



सत्यमेव जयते

File No.: J-11015/251/2009-IA-II(M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
IA Division  
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Dated 21/12/2023



To,

Kamal Bhasker  
STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD  
Manoharpur Ore Mines, Steel Authority of India Ltd., Bokaro Steel Plant, Manoharpur, Chiria, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand-833106 , Dhobil , WEST SINGHBHUM, JHARKHAND, Chiria Mines, 833106 momppc@gmail.com

**Subject:** Amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) 24.01.2012 granted to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006 -regarding.

**Sir/Madam,**

This is in reference to your application submitted to MoEF&CC vide proposal number EC23A0000JH5447464A for grant of an amendment in prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC23A0000JH5447464A
(ii) File No.	J-11015/251/2009-IA-II(M)
(iii) Clearance Type	Amendment in EC
(iv) Category	A
(v) Schedule No./ Project Activity	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Sector	Non-Coal Mining
(vii) Name of Project	Amendment in Environmental Clearance of Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project (Capacity 0.75 MTPA ROM & ML Area-513.036 ha) of M/s SAIL - Bokaro Steel Plant for continuation of iron ore transportation through road w.e.f. 23.01.2024, located in Village Dhobil, Tehsil Manoharpur, Dist: West Singhbhum, Jharkhand
(viii) Location of Project (District, State)	WEST SINGHBHUM, JHARKHAND
(ix) Issuing Authority	MoEF&CC
(x) EC Date	

- (xii) **Applicability of General Conditions** NO
- (xiii) **Status of implementation of the project**

1. In view of the particulars given in the Para 1 above, the project proposal interalia including Form-1(Part A, B and C)/ EIA & EMP Reports were submitted to the MoEF&CC for an appraisal by the Expert Appraisal Committee EAC under the provision of EIA notification 2006 and its subsequent amendments.
2. The above-mentioned proposal has been considered by Expert Appraisal Committee EAC in the meeting held on 14/11/2023. The minutes of the meeting and all the project documents are available on PARIVESH portal which can be accessed from the PARIVESH portal by scanning the QR Code above or through the following web link [click here](#).
3. The brief about the reasons for an amendment requested along with comparison table illustrating the details of amendments are annexed to this letter as Annexure (1). The project details as per approved minutes and observations of EAC is given at Annexure (2).
4. The brief about the reasons for an amendment requested along with comparison table illustrating the details of amendments are annexed to this letter as Annexure (1)The EAC, in its meeting held on 14/11/2023, based on information & clarifications provided by the project proponent and after detailed deliberations recommended the proposal for grant of amendment in Environment Clearance under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof.
5. The MoEF&CC has examined the proposal in accordance with the extant provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 & further amendments thereto and based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee hereby accords amendment in Environment Clearance dated 24.01.2012 for the instant proposal under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof subject to compliance of EC conditions, general instructions issued vide EC identification number EC23A0000JH5447464A and following additional specific conditions as mentioned below:  
Additional Specific Condition:
6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

**Copy To**

1. **The Secretary**, Ministry of Mines, Government of India Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. **The Secretary**, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Jharkhand, Secretariat, Ranchi - For necessary action in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 02.08.2017 in writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India &Ors if any.
3. **The Secretary**, Department of Environment, Government of Jharkhand, Secretariat, Ranchi.
4. **The Secretary**, Department of Forests, Government of Jharkhand, Secretariat, Ranchi.
5. **The Chief Wildlife Warden of the State Govt of Jharkhand**, Forest Department, Ranchi.
6. **The Deputy Director General of Forests (C)**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bungalow No. A-2, Shyamali Colony, Ranchi – 834002.
7. **The Chairman**, Central Pollution Control Board, PariveshBhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
8. **The Member Secretary**, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110011.
9. **The Chairman**, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Jharkhand – **Present status of the court case in CJM court, Bokaro on 20.10.2016 to take cognizance of the offence u/s 19 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

10. **The Controller General**, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.

11. **The District Collector**, West Singhbhum, Government of Jharkhand.

12. **Guard File.**

13. **PARIVESH Portal.**

## Annexure 1

### Specific EC Conditions for (Mining Of Minerals)

#### 1. Stp

S. No	EC Conditions
1.1	As committed by the Project Proponent, modular type STPs shall be installed in place of Septic Tanks by March, 2024 with a provision to use the treated sewage for plantation.

