



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.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. 17599 /9F (MG)-24/2011
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 21st Aug' 2025

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. Within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved mining Lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitari Mining lease in Cuttack forest division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Forest division of Keonjhar District, Odisha –reg.

Ref: - 1. F. No. 8-28/2015-FC dt.17.05.2024 of MoEF & CC, GoI (FC Division)
2. Memo No.9640/FE&CC dt.30.05.2024 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., Deptt. of FE&CC.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI, New Delhi has raised some observation before considering the proposal to accord Stage-I approval. The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul Circle and Regional Chief Conservator of forests, Baripada Circle-cum-Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve have submitted the compliance based on the report of DFO, Cuttack Forest Division and DFO, Keonjhar (WL) Division respectively on the observations raised by the Ministry which are as follows.

'Point No. i :- The revised KML of project area along with attributes of forest and non-forest area & ownership / managing agency;

Compliance In compliance to the observation, the revised KML file of project area over 405.26 ha [Forest: 344.25 ha (Diverted: 95.60 ha + Virgin: 248.65 ha) + Non-forest: 61.01 ha] submitted by the DFO, Cuttack Division and Keonjhar (WL) Division is enclosed as **Annexure-I** in "CD". Further as reported by the DFO, Cuttack Division and Keonjhar (WL) Division, the attributes of forest and non-forest area & ownership / managing agency is tabulated below. The authenticated details of the same are enclosed as **Annexure-I/A**

Sl. No.	Name of the area	Area in Ha	Managed by	Remarks
Division-Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur, District-Keonjhar				
1	Rebana RF	142.62	Forest Dept.	Part of Reserve Forest area proposed for Diversion
2	Rebana RF	59.254	Forest Dept.	Stage-II approval accorded vide No. 8-164/97-FC dt. 27.1.2005 of the Govt. of India, MoEF & CC.
3	Rakhita, Gramya Jungle	3.78	Revenue Dept.	Part of Revenue Forest area proposed for Diversion
Sub-Total		205.654		
4	Non-forest land	61.01	Revenue Dept.	
Total (A)		266.664		
Division-Cuttack Forest Division, District-Jajpur				
5	Daitari Protected Forest (PF)	102.25	Forest Dept.	Part of Protected Forest area proposed for Diversion
6	Daitari PF	36.346	Forest Dept.	Stage-II approval accorded vide No. 8-164/97-FC dt. 27.1.2005 of the Govt. of India, MoEF & CC.
Total (B)		138.596		
Grand Total (A+B)		405.26		

Point No. ii :- *Updated report on the number and species of trees affected after reassessment of the reduced area (forest as well as non-forest area) recommended by the ICFRE for taking up mining activities.*

Compliance In compliance to the observation, out of the reduced area of 405.26 ha recommended by ICFRE over an area of 138.596 ha of forest land is coming under Cuttack Forest Division and 205.654 ha forest land is coming under Keonjhar (WL) Division. Further, 61.01 ha non-forest land is coming under Keonjhar (WL) Division. Tree enumeration has been done by both the DFOs adopting sampling technique. In each division 10 sample plots of 2.0 ha have been laid out to enumerate trees. After that per hectare tree density has been calculated. Subsequently, per hectare figure has been extrapolated to reach the tentative number of trees over the forest land. As reported by the DFO, Cuttack Division, 57501 no. of trees have been enumerated over 138.596 ha of forest land after extrapolation.

Further, as per the report of DFO, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, 58,945 nos. of trees have been enumerated over 201.874 ha over Rebana RF through sampling technique. Direct tree enumeration has been done over 3.78 ha Revenue forest land and 61.01 ha. Non-forest land. 705 nos. trees stand over Revenue forest land and 10803 nos. of trees stand over non-forest land. Cumulatively 70,453 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the forest and non-forest land coming under Keonjhar (WL) Division.

The detailed tree enumeration done in both the Forest Divisions is tabulated below and furnished as **Annexure-II**.

Sl. No.	Name of the area	Area in Ha	No. of trees enumerated	No. of trees to be felled.
Division-Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur, District-Keonjhar				
1	Rebana RF	142.62	8266 (10 Sample plots)	58945
2	Rebana RF	59.254	0	0
3	Rakhita, Gramya Jungle	3.78	705	705
Sub-Total				59650
4	Non-forest land	61.01	10803	10803
Total (A)				70453
Division-Cuttack Forest Division, District-Jajpur				
5	Daitari Protected Forest	102.25	11247 (10 Sample plots)	57501
6	Daitari Protected Forest	36.346	0	0
Total (B)				57501
Grand Total (A+B)				127954

Point No. iii :- *A considered opinion on impact of mining operations on 28 rare, endangered and threatened species found in the area and mitigation measures proposed for their conservation and protection.*

Compliance In compliance to the observation, It is submitted that ICFRE vide F. No. 1-99/2019-ADG (EM)/IOM-DML (WL)-ICFRE/1101 dated 15.07.2024 has submitted a suitable reply referring Chapter-7, Section 7.3.1.1 of their final report. The copy of the letter by ICFRE with enclosures is given as **Annexure-III**. In the said letter, threat to 27 RET species (out of 28) has been suggested to be mitigated through in-situ conservation. One species named *Entada rheedei* has been suggested to be protected through *ex-situ* conservation and for this, a species-specific conservation plan has been prepared by DFO, Keonjhar (WL) Forest Division and also has been technically approved by the RCCF, Baripada-cum-Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve for Rs.16,23,800/-. The copy of the species specific plan is enclosed as **Annexure -IV**.

