

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS; ODISHA
BHUBANESWAR

No. 13487 /9F (MG)- 377/2016
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 30th June, 2017

To

The Principal Secretary to Govt.,
Forest & Environment Department,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub : Diversion of balance forest land 162.42 ha including 24.150 ha of forest land to be maintained safety zone (as per Sabik settlement record as on 25.10.1980 and after 25.10.1980) excluding the 104.79 ha forest land already diverted pertaining to total ML area of 382.709 ha of Sukrangi Chromite Mines of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. spread over villages like Kamarda, Ostapal, Saruabil, Sukurangi, Tailangi and Forest block No. 27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur Tailangi and Forest Block No. 27 of Mahagiri DPF in Sukinda Tehsil of Jajpur District (under Cuttack Forest Division), Odisha during extended period of mining lease up to 31.03.2020 as per MMDR Amendment Act, 2015.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to F&E Department Memo No. 24092/ F&E dated 24.12.2016 of the Special Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department on the mentioned subject, the following point-wise compliances on the observations of Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi vide their letter F No. 8-22/2016- FC dated 19.12.2016 are furnished below:-

(i). Plantation up to 100 meters from the bank of river on either side, to be done and maintained as green belt.

In compliance to the above, the User Agency, M/s OMC Ltd has submitted a scheme for plantation over 100 meters from the bank of Damsala nallah on either side to be done & maintained as green belt. The scheme has been technically approved by the RCCF, Angul Circle. The user agency has furnished an undertaking to implement the scheme and maintain the green belt at the project cost. The approved scheme as well as the said undertaking are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-1& I (A)** respectively.

(ii). On analysis through DSS it is found that moderately dense forest is present on southern boundary of the mining lease. State Government should demarcate that area, submit shape files and it shall be kept intact as an additional safety zone.

In compliance to the above, the DFO, Cuttack has reported that the moderately dense vegetation as observed through DSS to the southern boundary of the ML area has been demarcated and kept intact as an additional safety zone area. The shape file in the form of CD submitted by OMC is enclosed herewith for reference. The user agency has revised the proposed land use break up of

162.42 ha which is enclosed as **Annexure-2**. The revised land use map as submitted by the user agency is enclosed here with as **Plate-I**.

(iii). On analysis on DSS it is found some of proposed area for CA is seen under encroachment for agriculture. State Government shall submit comments on the status of encroachment.

In compliance to the above, the DFO, Cuttack has reported that the area seen under encroachment for agriculture through DSS is due to Podu Cultivation Practice by the local tribes. This area over 2.0934 ha has been excluded from the total CA land area. Accordingly, DFO, Kalahandi (S) has submitted a revised Site Specific Compensatory Afforestation scheme over a reduced area of 114.284 ha which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-3**.

(iv). For compensatory Afforestation (CA) equivalent non forest land (NFL) is to be earmarked and plantation has to be raised @1000 plants/ha, of forest land diverted. On analysis through DSS it is found that some area of the proposed non forest land for CA is having moderately dense vegetation over it, therefore 1000 plants/ha cannot be planted. The proposed non forest land for CA shall be accepted provided the number of plants which are not possible to be planted on proposed land, shall be planted on degraded forest land (crown density upto 40% as per Forest Survey of India report) identified by the forest department. State Government shall identify degraded forest land (DFL) within its administrative control and submit the location of area and shape file with possible number of plants to be planted in the proposed degraded forest land. The compensatory afforestation scheme shall be for 1000 plants/ha of the forest land diverted under this proposal including maintenance cost for 10 years. The State Government shall submit the revised CA scheme.

In compliance to the above, it is stated that the non-forest land earlier identified over 156.771 ha comprising of three patches in three different villages i.e. Balangi (52.395 ha), Barakundi (35.610 ha) & Subanga (68.766 ha), all under Thumamul Rampur Tehasil of Kalahandi District has been modified as per observation of MoEF & CC, GoI dated 16.12.2016. As reported by the DFO, Cuttack that requirement of equivalent non-forest Government land for Compensatory Afforestation has been recalculated to be 114.284 ha which is given below.

REVISED ESTIMATE OF CA LAND (ha)		
1	Total Forest land in the ML	267.21
2	Forest area approved under section 2 (ii) by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India	104.79
3	Forest area earmarked for safety zone (100 mtr on either side of Damsal Nala + Additional safety zone to southern side of ML)	23.986
4	Safety zone area already considered during the grant of stage-II approval over 104.79 ha of forest land.	22.20
5	7.5 mtr strip along the ML boundary which had not been considered during grant of stage-II approval.	1.95
6	Balance Area required for CA (1-2-3-4-5)	114.284

The DFO, Kalahandi (South) Division has carved out 114.284 ha of non-forest land out of two patches earlier identified for this project, comprising of 45.518 ha in village Balangi & 68.766 ha in village Jubang for the purpose excluding the area having Moderately Dense Forest growth as per DSS analysis. Accordingly, he has furnished a site specific Compensatory Afforestation scheme and has proposed to raise bald hill plantation of indigenous species @1600 seedlings per ha at current wage rate of Rs. 200/- per Manday including cost of maintenance for 10 years. In Toto, he has proposed to raise 1,82,854 nos of seedlings which is more than the required criteria of 1000 seedlings per ha of forest area proposed for diversion as per observation of FAC/ Ministry. The species selected to be planted under the revised scheme are Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), Amla (*Embllica officinalis*), Gambhar (*Gmelina arborea*), Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*) etc.. The Addl.PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) has accorded technical approval to the revised Compensatory Afforestation scheme with a financial outlay of Rs. 3,97,65, 200/-. The Compensatory Afforestation sites shown in village sheet of Mouza Jubang & Balangi are appended to the scheme. The duly approved revised Compensatory Afforestation scheme with financial outlay & Shape file/ KML file in CD form are enclosed. The user agency had earlier furnished an undertaking to pay the cost of Compensatory Afforestation.

(v). State Government shall submit original certificate of complete compliance of FRA-2006.

In compliance to the above, original certificate under Forest Rights Act, ²⁰⁰⁶ certificate & other documentary evidences in support of complete compliance of FRA-2006 , as received from the RCCF, Angul Circle are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-4**.

(vi). 1.335 ha forest land diversion is proposed for construction of infrastructure for site services. This shall not be allowed on forest land.

In compliance to the above, DFO, Cuttack has reported that 1.335 ha of forest land proposed for diversion for construction of infrastructure has already been dropped. Accordingly, the revised proposed land use break up and map thereof submitted by the user agency are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-2** and **Plate No.I** respectively.

In view of the above, point wise compliance to the observations made by the Government of India, MoEF & CC are submitted herewith to Government for onward transmission to Ministry for according necessary approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

**Encl: Annexure-1 to 4
in triplicate**


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