#### 2. Validity

S. No	EC Conditions
2.1	The project proponent shall strictly adhere to the conclusions made in the minutes of personal hearing dated 10.11.2023.
2.2	This amendment in EC will be valid for a period of a 2 (two) years only w.e.f 23.01.2024.

#### 3. Crushing/screening

S. No	EC Conditions
3.1	The Project Proponent shall adhere to the pollution control measures suggested by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the environmental guidelines for crushing/screening activity.

#### 4. Miscellaneous

S. No	EC Conditions
4.1	The Project Proponent shall strictly adhere to the conclusions made during the personal hearing held on 10.11.2023.
4.2	All other terms and conditions mentioned in the EC letter dated 24.01.2012, 01.05.2012, 19.04.2017 and 04.04.2022 shall remain unchanged.

#### 5. Density Of Plantation

S. No	EC Conditions
5.1	To increase the density of trees, the Project Proponent needs to undertake the plantation in low density areas within the mine lease area.

#### 6. Mining Activity

S. No	EC Conditions
6.1	Mining activity is restricted to an area of 29.411 ha for which the Stage-II Forest Clearance is available.

#### 7. Solar Fencing

S. No	EC Conditions
7.1	The Project Proponent should follow-up the matter regarding solar powered electric fencing with DFO, Saranda to reach at a decision thereof.

#### 8. Road Transportation

S. No	EC Conditions
8.1	The Project Proponent shall convert the unpaved road into concrete road to reduce the fugitive dust.
8.2	Fugitive dust monitoring during transportation shall be monitored regularly at all the sensitive receptors and report shall be submitted quarterly to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
8.3	Over loading of transport equipment's should be avoided to prevent spillage. Vehicles involved in transporting the material should be covered with tarpaulin to prevent fugitive dust emission.
8.4	The Project Proponent shall maintain the entire mineral transportation route by road at their own cost. The Project Proponent shall also periodically maintain the roads to reduce the fugitive emissions from roads and also the vehicular emissions.
8.5	Regular sprinkling shall be done on roads to suppress the dust at the source.
8.6	The Project Proponent shall undertake the dense plantation all along the haul roads and approach roads to attenuate the fugitive dust.

#### 9. Single Use Plastic

S. No	EC Conditions
9.1	The Project Proponent shall create awareness among the local people working within the project area as well as its surrounding area on the ban of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in order to ensure the compliance of Notification published by MoEF&CC on 12/08/2021. A report, along with photographs, on the measures taken shall also be included in the six monthly compliance report.

## 10. Regrassing

S. No	EC Conditions
10.1	The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake regrassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. The implementation report of the above said condition shall be submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.

### Additional EC Conditions

N/A



2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and falls under Category "A" as the mining lease area is greater than 250ha and accordingly, appraised at the Central level.
- ii. Details of previous Environmental Clearance (EC):
  - a) Initially, the Project Proponent has obtained Environmental Clearance on 24.01.2012 for Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project for production capacity 0.75 MTPA of Iron Ore over an area of 513.036 ha.
  - b) Then, the Project Proponent obtained amendment in EC on 01.05.2012 w.r.t specific condition no (v) stating that "*Necessary wildlife clearance, as applicable, shall also be obtained*".
  - c) Further, the Project Proponent has obtained amendment in EC on 19.04.2017 to the effect that transportation of Iron ore is allowed for further 5 years w.e.f 23.01.2017 onward through road with the condition that the project proponent will put in place the conveyor system for transportation of Iron ore within 5 years.
  - d) Again, the Project Proponent obtained amendment in EC on 04.04.2022 for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for another 2 years w.e.f 23.01.2022 located in Village Dhobil, Tehsil Manoharpur, District West Singhbhum, State Jharkhand.If Project proponent does not stand upto the commitment provided vide letter dated 19.03.2022, the production may get curtailed to minimise the air pollution due to transportation of ore through trucks.
- iii. Now, the Project Proponent has requested for amendment in EC dated 24.01.2012 for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for 5 years w.e.f. 23.01.2024.
- iv. Justification for amendment in EC:
  - a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the Manoharpur Ore Mines (MOM), Chiria consist of six mining leases i.e. Ajitaburu, McLellan, Ankua, Tatiburu, Sukri-Lutur & Dhobil. Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Leasehold area under Monoharpur Ore Mines, Chiria covering an area of 513.036 ha is located in West Singhbhum District of Jharkhand and falls entirely within Ankua Reserve Forest (R.F.) of Saranda Forest Division. At present only Dhobil is in operation.
  - b) Iron Ore from Dhobil mines is transported by road (~31 km) to the railway siding situated at Manoharpur and loaded into railway wagons for dispatch. The 31 km long route through which the ore is trucked to Manoharpur Railway Siding comprises of forest road, State Highway No. 4 (SH4) and the connecting road from SH4 to the railway siding.

