



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

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No. 3632 / 9F (MG) – 104/2022

Dated, Bhubaneswar the 24th February'2023

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Sub: - Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. for non-forestry use of 83.602 ha. of forest land including 2.529 ha of Safety Zone for Iron Ore mining in Chandiposhi Block of Koira Tehsil under Bonai Forest Division and District Sundargarh, Odisha- regarding.

Ref: F.No.8-01/2023-FC dated 02.02.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi has requested to furnish compliance to 4 (four) nos of observations. The point wise compliance basing on the reports of the DFO, Bonai Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:

Observation (i): The component wise KML file of the proposed forest area including the safety zone has not been submitted.

Compliance: The RCCF, Rourkela has reported that the User Agency was requested by DFO, Bonai division to submit the component wise KML file of the proposed forest area including the safety zone. The User Agency has submitted the component wise KML file of the proposed forest area including the safety zone in CD form which is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.

Observation (ii): The proposal for diversion of forest land has been submitted for a period of 50 years whereas the mining plan submitted is for five years only.

Compliance: The RCCF, Rourkela has reported that the User Agency has submitted the compliance stating that the proposal for diversion of forest land has been submitted for 50 years, which is in

accordance with the notification of Govt. of India vide No.11-51/2015-FC dt.01.04.2015 which states that “period of the validity of approvals accorded under Section-2 of the FC Act shall be extended and shall be deemed to have been extended upto a period co-terminous with the period of mining lease, i.e, 50 years”.

Whereas, the mining plan for Chandiposhi Iron Ore block was approved for 5 years by India Bureau of Mines. This is in accordance with Rule 13 of MCR,2016, which states that, “No mining operation shall be undertaken except in accordance with a mining plan and the mining plan shall incorporate, a tentative scheme of mining and annual programme and plan for excavation from year to year for five years”. Further, as per Rule 17 (1) of MCR, 2016 “The mine plan once approved shall be subject to review and updation at an interval of every five years, starting from date of execution of the duly executed lease deed”. Moreover, mining is a dynamic process and changes may happen keeping in view, change in the business environment, for facilitating increase in production capacity or in the interest of safe and scientific mining, conservation of minerals, protection of Environment, technological transformation or any other reasons. The copy of relevant part of the Rule of Minerals Concession Rule 2016 is enclosed as **Annexure-2**.

Observation (iii): The progressive mine closure plan is also limited to a period of five years, and does not include the detailed plan for progressive mine closure and reclamation at the end of the mining period.

Compliance: The RCCF, Rourkela has reported that the User Agency has submitted the compliance stating that as per Rule 23 of MCDR,2017, the holder of mining lease shall submit to the competent authority i.e. Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a progressive mine closure plan as a component of the mining plan, at the time of submission, modification and review of the mining plan. As stated above, since the mining plan is approved for 5 years, the progressive mine closure plan (PMCP) being a component of the mining plan is also approved for 5 years only. As such, the PMCP contained in the approved mining plan submitted along with the diversion proposal is for 5 (five) years only. The copy of relevant part of MCDR,2017 is enclosed as **Annexure-3**.

Observation (iv): As per the information uploaded in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal the number of trees has been mentioned as 4776 whereas the number has been mentioned as 19013 in the site inspection report of DCF/CF. Further, the details of trees having girth between 0-30 cms has not been uploaded in PART-II, which is required to be done.

Compliance: The RCCF, Rourkela has reported that in order to calculate the total project affected trees in forest land, sample enumeration over 21 plots each of 1 ha have been carried out (Sample plot-wise enumeration list is enclosed as **Annexure-4**). From sample plot analysis, the average trees per hectare comes to 227.42 nos. (4776 nos./21 ha).

Hence, the total project affected trees over 83.602 ha. of forest land by extrapolation of the above said data comes to 19,013 nos. Further, the details of trees having girth between 0-30 cms has been uploaded in Part-II as reported by the DFO, Bonai Division.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations of Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

Sd/- 24/02
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

3633

/Dt. 24.02.2023

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference F.No.8-01/2023-FC dated 02.02.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF& CC, New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Sd/- 24/02
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

3634

/Dt. 24.02.2023

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to F.No.8-01/2023-FC dated 02.02.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF& CC, New Delhi and Memo No. 2399/FE&CC dated 08.02.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Sd/- 24/02
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

3635

/Dt. 24.02.2023

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 550 dated 16.02.2023.

Sd/- 24/02
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

3636

/Dt. 24.02.2023

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 551 dated 16.02.2023 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

Sd/- 24/02
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

3637

/Dt. 24.02.2023

Copy forwarded to the M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. At/PO-Barbil, Dist-Keonjhar for information and necessary action.

Sd/- 24/02
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)