



**OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE,
AT/P.O. PANPOSH, ROURKELA-769 004.**

Memo No. 4275/3F-960/2025

Date: 11-08-2025

To

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

Sub:-

Diversion of forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited within the total mining lease area of 24.203 ha as per LoI given by Steel & Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha.

(Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021)

Ref: -

1. Your Office Memo No.9668 Dtd.18.05.2023.
2. Memo No.7492 Dtd.19.07.2025 of the DFO, Keonjhar Division.

In compliance with your observations communicated vide your Memo under reference, the DFO,Keonjhar Division vide his Memo No.7491 Dtd.19.07.2025 with copy to you in the next Memo of even date has resubmitted the proposal for diversion of 22.551 ha of forest land in respect of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Block(allotted earlier in favour of OMECL) made by Odisha Mining Corporation(OMC)Ltd. (**Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021**) which is forwarded herewith for onward transmission for consideration of its approval U/s-2(1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan),Adhiniyam,1980 by the MoEF&CC, Government of India.

It is pertinent to mention here that earlier, the proposal for diversion of 22.551 ha (21.00 ha for Diversion and 1.551 ha for rediversion) of forest land in respect of the above Iron Ore Block was submitted by M/s OMECL vide proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No.OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021. Accordingly, the said diversion proposal received from the DFO,Keonjhar vide his office Memo No.7869 Dtd.07.11.2021 was processed and subsequently sent to your august office vide this office Memo No.3362Dtd.17.11.2021. However, on scrutiny by the CF(Nodal) certain deficiencies were noticed and communicated vide his Memo No.21873 Dtd.18.12.2021 for compliance by the DFO, Keonjhar. The compliance with the deficiencies submitted by the DFO, keonjhar vide his Memo No.5374 Dtd.13.07.2022 was forwarded to the CCF(Nodal) vide this office Memo No.2343 Dtd.20.07.2022. Thereafter, the CCF(Nodal) vide his Memo No.18057 Dtd.14.09.2022 desired compliance with certain points including obtaining of the NOC from NHAH regarding rediversion of 1.652 of forest land diverted for NH-215. But, the NHAH authority was reluctant to issue such NOC for which the OMECL had requested the PCCF(Nodal) for exclusion the said diverted area. Subsequently, the CCF(Nodal) vide his Memo No.802 Dtd.13.01.2023 accepted the request of User Agency to exclude the area over 1.652 ha of forest land diverted in favour of NHAH for NH-215 and instructed to process the proposal accordingly. Further, the compliance with the EDS raised on the above proposal vide your Memo No.18057 Dtd.14.09.2022 was received from the DFO,Keonjhar and submitted to your office vide this office Memo No.1436 dated 02.05.2023.

However, the PCCF (Nodal) vide his Memo No.9668 Dtd.18.05.2023 made the following observations finally and instructed to submit revised proposal on the basis of approved Mining Plan,:-

"Instead of submitting proposal for 22.551 ha. of forest land excluding 1.652 ha of forest land already diverted, the user agency has again applied for

24.203 ha of forest land including 1.652 ha forest land already diverted to NHAI without getting the NOC. But it is not feasible as per the Clause-5.6 (b) of Hand Book of Guidelines circulated by the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India during 2019. Accordingly, the user agency is advised to submit proposal deducting already diverted area of 1.652 ha forest land from their Mining Lease area as Highway and Mining cannot be treated as compatible use in any case”.

In compliance with the above observations, OMC Ltd., has submitted the instant diversion proposal over 22.551 ha after excluding 1.652 ha of forest land already diverted in favour of NHAI after merger of the OMECL with the former.