- c) For development of Manoharpur Ore Mines, Stage-I FC over an area of 595.075 ha for Manoharpur Group of Mining Leases (2376.122 ha) was granted by MoEFCC on 07.03.2011. Post approval of Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM), MoEFCC sought some information on 10.08.2018, which was submitted by Govt. of Jharkhand on 07.06.2019. However, grant of Stage-II FC for an area of 595.075 ha is pending with MoEFCC, due to No-Mining Zone issue of Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) of Saranda Forest Division.
- d) Accordingly, for evacuation of iron ore from Manoharpur Group of Mining Leases, the proposal for diversion of 14.88 ha of forest land for installation of LDBC was submitted online on 31.01.2017. The proposal was considered by REC, MoEFCC, Ranchi on 11.03.2019. However, grant of FC over 14.88 ha is pending due to No-Mining Zone issue of MPSM.
- e) Though the mining leases under Manoharpur Ore Mines are falling within the No mining Zone of MPSM, however MoEFCC, New Delhi has permitted mining only within already broken area of Dhobil lease as an exception. Forest Clearance was obtained vide Lr No. 8-20/98-FC dated 21.10.1998 under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 29.411 ha of forest land (already broken up area). At present all mining and allied activities are confined within broken area only.
- f) The grant of above forest clearances are yet to be resolved which is beyond the control of SAIL. In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of iron ore to SAIL Steel Plants and also to enable SAIL-BSL to contribute to the socio-economic development of region, continuation of ore transportation through road for 5 years w.e.f. 23.01.2024 from Dhobil Lease to Manoharpur Railway Siding is very much essential.
- v. Details of Mine Lease:
- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the Govt. of Jharkhand vide letter dated 07.03.2018 have renewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal period of Dhobil lease from 08.03.1998 to 07.03.2018 (20 years) and further extended the period of mine lease from 08.03.2018 to 07.03.2038 (20 years) as per Mineral (Mining by Government Company) Rules, 2015. Subsequently, lease deeds for both the periods were executed on 21.04.2018.
- vi. Mining Plan:
- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the Review of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan was approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) vide Letter No. RAN/WSB/Fe/MP-10/2021-22 dated 15.11.2021 in respect of Dhobil lease area of 513.036 Ha. The approval is given for the received proposals as applicable from this date for the mining activities to be carried out within the extended area of 29.411 ha.
- vii. Forest Clearance:

- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the entire mine lease area of 513.036 Ha is a forest land. Forest Clearance was obtained vide Lr No. 8-20/98-FC dated 21.10.1998 under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 29.411 ha of forest land (already broken up area).

viii. Environmental Status:

- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that the present Environmental status was analyzed on the basis of baseline environmental data generated for one month during April - May, 2023 by Environmental Engineering Laboratory of MECON Ltd. (a Govt. of India U/T under the Ministry of Steel). The data includes micro-meteorological conditions, ambient air quality (11 locations), noise levels (11 locations), water quality (Groundwater: 2 locations and Surface water: 8 locations) and traffic density (4 locations). The collected data has been analysed in detail for identifying, predicting and evaluating the environmental impacts due to continuation of existing road transportation of Dhobil Iron Ore Mine.
- b) The Project Proponent also submitted that the baseline data levels show that the contributions due to the continuation of ore transportation through road will have insignificant impact on the existing ambient air quality. The environmental monitoring carried out by SAIL within the nearby areas revealed that the air, noise and water quality in and around the mines are well within the respective standards. The traffic studies revealed that the entire ore transport road is capable of handling the ore transport from Dhobil Iron ore mine with adequate buffer capacity. Once the covered conveyor is commissioned, ore transport from Dhobil Mines to Manoharpur siding shall be carried out exclusively through covered conveyor.

