



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. 5888 /9F (MG) – 16/2022

Dated, Bhubaneswar the 23rd March' 2023

From

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

To

The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharapur
Bhubaneswar-751023

Sub-: Diversion of 25.981 ha of Reserve Forest land (including 2.460 ha earmarked as Safety Zone) in Toda RF for mining of Iron Ore in ML No.139 (A&B) under Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh District, Odisha by M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) – Compliance to GoI observations regarding.

Ref-: Letter No.5-ORC544/2023-BHU dated 31.01.2023 of Dy. Inspector General of Forests(C), GoI, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to GoI, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar letter cited above on the captioned subject, the compliance/information basing on the reports of the DFO, Bonai Forest division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle is furnished below-:

Observation (1)-: There are two proposed mining patches having a strip of virgin forest between them. There is no connecting link between these two patches as per the present proposal. Is it not required to have connection link in future?

Compliance-: No connecting link/road is required for connection of the two patches named as Block-A (10.7972 ha) and Block-B (15.1838 ha).The detailed reasons are as follow:

- As shown in the plate, Block-B runs in continuation with existing Kalta iron Ore Mine under the amalgamated Mining lease of 2564.323 ha which is working lease.
- Block-A, although situated at a distance of about 600mt is away from Block-B having virgin forest in between them, it is well connected with a forest road.
- In Block-B only, mining operation is proposed to be carried out in the current plan period 2020-21 to 2024-25 of the approved mining plan.

(d) There is no proposal for production /development from Block-A in 2020-21 to 2024-25 plan period. Only geological exploration will be undertaken in this block for estimating reserves & resources during the current plan period and excavation for mining will be undertaken in future. There is no requirement of additional road connectivity between Block-A and block-B. In future, the forest road shall be used for access between two blocks. The maps showing the blocks and the existing roads are enclosed as **Annexure-I & II** to compliance.

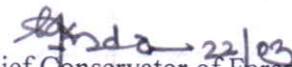
Observation (2):- There is a road inside the identified CA land. Agricultural and settlements (encroachment) are also observed in some part of CA patch. As per DSS, area suitable for plantation under CA is 47 ha and area covered under road is 2.39 ha, thus excluding the area of the road, actual area suitable for plantation become to 44.61 ha. Additional degraded forest land may be identified as per the guidelines".

Compliance:- It is observed by MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar that one road having 2.39 ha area passes through the identified CA land over 47 ha. and advised to identify equal quantity of degraded forest land. Additional 3.0 ha of degraded forest land has been identified by DFO, Bonai in Kundheibira R.F of Bonai division. CA scheme over the identified land of 3.0 ha has been prepared following one-time cost norm in the plantation module of ANR 500 plants/ha. The total approved financial outlay of the CA scheme including plantation, protection, watering & SMC work comes to Rs.10,74,200/-(Rupees Ten lakh seventy four thousand and two hundred) only. The CA scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-III**. The identified land has been shown on Topo Sheet No.F45N2 enclosed as **Annexure-IV**. The GPS survey map of the identified CA land is enclosed as **Annexure-V**.

In this context, the compliance to the observations dated 31.01.2023 issued vide LetterNo.5-ORC 544/2023- BHU dated 31.01.2023 of Dy. Inspector General of Forests(C), GoI, MoEF& CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar is sent herewith for consideration and grant of "Stage-I/in Principle approval" for diversion of 25.981 ha of Reserve Forest land (including 2.460 ha earmarked as Safety Zone) in Toda RF for mining of Iron Ore in ML No.139 (A&B) under Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh District, Odisha by M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL).

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 5889 /Dt. 23.03.2023

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 LetterNo.5-ORC 544/2023- BHU dated 31.01.2023 of Dy. Inspector General of Forests(C), GoI, MoEF& CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar and Memo No. 2930/FE&CC dated 16.02.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department.

Encl: Compliance in one set


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

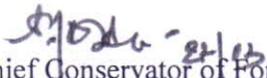
Memo No. 5890 /Dt. 23.03.2023

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 673 dated NIL.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

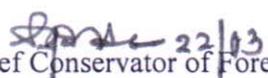
Memo No. 5891 /Dt. 23.03.2023

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Bonai Forest division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 674 dated NIL of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 5892 /Dt. 23.03.2023

Copy forwarded to the Chief General Manager, Kalta Iron Ore Mines, Rourkela Steel Plant, SAIL, At/PO: Kalta, Dist: Sundargarh-770052 for information and necessary action.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)