A. Brief description of the Project Proposal

A.1. Brief description of the Project

The DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that the Government of Odisha had established Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (OMECL) in pursuance of Odisha Mineral Exploration Policy, 2015. OMECL was 100% State PSU, established in order to intensify the mineral exploration and mining activities in the State. In order to cater to the need of Raw material by the end user industries, the State Govt. had reserved Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block over an area of 24.203 ha in Keonjhar District in favor of OMECL, under Section 17 A (2) of MMDR Act, 1957 vide Notification No.946/SM, dt 28.01.2021 (**Annexure-I**) with due approval of Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. The Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued by the Department of Steel & Mines, Govt. of Odisha vide their Letter No.2215/SM dt 26.02.2021 (**Annexure-II**) in favour of OMECL for grant of mining lease for the said block subject to fulfilment of certain conditions within three years from the date of issue of LoI. Meanwhile, OMECL was decided to be merged with OMC Ltd by the State Govt. Steel & Mines Department vide Notification No. 8533 issued on dt.06.09.2022 (**Annexure-III**) and the process of merger was completed vide Ministry of Corporate Affairs order dtd.03.05.2023 (**Annexure-IV**). Upon completion of merger process, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. vide their Letter dtd.19.08.2023 (**Annexure-V**) requested the ACS to Govt., Department of Steel & Mines, Govt. of Odisha for issuance of revised Letter of Intent (LoI) issued earlier in favour of erstwhile M/s Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (OMECL) for grant of Rengalbeda (NE) Iron ore Block in their favour. As per Clause No.36 (i) of the aforesaid order Dtd.03.05.2023 of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi, all assets of OMECL including the LoI dtd.26.02.2021 for grant of Rengalbeda (NE) mining lease stood transferred to OMC Ltd. with effect from dt 03.05.2023 (**Annexure-IV**).

The State Govt., after careful consideration, was pleased to approve vide their letter No.12897/SM dtd.26.12.2023 (**Annexure-VI**) the substitution of the name of OMECL with OMC Ltd. in the LoI issued vide their letter dtd.26.02.2021 in favour of OMECL for grant of mining lease of Rengalbeda Iron Ore Block

As the validity of the of the said LoI was for 3 years from the date of its issuance and in the meantime it has already expired w.e.f. 26.02.2024, M/s OMC Ltd. vide its Letter No.11701/OMC/Land-MC/2025 Dtd.24.07.2025 (**Annexure-IIA**) has requested the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha to allow extension of validity of the same by another 2 years.

Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block is located in the village limits of Nuagaon and Gandhalpada under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha. It is located between latitude: 21° 57' 51.56" to 21° 58' 09.73" N & longitude: 85° 16' 03.80" to 85° 16' 29.78" E and is covered by Survey of India Topo sheet No. F 45 N 5 (**Plate No-I**). The area exhibits an undulated topography with varying elevations from 548 m to 594 m Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL).

The area is approachable from Barbil town covering a distance of 26.0 km. The lease area is connected by NH-215, which passes through eastern part of the lease hold area. Also, the area can be approachable from Koira which is by the side of NH-215 at a distance of 6.0 km. The District Head Quarters Keonjhar is at a distance of 85.0 km from the lease area.

The nearest railway station at Banspani is 25 km away from Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block. Barbil Railway Station comes under Tatanagar-Barbil section of the South-Eastern Railway, which is 30 km away from the area.

The mining leases located around Rengalbeda Iron Ore Block are given below and indicated on the Location Map (**Plate No. I**) for reference:

| Sl. No. | Name of the lessee | Location | Area in ha. | ML/PL |
|---------|--------------------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | M/s K.J.S. Ahluwalia | Nuagaon | 772.09 | ML |
| 2 | M/s Rungta (BICO) | Nadidihi | 73.85 | ML |
| 3 | M/s National Enterprises | Sagasahi | 37.64 | ML |
| 4 | M/s O.M.C.Ltd | Parulipada | 100.71 | ML |

Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block over 24.203 ha comprises of 17.034 ha of Revenue Forest in the village limits of Gandhalpada and Nuagaon and 7.169 ha of Non-Forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 (SABIK) as per the certified copy of the land schedule issued by the Tahasildar, Barbil over 59.807 Ac. or 24.203 ha of the ML area vide letter No.106 dt 07.01.2021 (**Annexure-VII**). The copy of the authenticated lease map is enclosed as **Plate No. II**. The village wise and category wise forest land details as per the certified land schedule is given as under for reference.