ix. Certified Compliance Report (CCR):

- a) The project was monitored for ascertaining compliance to the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance by the Regional Office of this Ministry at Ranchi on 03.08.2021, which has submitted their reports to Ministry vide letter No. 103- 356/12/EPE/4911 dated 27.09.2021. The report has been examined by the Ministry.
- b) A letter seeking ATR/clarification on the observed non-compliance was issued to M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by Ministry vide letter no. IA-J-11014/53/2021-IA-I dated 01.12.2021 for which M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) submitted a response vide letter dated SAIL/MOM/EC/2021-22/449 dated 17.01.2022.
- c) IRO, Ranchi provided their observations on the Action Taken Report (ATR) submitted by M/s. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) vide letter No. 103-356/12/EPE/061 dated 21.01.2022. The report has been examined by the Ministry and it was observed that there is still substantive non-compliance of



environmental conditions contained in said EC letter No. J-11015/251/2009-IA II (M) dated 24.01.2012 and the same are as enlisted below:

- (i) STP has not been installed in the Colony. (Specific Conditions: xxvii)
- (ii) Mining technology and scope of working has not been followed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. (General Conditions: i)

d) The existing operations at Dhobil ML have been inspected by the IRO, MoEF&CC, Ranchi on 17.01.2022 and reported as follows:

<p>Observation by Integrated Regional office, Ranchi MoEF&amp;CC, report date 27.09.2021.</p>	<p>Integrated Regional Office Ranchi MoEF&amp;CC on the basis of site inspection dated 17.01.2022 and action taken reports and other documents submitted by Project proponent.</p>
<p>i. In the EC it was mentioned that "No crushing plant is proposed as part of this project". However, two mobile crushing units were observed in the mine project during inspection. PP should explain the reasons for above deviation from the EC.</p>	<p>Two crushing units were observed in the mine project during inspection on 17.01.2022 PP has explained the reason for deviation from EC condition as can be seen in adjacent column. PP explains that "it was envisaged to development common crushing plant of 7.0 MTPA capacity in Ajitaburu leasehold for crushing of ROM from Dhobil, Ajitaburu MClelan and Sukri Luturburu leases of Manoharpur Ore Mines. Due to delay in Forest Clearance for Ajitaburu lease common crushing plant could not be installed as envisaged. To fulfill the crushing requirement mobile crushing units were installed in the Dhobil mine", Final decision on the compliance of this condition may be taken by MOEF&amp;CC. New Delhi.</p>

e) As explained above, till date no mining operations and the envisaged Common C&S Plant for sizing of the ore from all the four MLs as per the EC grant order at Ajitbura ML could not be installed till date for want of Stage-II FC from MoEF&CC Accordingly, the existing mining operations at Dhobil ML is being continued without changing any mining technology and scope of the work since grant of EC dated 24.01.2012. Therefore, the Project Proponent requested to consider their submission and to withdraw the Show Cause Notice dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 issued under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 w.r.t Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project of SAIL.

- f) The Compliance & Monitoring Division of this Ministry vide letter dated 17.05.2023 issued Show Cause Notice under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to Dhobil Iron Ore Mining project of M/s SAIL.
- g) The Project Proponent has submitted their response to the Show Cause Notice dated 17.05.2023 to the Ministry vide letter dated 12.06.2023.
- h) The Project Proponent has submitted the Certified Compliance Report (CCR) issued by the Regional Office (RO) vide letter dated 12.09.2023 for the EC's dated 24.01.2012, 01.05.2012, 19.04.2017 and 04.04.2022. Site Inspection was conducted by RO on 28.07.2023. Non-Compliances were observed by RO w.r.t non-installation of STP/ETP, density of the plantation, solar powered electric fencing and change in mining technology.
- i) Then, the Project Proponent has submitted the action taken report to the Regional Office on 21.09.2023 for the non-compliances identified by RO.
- x. Past Production details:
- a) The Project Proponent has submitted the certified past production details issued by the District Mining Officer vide letters dated 08.11.2014, 29.10.2021 and 06.05.2023 for the period 1993-94 to 2022-23.

