



**Divisional Forest Officer
Cuttack Forest Division
Cuttack**

Ref: SCM/L&L/16/S/1571/2016
Dated: 27th Jan' 2016

Sub: Proposal for Diversion of forest land over 330.972 ha in respect of Sukinda Chromite Mine.

Ref: 1) Your letter no. 588, dated 19.01.2016.
2) Online Form-A reference no. FP/OR/MIN/16331/2015

Dear Sir,

This has reference to the query raised by your good office vide above letter in the portal for "Online Submission & Monitoring of Forest and Wildlife Clearance Proposals" in respect to Sukinda Chromite Mine. We would like to bring following points for your kind consideration in respect of proposed Safety Zone.

1. The 2nd Renewal of Mining lease in respect of Sukinda Chromite Mine for the period from 12.01.1993 to 11.01.2013 was granted over reduced lease over 406 ha in pursuance of the Central Govt. Order no. 5(22)/95 MIV, dated 17.08.1995 and orders of Hon'ble Supreme dated 23.07.1996. The requirement of land and land use pattern was determined by the Central Government as mentioned in its order. The activity wise area and breakup of the total lease hold area of 406 ha as determined is shown in the table given below:

ACTIVITY	AREA (Hect)
Mining Excavation	206.00
Waste Dump	60.00
Feed Dump	18.84
COB Plant	18.38
Magazine	3.25
Camp Area	74.53
Stores & Workshop	5.00
Tailing Pond	10.00
Stackyard	10.00
TOTAL	406.00

NOTE: As can be seen from the Table, no provision of Safety Zone has been kept within the Mining Lease over 406 ha

2. Subsequently, the State Government vide letter no.'s III (G) SM-34/96-7747 Bhubaneswar, dt.07.08.1996 and 22012/ DMG, dated 21.08.1996 demarcated the Mining lease over 406 ha. It is pertinent to mention here that as evident from the above table mention in point-1, within the ML area of 406 ha no provision of Safety Zone has been provided.
3. In line with the above, the land use pattern of the entire lease area of 406 ha which has already been fully utilized and broken, with its break-up within Forest and non-forestland was mentioned in the FDP over 73.697 ha for the 2nd RML period.

TATA STEEL LIMITED

Sukinda Chromite Mine PO Kalarangiatta Dist Jajpur Orissa 755028
Phone no 91 6726 268765 Fax : 91 6726 268734
Registered Office Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Corporate Identity Number L27100MH1907PLC000260 Website www.tatasteel.com



4. DFO, Athagarh submitted the revised DRP to PCCF vide memo no. 1181, dated 07.02.1997. In his compliance report DFO, Athagarh has clarified the following facts on safety zone.

“Safety Zone: the area for safety zone has been demarcated for 15 hecets suitable on southern boundary of broken area, which is indicated in Plate no.3. Necessary undertaking to pay the cost of protection and regeneration of safety zone and cost of afforestation over one and half time of safety zone in Degraded Forest elsewhere along with fencing has been submitted by the User Agency”.

5. Further, PCCF, Odisha in his recommendation vide Memo no. 4737, dated 11.03.1997 to F&E Dept, Govt. of Odisha clarified following on Safety Zone:

“Safety Zone: the area for safety zone has been demarcated over 15 ha. on southern boundary of broken area, which is indicated in Plate no. III. Necessary undertaking to pay the cost of protection and regeneration of safety zone and cost of afforestation over one and half time of safety zone in degraded forest elsewhere along with fencing has been submitted by the User Agency”.

6. Subsequently, Stage-I Clearance over 73.697 ha for the 2nd RML period was obtained from MoEF vide letter no. 8-78/96-FC, dated 04.11.1997 with condition no. ii which states as follows:

“The user agency shall transfer the cost of fencing, protection and regeneration of safety zone area and also the cost of afforestation over one and half times of safety zone area in degraded forest land elsewhere”.

7. Accordingly, Tata Steel submitted a sum of Rs 6,58,750/- towards the cost of fencing, protection and regeneration of safety zone area and also the cost of afforestation over one and half times of the safety zone area in degraded forest land elsewhere has already been paid vide DD no. 365200 & 365201 both dated 20.12.1997 along with other dues as demanded. Further, a safety zone of 15 ha has been kept within the adjoining forestland and outside our mining lease-hold area of 406 ha, as approved during the previous diversion of the entire forestland of 73.697 ha within the mining lease vide MoEF letter No. 8-78/96-FC, dated 27.01.1998.

8. During the approval of FDP over same 73.697 ha of Forest Land during the 3rd RML period, Safety Zone Scheme with Safety Zone outside the ML area was prepared and approved by the State Forest Dept. As approved the Safety zone of 15 ha has been kept within the adjoining forestland and outside our mining lease-hold area of 406 ha, same as approved during the previous diversion of the entire forestland of 73.697 ha.