| Sl. No. | Name of the village | Forest Land (In ha.) | | | Total (In ha.) |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | | Revenue Forest | Forest as on 25.10.1980 | Total | |
| 1 | Gandhalpada | 0.386 | 1.731 | 2.117 | 2.117 |
| 2 | Nuagaon | 16.648 | 5.438 | 22.09 | 22.086 |
| Total | | 17.034 | 7.169 | 24.2 | 24.203 |

The block contains a reserve of 18.34 million tons of iron ore of probable category (122) as per the mining plan approved by IBM vide letter No.RMP-2303/2024-25-IBM_RO_BBS dt 03.12.2024(**Annexure-VII**). The production rate approved for the mine is 2.0 MTPA. Considering 18.34 million tons of iron ore reserve (122), the expected life of the mine at the above approved capacity will continue for more than 10 (Ten) years. The copy of the Geological plan showing different litho units is given in **Plate No. VI**.

A.2. Floristic- Faunal Composition

The DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that, the prevailing vegetation in the forest land proposed for diversion includes Sal and Sal associates. The geological formation of this area is quite suitable for growth of Sal. Sal constitutes around 70 to 75% of the top canopy. As per tree enumeration list the floral species found viz *Shorea robusta*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Bridelia retusa*, *Mangifera indica*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Diospyros melanoxylon* & Misc Species are present in the applied forest land.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the applied Forest land is the dwelling habitat for Elephant (*Elephas indicus*), Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Hyaena(*Hyaena hyaena*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) etc. Wild elephants, often, visit nearest Sidhamath RF and the nearest Forest Blocks. There is very good Sal generation of up to 8-10 years age pole size, but there is hardly any mother Sal tree in ML area. Kendu(*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Chara(*Buchanania lanzan*) & Mahula(*Madhuca indica*) trees are also seen. The average density taken into consideration is **0.5 with ECO Value Class-I** considering that of Sidhamath RF which has maximum coverage under medium dense Forest category (Canopy density 0.4-0.7) as per ORSAC has supplied Forest block wise canopy density maps based on Forest Survey of India, State of Forest Report 2019 as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division.

B. Documents and Undertakings as regards Forest Diversion Proposal

B.1. Maps

The DFO, Keonjhar Division has submitted the required Maps furnished by the project proponent as depicted in the following table-

| Sl. No. | Maps | Remarks |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Location Plan on 1: 50, 000 scale in the Survey of India Topo Sheets No. F 45 N 5, showing the ML boundary, adjoining leases, the boundary of adjoining forest blocks and various natural features. | Plate No. I |
| 2 | Copy of the lease map. | Plate No. II |
| 3 | Copy of the existing land use plan. | Plate No. III |
| 4 | Copy of the Plan showing the details of the Safety Zone area for mining operation in 1: 4000 scale. | Plate No. IV |
| 5 | Copy of the Proposed land use plan on 1:4000 scale. | Plate No. V |
| 6 | Copy of the Geological Plan on 1:1000 Scale. | Plate No. VI |
| 7 | Copy of the Plan showing the year-wise phased reclamation and afforestation programme on 1: 4000 scale. | Plate No. VII |
| 8 | Copy of the DGPS surveyed map of ML area on 1:3960 scale authenticated by ORSAC. | Plate No VIII |
| 9 | Plan showing category of Forest land included within the ML | Plate No. IX |
| 10 | Map showing WL sanctuaries, biosphere reserve, elephant reserve etc. and their distance from ML area. | Plate No. X |
| 11 | Copy of the cadastral map showing non-forest Govt. land for CA in Kalahandi district. | Plate No. XI |
| 12 | Copy of the survey of India Topo sheet showing non-forest Govt. Land for CA in Kalahandi district. | Plate No. XII |

B.2. Forest Land

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the entire lease area over 24.203 ha involved in Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District is of forest land. The purpose-wise break up of the forest land over 22.551 ha proposed for diversion is furnished below as per the report of the DFO, Keonjhar Division.