Financial Year	Certified ROM Production (Metric Tonnes)
1993-94	66,616.73
1994-95	92,974.45
1995-96	68,261.58
1996-97	1,55,183.40
1997-98	97,722.10
1998-99	1,02,940.60
1999-00	1,42,564.90
2000-01	3,36,994.50
2001-02	2,82,810.00
2002-03	2,73,463.30
2003-04	3,00,328.70
2004-05	3,11,058.70
2005-06	4,38,590.00
2006-07	7,90,127.20
2007-08	9,64,527.00
2008-09	5,58,748.98
2009-10	6,83,968.00
2010-11	3,05,035.00
2011-12	3,48,855.00
2012-13	4,43,187.01
2013-14	4,08,964.48
2014-15	3,27,029.83
2015-16	4,50,784.89
2016-17	5,55,166.07

2017-18	4,43,592.69
2018-19	7,29,308.48
2019-20	7,33,794.93
2020-21	5,53,841.03
2021-22	75,251.75
2022-23	3,41,182.29

xi. Details of Violation/Court Cases:

- a) The Project Proponent has submitted that with regard to the allegations of excess production prior to the grant of the EC, MoEFCC has communicated the violation of Environment (Protection) Act 1986 occurred at the Dhobil Iron Ore Mine vide letter No.- J-11015/251/2009-IA(II).M dated 20.04.2011 that the production from the mine was enhanced without obtaining the requisite Environmental Clearance as required under EIA Notification, 2006. Based on this, criminal proceedings were initiated by the JSPCB as well as the resolution was passed based on the specific direction of MoEFCC on 20.04.2011. Recently, the case has been disposed-off on 24.04.2023.
- b) Subsequent to the final judgment dated 02.08.2017 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Common Cause (i.e., Unlawful mining in Odisha), the Government of Jharkhand has issued the Demand Notice to SAIL – Dhobil Iron Ore Mines vide demand Letter No. 1352/M dated 07.09.2017 amounting to Rs. 228,13,04,898/- towards recover price of mineral produced without or beyond the EC capacity for payment on or before 31.12.2017.
- c) In order to mitigate the risk of closure of Dhobil Mining Lease beyond 31.12.2017, M/s SAIL filed a Writ Petition bearing No. 7016 of 2017 – Steel Authority of India Ltd Vs. State of Jharkhand &Ors. before the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi on 04.12.2017.
- d) An amount of Rs. 199.84 Cr. was paid by SAIL to Government of Jharkhand under protest prior to 31.12.2017 to avoid the stoppage of mining operations.
- e) On subsequent hearings, the Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 21.02.2018 referred the matter to the Division bench of the Jharkhand High Court since it involves substantial questions of Law. The Hon'ble High Court also directed that during the pendency of writ petition transit challans for the petitioner companies shall not be stopped until the interim orders passed by this Court are varied, modified or recalled. The matter is sub-judice before the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand.
- f) Further, the Project Proponent has also submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 20 bearing dated 24.06.2023 stating that Manoharpur Ore Mines (Dhobil Mining Lease -513.036 Ha.) of SAIL -Bokaro Steel Plant shall comply with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.114 of 2014 in the matter

of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors, subject to the result of the pending Writ Petitions before Hon'ble High Court of Ranchi further appeals thereto if need arises.

### **3. Observation and Recommendation of the EAC:-**

The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the instant proposal is for amendment in EC dated 24.01.2012 for Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project for continuation of iron ore transportation through road upto Manoharpur Railway siding for a period 5 years w.e.f. 23.01.2024. The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that there is no change in existing scenario. Presently, the mineral is being transported from Dhobil Iron Ore Mining to Manoharpur Railway siding at a distance of 31 km by road. Due to non-availability of forest clearance, development of Manoharpur Ore Mines (595.075 ha) and installation of Long Distance Belt Conveyor (14.88 ha) has been held up. Mining activity is restricted to 29.411 ha of forest land (already broken up area) and FC is valid upto 07.03.2038. Further, the Project Proponent has informed the EAC that in order to ensure uninterrupted supply of iron ore to SAIL Steel Plants and also to enable SAIL-BSL to contribute to the socio-economic development of region, continuation of ore transportation through road for 5 years w.e.f. 23.01.2024 from Dhobil Lease to Manoharpur Railway Siding is very much essential.