Point No. iv:- *Comments and recommendations of the Water Resource Department on the impact of the mining on the local hydrological regime in the and around the lease area on the proposed mining may be submitted by the State.*

Compliance In compliance to the observation, the Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha has recommended on the local hydrological regime in and around the lease area on the proposed mining vide his letter No. 35618 dated 26.12.2024 which is enclosed as **Annexure-V**. Further an undertaking has been given by the user agency to adhere to the recommendations made by Water Resource Department is also enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

Point No. v: - *A summary of the total mining leases approved under the Adhiniyam vis-à-vis their approved peak capacity and production level actually achieved in general and in r/o OMC leases in particular. The State Government shall also submit its comments on opening of such a huge area having sensitive*

conservation issues vis-a-vis the target of production and estimated shortfall in coming years;

Compliance

In compliance to the observation, a summary of total mining leases approved under the Adhiniyam with their approved peak capacity and production level actually achieved during FY 2024-25 of mining leases of OMC has been furnished by the user agency and is enclosed as **Annexure-VII**. Further, it is envisaged from the report of DFO, Cuttack Division that on request of the user agency, the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Steel and Mines has furnished his comments on the justification of using the reduced area within Daitari ML considering the conservation issues and production and estimated shortfall in coming years. The copy of the letter is enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**. It has been clarified that following the Viksit Bharat Vision Document, the target for production of Iron Ore would be about 250 Million tonnes and 320 million tonnes by the end of 2036 & 2047 respectively. To achieve the huge target of 320 MMT by 2047, around 403 Sq. Kms of iron Ore bearing land would be required to be brought under mining operations. Currently, M/s OMC Ltd. contributes 20% of the total iron ore production in the State. Following, the same pace and ratio of production, the M/s OMC Ltd. would be required to produce at least 64 MMT of Ore annually in order to contribute towards the target production of 320 MMT by 2047.

Point No.vi :-

The revised mining plan for reduced area recommended by the ICFRE in its report, may be provided by the State Government.

Compliance

In compliance to the observation, It is submitted that the Mining Plan (MP) already approved by IBM vide letter No. BBS/JJP/ IRON/2197/MRMP/2022-23 dated 28.11.2022 over the ML area of 1018.3085 ha. has been revised and approved vide letter No. RMP-2308/2024-25-IBMROBBS dated 26.12.2024 considering the mine working till conceptual period confined to the revised area of 405.26 ha has been recommended by ICFRE out of the total ML area over 1018.3085 ha. The copy of the revised approved MP by IBM showing mine working within the reduced area recommended by ICFRE is enclosed as **Annexure-IX**.

Point No. vii :-

The revised cost benefit analysis after accounting the EG & S being lost and net economic gains from project to be submitted by the State.

Compliance

In compliance to the observation, the user agency had requested ICFRE, Dehradun to furnish the revised cost benefit analysis accounting the EG & S being lost and net economic gains from project. The ICFRE, Dehradun vide

his F.NO.1-99 / 2019-ADG (EM) / IOM-DML (WL)-OMC / ICFRE /1101 dt.15.07.2024 has furnished the compliance to the observation which is enclosed as **Annexure-X**.

Point No. viii:- *The ICFRE has recommended mining over reduced area which was further suggested to be reduced by the Sub-Committee of AC. The State Government and user agency may comment on the economic feasibility of mining operations over reduced area.*

Compliance At the time of preparation of Mining Plan due study has been done by the mining plan preparing agency focusing on the economic feasibility of mining operation over reduced area. The salient feature of the mining plan towards its economic feasibility has been extracted from the mining plan over reduced area and a report has been prepared by the user agency which is enclosed as **Annexure-XI**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for according Stage-I approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of Van (Suraksha Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for non-forestry use of 248.65 (146.40 ha in Keonjhar W.L division+102.250 ha in Cuttack Forest Division) ha forest land **as proposed by ICFRI** involved in the total mining lease area over 1018.3085 ha of Daitari Iron Ore mines under Keonjhar (WL) Forest Division and Cuttack Forest Division in Odisha.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

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

Memo No. **17600** Date. **21.08.2025**

Copy forwarded to the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha for information with reference to his office Memo No.9640 dt.30.05.2024.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. **17601** Date. **21.08.2025**

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul Circle for information with reference to his office Memo No.4307 dt.22.07.2025.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 17602 Date. 21.08.2025

Copy forwarded to the Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve-cum-Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Baripada Circle for information with reference to his office Memo No.3116 dt.01.08.2025.

Memo No. 17603 Date. 21.08.2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar (WL) Forest Divisions for information & necessary action with reference to Memo No.3117 dt.01.08.2025 of Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve-cum-Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Baripada Circle.

Memo No. 17604 Date. 21.08.2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Cuttack Forest Divisions for information & necessary action with reference to Memo No.4308 dt.22.07.2025 of Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul Circle.

Memo No. 17605 Date. 21.08.2025
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Copy forwarded to the Chief Vigilance and Land Officer, Authorized Signatory, M/s OMC House, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

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