9. Matter on Safety Zone was also appraised to the EAC during 12.03.2013 & 14.04.2013 for grant of Environmental Clearance. Finally, on recommendation of EAC, MoEF, Govt. of India granted the Environmental Clearance vide letter no. J-11015/96/2011-IA.II (M), dated 06.09.2013 with following condition. *“Plantation shall be raised in an area of 384.44 ha including a 7.5m wide green belt in the safety zone around the mining lease, backfilled and reclaimed area, around the higher benches of excavated void etc. after the completion of opencast mining activity by planting the native species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.”*

10. However, the Condition no. 2 (vii) of the Stage-I approval vide MoEF, Govt. of India letter no. 8-78/1996-FC (pt-I), dated 03.11.2014 is as follows:

“User agency shall maintain 7.50 meters wide strip all along the periphery of the mining lease as safety zone. No mining shall be undertaken in the safety zone.”

TATA STEEL LIMITED



11. Further to above, in Condition no. 2 (xiii) of the above said letter from MoEF, Govt. of India it has also been stipulated that:

*"The user agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake fencing, protection and afforestation of Safety Zone area (7.5 meter strip all along the **outer boundary** of the area identified to undertake mining), at the project cost."*

12. In this context we also represented to MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter no. TSLDL/607/2014, dated 12.03.2015 to relax condition no. 2 (vii) & 2 (xiii) of the Stage-I Forest Clearance.

13. However, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide its Circular no. 11-125/2014-FC, dated 27.05.2015 & 28.12.2015 clarified that Safety Zone need to be maintained within the Mining lease boundary.

Submission:

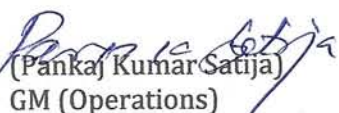
Sukinda Chromite Mine of the company obtained the Mining lease over 1813.457 ha for a period of 20 years w.e.f 12.01.1953 and started its operations from 1960. 1st RML was granted over reduced area over 1261.476 ha w.e.f 12.01.1973 for a period of 20 years. Subsequently, 2nd RML was granted over reduced area of 406 ha and the area was demarcated by the State Govt. based on the Orders of Central Govt. Now, the 2nd RML period has been extended till 31.03.2020 as per the MMDR Amendment Act' 2015. Since its operation from 1960, company has developed its own infrastructure such as colony, roads, boundary walls, plants, pits and dumps etc. In the process of lease reduction during every 20 years and finally during the reduced lease area determination during the 2nd RML period, many of the permanent surface features fall along the lease boundary leaving no space for developing continuous patch of safety zone of 7.5 m strip all along the mining lease boundary. It is pertinent to mention here that the entire lease area of 406 ha is broken prior to 25.10.1980.

The computed area of 7.5 m strip of Safety zone all along the mining lease boundary is calculated to be 9.26 ha. However, with the above mentioned constraints, we are unable to provide 7.5 m strip all along the lease boundary. So, we have indentified patches along the mining lease boundary in consultation with Forester Section Officer, Ransol & Forest Range Officer, Sukinda with varied width to be maintained as Safety zone with the area remaining same as 9.26 ha. The Map showing the proposed Safety Zone along the mining lease boundary on and above the existing Safety Zone of 15 ha already maintained along the outer side of Southern lease Boundary of ML area is enclosed as Annexure-I. Further as desired we are also enclosing herewith the report in Annexure-II showing the point to point area to be maintained as Safety Zone.

In the above context, we would request you to kindly allow us to maintain the above desired patch of 15 ha already maintained at the southern boundary of Mining lease boundary and now proposed safety zone over 9.26 ha as depicted in the Map and Report enclosed as Annexure-I & II respectively.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
F: Tata Steel Limited


(Pankaj Kumar Satija)
GM (Operations)
Ferro Alloys & Minerals Division

Encl: As above

TATA STEEL LIMITED

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Registered Office Bombay House 24 Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001
Corporate Identity Number I 27100MH1907PI C000260 Website www.tatasteel.com

OFFICE OF THE FOREST RANGE OFFICER, SUKINDA RANGE, SUKINDA.

Memo No. 418

Dated 26.01.2016

To

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Cuttack Forest Division.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of forest land over 330.972 ha in respect of Sukinda Chromite Mines of TATA Steel Ltd.