Purpose wise breakup of the forest land required for the project

| Sl. No. | Pattern of Utilization | Forest Area (ha.) | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | Revenue forest | Forest As on 25.10.1980 | Total |
| 1 | Mining | 13.167 | 4.933 | 18.10 |
| 2 | Infrastructures. | - | 0.010 | 0.010 |
| 3 | Safety Zone area (7.5m along ML boundary & 50m on both side of NH-215) | 3.39 | 1.051 | 4.441 |
| Sub-total | | 16.557 | 5.994 | 22.551 |
| 4 | Land Occupied by NH-215 (Not Proposed for Diversion) | 0.478 | 1.175 | 1.652 |
| Total | | 17.035 | 7.169 | 24.203 |

B.3. Tree Enumeration.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, there are 483 nos. of Sound trees and 37 nos. of Un-Sound tree standing on the forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted

block of Rengalbeda North East Iron ore mines within the total mining lease area of 24.203 ha as per LoI given by Steel & Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha. The species wise and diameter class wise abstract of total enumerated trees is enclosed as **Annexure-XX**.

B.4. Cost benefit analysis.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Cost Benefit analysis has been worked out as per the guide lines of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 which is enclosed in the proposal as **Annexure-IX**.

B.5. Re-settlement and Rehabilitation.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, during his site inspection, it has observed by him that, 16 to 17 households have been staying in Nuagaon village, coming within the lease area for the last 30 years or so. Hence, Re-settlement of the above households are essential. So, the user agency should prepare the Re-habitation Plan for the above purpose and get it approved by the competent authority. The undertaking furnished by the user agency in this regard is enclosed with this proposal as **Annexure-XVI**.

B.6. Safety Zone/ Green Belt

Forest land over 4.441 ha is located in the safety zone of the ML area over 24.2023 ha. The details of forest land located in the safety zone of the mining lease is furnished hereunder:-

DETAILS OF SAFETY ZONE AREA

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Forest area in hectares | | | Total Area (ha.) |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | Revenue Forest | Forest as on 25.10.1980 | Total | |
| 1 | 7.5 m strip along ML boundary | 0.788 | 0.708 | 1.496 | 1.496 |
| 2 | 50 m strip on either side of NH-215 | 2.602 | 0.343 | 2.945 | 2.945 |
| Total | | 3.39 | 1.051 | 4.441 | 4.441 |

B.7. Phased Reclamation Plan.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking vide **Annexure-XVI** to abide by the condition to be stipulated as regards reclamation of broken up areas in respect of submitted diversion proposal.

B.8. Lease Profile

The User Agency has furnished the lease profile vide **Annexure-XVIII** in the Diversion Proposal.

B.9. District Profile

The district profile in the prescribed proforma vide **Annexure-VII** of FC Act guideline is annexed herewith as **Annexure-**.

B.10. Certificate under FRA, 2006

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Collector, Keonjhar vide his letter No.1389 dated 29.05.2023 has issued certificate under FRA, 2006 over 24.203 ha of forest land in favour of M/s OMCEL involved in aforesaid mining block of Keonjhar Division is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-XIV**.

B.11. Site Inspection Report of DCF

Site Inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keonjhar Division is furnished vide **Annexure- XXII**.

B.12. DGPS maps

The DGPS map signed by all concerned officials of Revenue, Mining and Forest Dept., validated by ORSAC and duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Division is enclosed as **Plate-VIII**. The area as per land schedule and that of DGPS map involved in the submitted diversion proposal is produced below as per the report of the DFO, Keonjhar Division:-

| Sl. No. | Category of Forest Land | Area as per land schedule (in ha.) | Area as per DGPS (in ha.) | % variation |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Revenue Forest | 16.557 | 16.557 / 16.558 | 0% |
| 2 | Sabik Forest | 5.994 | 5.994 / 5.993 | 0% |
| | Total: | 22.551 | 22.551 | 0% |

Compensatory Levies

C.1. Compensatory Afforestation

As per report of the DFO, Keonjhar Division, Non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land proposed for diversion over 22.551 ha under section-2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, will be met from the identified and allotted non-forest Govt. land over 24.203 ha in village Sepaskhanda under Th. Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandi District. The CA scheme prepared by DFO, Kalahandi (S) Division is enclosed herewith vide **Annexure-XIX**.

