1996-FC (PT.-I) dt 28.12.2022.2022 in respect of the aforementioned proposal which may kindly be perused.

The point wise compliance submitted by the DFO, Keonjhar Division is as follows:-

***i. As per the detail provided in the Mining Plan, the forest area has been indicated as 229 ha, the same should be rectified to match to the forest area estimated as per DGPS survey. Accordingly, land use of various components proposed in the forest as well as non-forest land may be intimated by the State.***

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. vide their letter No.8086/OMC/PMC/2023 dt 22.05.2023 had requested the Regional Controller of Mines, IBM, Bhubaneswar to issue an amendment order with respect to change in the forest area. In reply, the Regional Controller of Mines, IBM, Bhubaneswar vide his letter No.MCDR-MIFLOFE/11/2022-BBS-IBMRO-BBS dt 02.06.2023 has informed M/s OMC Ltd. as given hereunder:-

*"In view of the above, the total forest area in the approved mining plan may be read as 332.100 ha and the land schedule in chapter 2.0 (b) lease area details (page-9) is modified as follows:-*

Government Land	10.226 ha
Forest Land	332.100 ha
Private Land	15.932 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.258 ha</b>

*All other parts of approved Mining Plan remains same."*



While clarifying the above discrepancy, IBM has referred the letter issued by the Joint Director of Mines, Department of Mining and Geology (DoMG), Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide his letter No. MXIII (b) 01/2021 .6901/DoMG, dt 17.05.2023 wherein it has been mentioned that, the forest Kissam area of 332.100 ha (as per HAL and SABIK record) has been jointly verified by Mining, Revenue and Forest Officials and authenticated by the Survey Officer of Director of Mines, Department of Mining and Geology, Odisha, Bhubaneswar sending therewith one set of authenticated DGPS surveyed map and land schedule over 358.258 ha. (as per DGPS) in respect of Guali Iron Ore mines in village Guali, Laharpada, Panduliposi, Rugudihi, Tapadihi & Sidhamatha R.F.

The copy of the letter by Director of Mines, Department of Mining and Geology, Odisha, Bhubaneswar and IBM is enclosed as **Annexure-I Series** for kind perusal.

The land use of various components as per the approved mining plan and the corresponding changes due to change in total forest area from 229.524 ha to 332.100 ha submitted by the DFO, Keonjhar Division is enclosed as **Annexure-II** for reference.

**ii. Revised Cost Benefit Analysis i.e. 1:1130.46 is still exorbitantly high. The same needs to be revisited to make it more realistic.**

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, M/s OMC Ltd. has revised the cost benefit and he has estimated cost to bring out the ratio to 1:533.68. The details are enclosed as **Annexure-III & IV**.

**iii. A Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan has been reported to be already in place; the status of progress of its implementation needs to be informed by the State.**

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan was approved by PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha vide letter No.1WL-C-FC-385/08-321 dt 17.01.2009 with a total financial outlay of Rs.277.00 lakh (**Annexure-V**) which included the cost towards implementation of prescriptions within core area by User Agency for Rs 39.00 Lakh and in the buffer area by DFO, Keonjhar Division for Rs 238.00 Lakh. Out of total Rs 277.00 Lakh, the user agency has deposited an amount of Rs 271.80 Lakh in Orissa CAMPA on dated 03.03.2010 and provided a vehicle to this Division at the cost of Rs 5.20 Lakhs from balance amount. The list of activities already undertaken in the core area by the User Agency (Ex-lessee:M/s Ramesh Prasad Sao) incurring the expenditure of Rs.432.993 Lakh is given at **Annexure-VI**. As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division due to unavoidable circumstances and disproportionate division of work, the approved activities could not be implemented by him.