The EIA Consultant has informed the EAC that to assess the environmental status baseline data was collected for one month during April - May, 2023 by Environmental Engineering Laboratory of MECON Ltd. (a Govt. of India U/T under the Ministry of Steel). The traffic density was carried out at 4 locations. The present traffic volumes on all the roads are well within the respective capacities as per IRC:64. Predominant wind directions are from West followed by North direction. The air pollutant parameters are well within the NAAQS norms. The mean noise levels at all the ambient locations are well within the respective norms of the type of area. The Project Proponent has also shown the photographs of the air pollution control measures being implemented, plantation undertaken on waste dump, transport route, near office and surface water management structures.

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the site Inspection was conducted by Regional Office (RO), MoEF&CC on 28.07.2023 and Certified Compliance Report (CCR) was issued by the RO vide letter dated 12.09.2023 for the EC's dated 24.01.2012, 01.05.2012, 19.04.2017 and 04.04.2022. The PP submitted the action taken report to the RO on 21.09.2023 w.r.t non-installation of STP/ETP, density of the plantation, solar powered electric fencing and change in mining technology. Further, the Project Proponent informed the EAC, that, during inspection, RO was informed that No crushing plant was proposed as part of the instant project (Dhobil). However, crushing units were observed by the RO representative in the mine lease area during inspection

and the same was report in Certified Compliance Report by RO Ranchi. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that a common Crushing & Screening units was proposed to be installed at Ajitaburu ML for size reduction of ore from all four ML including Dhobil ML. Accordingly, it was mentioned in EC grant Order of Ajitaburu ML dtd 31.03.2011 that "*It is proposed that an additional common crushing & screening plant of 7 million TPA will be established as part of this mine lease*". Further, it was also mentioned in the preamble (Para - 4) of the EC grant Order of Dhobil ML dtd 24.01.2012 that "*No Crushing Plant is proposed as part of the project. It was committed by the proponent that ore transportation by road will be undertaken only for five years and thereafter it will be by conveyor only*". With regard to above, PP further informed that in the EIA report, it was already mentioned that the details of the mining operations of Dhobil mining lease which states that blasted ROM will be fed to the mobile crushing and screening plant. The EAC noted the submission of the project proponent and observed that the use of mobile crusher till installation of common crushing unit as mentioned in the EIA report.

The PP further mentioned that the Hon'ble High Court in WP (C) 7016 of 2017 vide order dated 21.02.2018 referred the matter (regarding demand notices issued in light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 02.08.2017) to the Division bench of the Jharkhand High Court since it involved substantial questions of Law. The Hon'ble High Court also directed that during the pendency of writ petition transit challans for the petitioner companies shall not be stopped until the interim orders passed by this Court are varied, modified or recalled. As on date the matter is sub-judice before the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand. The Project Proponent has also informed the EAC that there is no change in configuration w.r.t mine lease area and production capacity. The existing road transport infrastructure is capable of handling the ore-transportation load from Dhobil Mines through the permitted transport road.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC opined that the road transportation may be permitted for 2 years considering the pollution load. The EAC also opined that the PP may continue using the mobile crusher and screening for sizing the ore before transportation of the same by road to the railway siding as mentioned by it in the earlier EIA report submitted during the grant of EC in the year 2012. The Committee also recommended that a field visit may be undertaken along with the pending visit of Kiriburu-Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for real time appraisal on ground realities for facilitating the decision making in case of the instant project in near future. Based on the discussions held, the EAC in its meeting held during 14-15 November, 2023 under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments therein; **recommended** the proposal for amendment in EC dated 24.01.2012 for Dhobil Iron Ore Mining Project (Capacity 0.75 MTPA ROM & ML Area-513.036 ha) of M/s SAIL - Bokaro Steel Plant for continuation of iron ore transportation through road for a period of 2 years w.e.f.

23.01.2024, located at Village Dhobil, Tehsil Manoharpur, Dist: West Singhbhum, Jharkhand along with the additional specific conditions.