C.2. Net Present Value.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, NPV of the forest land proposed for diversion under Section 2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 will be realised from the User Agency on receipt of Stage-I approval. The undertaking submitted by the User Agency to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI**.

C.3. Wild Life Management- Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan and Regional Wildlife Management Plan.

The DFO, Keonjhar has reported that as per condition No. (xi) of Term of Reference (ToR) from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha, the user agency has to prepare and submit a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the instant diversion Proposal. In this regard, the user agency has submitted an undertaking vide **Annexure-XVI**.

D. Statutory Clearances

D.1. Forest Clearance

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, no forest clearance has been accorded/ approved under section-2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 earlier in respect of the above mines.

D.2. Environmental Clearance

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the user agency has obtained Term of Reference (ToR) from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha vide Letter No. 3015/SEIAA dated. 28.09.2021 which is enclosed as **Annexure-XV**.

D.3. Consent to Operate from SPCB, Odisha.

The User Agency has not obtained the consent to operate.

D.4. Mining Plan/ Scheme

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been approved by IBM vide Letter No. RMP-2303/2024-25-IBM_RO_BBS dated 03.12.2024 with validity of excavation proposal for this document shall expire within 5(five) year from the execution of the mining lease. The copy of the approved Plan is enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**.

E. Misc. Information

E.1. Drone Survey Image of the proposed Forest land

The drone survey image of the proposed forest land over 22.551 ha furnished by the DFO, Keonjhar is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-XXIII**.

E.2. Google Series Map of proposed forest land.

The Google Series Map of the proposed forest land over 22.551 ha furnished by the DFO, Keonjhar is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-XXIV**.

E.3. Observation by the DFO, Keonjhar during his Site Inspection.

During his site inspection, the following observations have been noticed by the DFO, Keonjhar Division.

1. There is no Perennial Nala flowing in the Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited.
2. The NH-520 Passing through lease has been excluded.
3. All lease pillars are posted and intact.
4. 16-17 households have been staying in Nuagaon village for the last 30 years who need to be rehabilitated.
5. M/s Rungta Mines Transmission line is passing through left corner of the lease, the proposal for rerouting of the same outside the lease has already received Stage-II clearance.
6. ESL Vedanta Mines is adjacent to present lease sharing a common boundary but it is in Sundargarh district and Bonai Forest Division.

E.4. Violation and Action Taken thereof.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, no violation has been committed in the forest land over 22.551 ha proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited.

E.5. Pending Court Matters.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, there is no Court matter pending against the User Agency in respect of the forest land proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The undertaking submitted by the User Agency to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI**.

Recommendation.

In view of the above position and on the basis of the site inspection conducted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keonjhar and his recommendation thereon, the proposal for diversion of forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd (**Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021**) may be considered for approval under Section-2 (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam, 1980.

The aforesaid diversion proposal along with the requisite documents (including PDF file of the DP), Part-III duly filled in is forwarded herewith in triplicate for taking further necessary action at your end.

Encl :- As above.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
B Rourkela Circle

Memo No. **4276** / Date: **11-08-2025**

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.7491 Dtd.19.07.2025.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
B Rourkela Circle

PART-III

(To be filled by the concerned Conservator of Forests)

14. Whether site, where Forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection & observations made in form of inspection note to be enclosed).

No.

15. Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-B and recommendations of Deputy Conservator of Forests.

Yes, I do agree.

16. Specific recommendation of concerned Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.

On the basis of the site inspection conducted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keonjhar and his recommendation thereon, the proposal for diversion of forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd (**Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021**) may be considered for approval under Section-2 (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam, 1980.

Date: 07.08.2025

Place: Rourkela

Signature :

Name : Sri Ramasamy P, IFS

Official Seal : **Regional Chief Conservator of Forests**
Rourkela Circle