Sir,

With reference to your Memo No 588 dated 19.01.2016 on the above noted subject, I am to inform you that the M.L area of Sukinda Chromite Mines of M/s TATA Steel Ltd. is 406.0 ha, comprises Forest land of 73.612 ha in Forest Block No.27, Khesera Forest- 0.085 ha (Total 73.697 ha as per Stage-I approved by MoEF & CC), Khesera Forest- 330.972 ha (as per Sabik ROR as on 25.10.1980) and Non-forest land is 1.331 ha. I have made a joint verification on 23.01.2016 along with the representative of the User Agency. The total M.L area covers with 14 nos of M L boundary pillars i.e., A to N which remain intact. The Safety Zone over 15 ha earmarked in two patches (9 ha + 6 ha) near the southern boundary of the M.L area has been maintained. The 2nd Renewal of Mining lease in respect of Sukinda Chromite Mine for the period from 12.01.1993 to 11.01.2013 was granted over reduced lease over 406 ha in pursuance of the Central Govt. Order no. 5(22)/95 MIV, dated 17.08.1995 and orders of Hon'ble Supreme dated 23.07.1996. The requirement of land and land use pattern was determined by the Central Government as mentioned in its order. The activity wise area and breakup of the total lease hold area of 406 ha as determined is shown in the table given below:

Activity	Area (Hect)
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Camp Area	74.53
Stores & Workshop	5.00
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Stackyard	10.00
TOTAL	406.00

NOTE: As evident from the Table, no provision of Safety Zone has been kept within the Mining Lease over 406 ha. However as per Government instruction the Safety Zone over 15 ha earmarked in two patches (9 ha + 6 ha) near the southern boundary of the M.L area and has been maintained.

Sukinda Chromite Mine of the company is in operation in this location since 1960 and since then has developed its own infrastructure such as colony, roads, boundary walls dumps. The lease area got reduced from 1813.457 ha to 1261.476 ha during 1973 and during the 2nd RML period the lease further got truncated and a reduced area over 406 was granted

and demarcated by the State Govt. based on the Orders of Central Govt. In this process many of the permanent surface features fall along the lease boundary leaving no space for developing continuous patch of safety zone of 7.5 m strip all along the mining lease boundary. The entire lease area of 406 ha is broken prior to 25.10.1980.

The computed area of 7.5 m patch of Safety zone all along the mining lease boundary is calculated to be 9.26 ha. However, with the above constraints faced by the user agency, it is not possible to maintain 7.5 m strip all along the lease boundary. So, some identified patches along the mining lease boundary with varied width has been indentified to be maintained as Safety zone with the area remaining same as 9.26 ha. The detail is given below for your reference. The Map showing the proposed Safety Zone along the mining lease boundary on and above the existing Safety Zone of 15 ha already maintained along the outer side of Southern lease Boundary of ML area is enclosed and also a report showing the point to point area can be maintained as Safety Zone is given below.

PROPOSED SAFETY ZONE EARMARKED WITHIN 406 HECT ALL ALONG THE ML BOUNDARY	
LOCATION (Pillar No.)	AREA IN HECT.
A-B	0.26
B-C	0.10
C-C3	0.39
C4-D	0.28
D-D5	0.72
E4-F4	1.24
F7-F8	0.10
F8- F9	0.04
OBII EAST NEAR F8-G	1.89
G7-G8	0.16
G9-H	0.57
H1-H5	0.65
H6-I	0.21
I-J	0.03
J-K	0.16
K-L	0.08
L-M	0.69
M-N	0.31
N-N3	0.70
N7-N8	0.55
N9- A	0.13
Total (Hects)	9.26

This is for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Suk
26.1.16
Forest Range Officer,
Sukinda Range.

PLAN SHOWING THE REVISED SAFETY ZONE AREA FOR FOREST LAND PROPOSED TO BE DIVERTED & ALREADY DIVERTED VIDE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FOREST ,
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA , Letter No.:- 8-78/96-FC dated 27.01.1998 IN RESPECT OF
 SUKINDA CHROMITE MINE OF M/s TATA STEEL LIMITED.

SCALE : 16" = 1 MILE OR 1 : 3960



LEGEND

- LEASE & S/R BOUNDARY (406 HA.)
- FOREST BOUNDARY
- KHESERA FOREST AREA
- SAFETY ZONE (OUT SIDE LEASE) 15.00 HA
- SABIK PLOTS WITH No.
- VILLAGE BOUNDARY
- SAFETY ZONE (INSIDE 406 Ha.) 9.26 Ha.

FOREST BLOCK No. :27

VILL : MAHULKHAL No 14

SAFETY ZONE (6 HA)

SAFETY ZONE (9 HA)

FOREST SECTION OFFICER
 RANSOL
 Ransol Section

For TATA STEEL LTD.
 By their Constituted Attorney
 (GANESH PRASAD SAHU)
 Head (Ferro Alloys Production)
 Ferro Alloys & Minerals Division

Forest Range Officer
 Sukinda Range
 FOREST RANGE OFFICER
 SUKINDA RANGE