As per report of the DFO, Keonjhar Division, as the above Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan was passed more than 10 years, the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has revisited the said plan and approved the revised plan vide his letter No.8781/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0134-2021 dt 10.08.2023 with a total financial outlay of Rs.381.894 lakhs which includes Rs. 177.750 lakhs towards activities in project impact area of Keonjhar Division and Rs 204.144 lakh in the project impact area of Bonai Division for a plan period of five years which shall be revisited at least one year before expiry of its implementation. The copy of the letter of approval is enclosed as



**Annexure-VII.** As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, revised amount of SSWLCP could not be deposited by the User Agency due to technical issues in e-parivesh web portal and because proposal is still awaiting Stage-I approval. The undertaking submitted by the user agency for the same is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-VIIA.**

**iv. Details of notification of non-forest land identified for raising CA, in lieu of diversion of forest land accorded in the past, as RF/PF under the IFA or local Act may be informed by the State.**

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the non-forest Govt. land allotted over 209.54 ha in village Mayurdihi (207.3670 ha) and Tentulikhunti (2.56 ha) against earlier diversion (42.417 ha + 95.00 ha) in two phases have been mutated in favour of State Forest Department. The State Government vide Notification No.FE-DIV-FLD-0068-2023-{10F-(Cons)-41/2018}-17393/FE&CC dated 16.08.2023 have notified the CA area as "**Tentulikhunti Protected Forest**" and vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0068-2023-{10F-(Cons)-41/2018}-17386/FE&CC dt 16.08.2023 have notified the CA area as "**Mayurdihi Protected Forest**". The copy of the PF Notifications and copy of RoR of both the areas are enclosed as **Annexure-VIII series.**

**v. The State Government in its letter dated 29.10.2022 mentioned that process for transfer of approval from M/s R.P. Sao (erstwhile agency) to M/s OMC Ltd., in respect of 42.417 ha and 95 ha of forest land approved in the past, is still under consideration in the State. Therefore, on 12.01.2021 the date of execution of lease, no approval under the FC Act, 1980 was available in favour of M/s OMC. Justifications for executing the lease in favour M/s OMC without formal FC approval in their favour needs to be furnished by the State.**

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the State Government vide letter No. 324/SM dt.11.01.2021 has vested all the statutory clearances in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. including forest approval orders over 42.417 ha and 95.0 ha. All the formalities required for Transfer of FC including deposit of Rs 1, 00,000/- towards processing fees have been fulfilled by OMC and the State Forest Department vide letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0068-2023-{10F-(Cons)-41/2018}-17906/FE & CC dated 22.08.2023 (**Annexure-IX**) have transferred the FC in the name of OMC Ltd.

The DFO, Keonjhar has pertinently mentioned here that the condition No. 3(v) (a) to (g) of the guideline issued vide letter F.No.11-599/2014-FC dated 01.04.2015 and point No.7.1(iv) (a to h), Handbook of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 & Forest (Conservation) Rule, 2003 issued vide dated 29.03.2019 by the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India have been complied by M/s OMC Ltd. It is construed as approval under FC Act, 1980 based on which lease deed has been executed in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. Govt. of Odisha PSU.

A note on justification for executing Guali Iron Ore mining lease in favour M/s OMC without formal FC approval is enclosed as **Annexure-X** for kind perusal.

**vi. The Committee also desired that issues related to rationalization of project components specially with regards to OB dump and progress made in the implementation of provisions of the Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan prepared in 2009 and its updates proposed in the extant proposal, justification for assignment of lease without prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, etc. will be examined by the Integrated Regional Office of the**



**Ministry at Bhubaneswar and Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha and a report on the same will be submitted along for the consideration of the Committee.**

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the following issues as indicated will be examined by Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), Odisha:

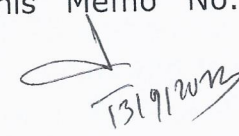
1. Rationalization of project components especially with regards to OB dumps.
2. Progress made in the implementation of provisions of the Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan prepared in 2009 and its updates proposed in the extant proposal.
3. Justification for assignment of lease without prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

  
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Rourkela Circle

Memo No. 3042 / Date: 13-9-2023  
Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.10261 Dtd. 12.09.2023.

  
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests  
Rourkela Circle