

Government of Odisha  
Forest & Environment Department

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Nc:10F(Cons) 37/2018 10150 /F&E, Bhubaneswar, dated the 01.05.18

From:

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS,  
Special Secretary to Government

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests,  
Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change,  
(F.C.Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi -110003

Sub : Proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325ha. including 11.8305ha. for safety zone (excluding 95.60ha. of pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467ha. of forest land being proposed for diversion in a separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari Mining lease) within total forest land of 846.3995ha. 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) Division of Keonjhar district , Odisha of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.: during Mining lease period as extended under the amended provision of MMDR Act:

Sir,

I am directed to say that MoEF&CC, GoI while considering above referred forest diversion proposal had communicated two observations of FAC vide its letter F.No. 8-161/28/2015-FC dt. 24.8.2017 seeking compliance from the State Government as well as its Eastern Regional Office. While seeking reports from all concerned on such observations, P-146/ the State Government vide its letter No. 21230/F&E dt. 16.10.2017 had submitted a report to MoEF&CC on observation (i) in the matter of mines existing in the area affecting the corridor connectivity and bio-diversity of the area which was based on the submission made by the lessee(OMC Ltd.) before the State Government in their representation dt. 21.9.2017. However, no response of Ministry in the above context has been received till date. Meantime, the PCCF, Odisha vide his letter No.9269 dt. 27.4.2018 has furnished point wise compliance of the above observations after having ascertained relevant inputs from the Director of Mines, Odisha, PCCF(WL)&CWLW,

Odisha and the field functionaries of the Forest Department, details of which are indicated below.

Observation 2(i): State Government in consultation with Regional Office shall take a holistic view of all mines existing in that area and analyze how this mine along with other existing mines in the area will affect the corridor connectivity and biodiversity value of the area.

**Compliance:** In the above context, it is to state that a meeting was held on 7.2.2018 at the level of Addl. PCCF(Central), MoEF&CC, Eastern Regional Office with the concerned officers of State Mining/Forest Department to take a holistic view on existing mines in Daitari area of Jajpur district and its impact on corridor connectivity and bio-diversity of the area with specific reference to Daitari Iron ore Mines of OMC Ltd. The Minutes of the above mentioned meeting was communicated by the Eastern Regional Office vide its letter No. 5-ORA263/2015-BHU dt. 12.2.2018 to all concerned. The PCCF, Odisha and others were also requested by this department vide communication dt. 3.3.2018 for furnishing required compliance on the minutes of the meeting. A copy of above minutes of meeting held on 7.2.2018 is furnished herewith as **Annexure I**. While the point 1 to 6 of minutes are the observations made in course of discussion based on DSS analysis of the area with regard to nature forest growth available in the area, possible location of a crucial tiger corridor interlinking Similipal Tiger Reserve and Satakosia Tiger Reserve, mines if any located near the Daitari Iron ore mines, necessity of expansion of Daitari Iron ore mines, ore evacuation routes etc, point No. 7,8, 10 require compliance of OMC Ltd. Similarly point No. 9 and 11 of the minutes are to be replied by the Director of Mines and PCCF(WL)&CW<sup>respectively</sup>LW, Odisha. On point 12 of the minutes, Nodal Officer is required to furnish his report. The OMC Ltd. in its representation dt. 16.2.2018 to F&E department has furnished the required compliance on all the three points of the minute. The point 7 of the

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furnished details of allotment of fund and expenditure made in execution of Regional Wildlife Management Plan and Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan in Cuttack Forest Division(**Annexure IV**). As regards point 12 of the minutes of the meeting regarding NTCA report and proposal for corridor improvement in the area, based on the report of DFO, Cuttack, the PCCF, Odisha vide his letter No. 9269 dt. 27.4.2018 has reported that no elephant/tiger corridor is passing through or nearby this ML area of OMC Ltd. The area was inspected by the DFO, Cuttack on 8.4.2018. The only non-forest patch available in the village limit of Talapada is mostly used for agriculture purpose by the local tribal people who are dependent upon this crop for their livelihood. Therefore, this land should not be covered under plantation. Further entire area proposed for corridor comes under Revena RF having very high density of forest growth. The copy of letter dt. 27.4.2018 of PCCF, Odisha is appended as **Annexure V**.

It is further ascertained that the Eastern Regional Office vide its letter No. 5-ORA263/2015 dt. 25.4.2018 has furnished detailed report on the observation 2(i) of MoEF&CC dt. 24.8.2017 to the Ministry for consideration of the forest diversion proposal.

**Observation 2(ii):** *It is reported that a big patch of Gramya Jungle was found without vegetation cover, which was abnormal considering the dense canopy of the adjacent forest, the area is adjacent to village Talapada. Approximately 28.67ha. of Gramya Jungle coming within the lease area. The State Government shall enquire the reason for less vegetation in the lease area under the control of the user agency and submit the report to the Ministry.*

**Compliance:** As reported while forwarding this diversion proposal, a big patch of Gramya Jungle land measuring approximately 28.67ha. located adjacent to village Talapada within ML area was found to be without vegetative cover . This deforestation was reported to be owing to Podu/ Jhum/ Shifting cultivation. This has been re-confirmed by the report of DFO, Keonjhar(WL) Division. Such type

of cultivation activities in forest land amounts to violation Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Appropriate penal measures as per latest guidelines of MoEF&CC bearing guidelines F.No. 11-42/2017-FC dt. 29.1.2018.

It is requested that Government of India, MoEF&CC may kindly consider the above compliances to the observations made by the Ministry/FAC as well as the report of Eastern Regional Office submitted to Ministry vide their letter dt. 25.4.2018 in this context and take further steps for according Stage-I(in-principle approval for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325ha. including 11.8305ha. for safety zone (excluding 95.60ha. of pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467ha. of forest land being proposed for diversion in a separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari Mining lease) within total forest land of 846.3995ha. 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) Division of Keonjhar district , Odisha of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. during Mining lease period as extended under the amended provision of MMDR Act and convey their orders to this department for further follow up action at this end.

Yours faithfully

Memo No. 10151 /Dt. 01.05.18

Special Secretary to Government

Copy with copy of enclosures forwarded to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to this department Memo No.21331 dt. 16.10.2017 and their letter No. 5-ORA263/2015 dt. 25.4.2018 to the MoEF&CC, GoI in this context.

Memo No. 10152 /F&E., Dated- 01-05-18

Copy forwarded to the Pr.C.C.F., Odisha /Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(WL) & CWLW, Odisha for information & necessary action with reference to letter No. 9269 dt. 27.4.2018 of PCCF, Odisha.

Special Secretary to Government

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